



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## Chair's Report November 2018

As I reflect on the work achieved over the past 5 years I feel motivated about the future of our Community Foundation and it's potential for North East Victoria.

A community foundation is a unique and wonderful model that enables communities to pool assets to create resources that can support community driven projects, agendas and aspirations. Community Foundations can help make our area an even better place to live by supporting initiatives that matter to local people.

Into Our Hands Community Foundation is committed to a vision for North East Victoria that's based on values of independence, respect and collaboration.

Like many people who live in the North East, we love our community so we feel that we have a role to support connections, people, ideas and energy that make this region so vibrant.

This year we have supported many initiatives in our region that align with our strategic plans. Some are described below.

### Strategic Initiatives

#### **FRRR back to school program**

74 vouchers valued at over \$3500 provided to local schools across the Alpine, Wangaratta and Indigo shires to support families and students with back to schools supplies and costs.

#### **Promoting philanthropy and giving in North East Victoria**

We are implementing various activities that aim to promote philanthropy and local giving. This has included an end of financial year fundraising drive and a financial advisers' education pack for those who want to discuss philanthropy with their clients. We've engaged with local Rotary, Lions and service clubs to promote the community foundation model. We're also undertaking activities in Wangaratta that explore possibilities for a fund for Wangaratta.

#### **Facilitating North East philanthropic connections**

We are hosting the annual North East Philanthropy Roundtable, a meeting of all philanthropic and granting organisations in the North East. The group aims to collaborate in the future on local efforts that will promote giving and philanthropy in the North East.



#### **Visioning our future**

The Board and Executive Officer have developed a stronger picture for the future of the Foundation through strategic planning. This has included developing a new grant strategy for our Public Fund and to ensure the Foundation can be of most assistance to non profit organisations and charitable projects in our region. The Foundation will develop further in 18/19 when we review our strategic plan and launch new campaigns to increase local giving.



*Established to connect and strengthen our communities*

*'We care about the future of our community and we believe it's worth investing in'*

### **Staffing , Governance, transition for sustainability**

This year the Board undertook a search for a new Executive Officer after almost 5 years' service from Katrina Bendeman. We would like to formally thank Katrina and acknowledge her work and contribution to the Foundation. Katrina was pivotal in establishing our reputation, grant strategy and systems and has facilitated many of our early achievements.

In April we welcomed the appointment of our new Executive Officer, Sarah Thompson, supported in kind by Total HRM. Sarah held the position of Philanthropy Manager for Australian Communities Foundation and has a strong background in community philanthropy, donor stewardship and strategic grant making. This marks a period of transition for the Foundation as we move to renew the Board and undertake planning for a new future as an independent and fully functioning community foundation for North East Victoria.

Together with Herbert Smith Freehills, we have sought to better understand our structure, obligations and terms of our charitable trusts. This has led to a structural change for the Foundation and the establishment of a new Charitable Trust which will allow for the growth of a perpetual endowment. This is a significant step for the Foundation and a major achievement towards a sustainable, self supporting future.

As we move in this new direction, our Board and team aim to promote local giving and philanthropy in order to raise funds for a variety of charitable causes and locations across our region. While we still manage a small endowment relating the 2009 Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, we will also explore how we can build our funding base to better meet community needs across our region and deliver strategic support to create positive impact and change. I would like to thank Sarah for her work this year and her support and management of our future visioning process.



***Celebrating 5 years and a new endowment fund ready for growth and investment***



***110 grants made to community groups***



***\$750,000 committed for locally driven community ideas and projects***

### **Acknowledgments**

Thank you to our generous supporters, in-kind partners and business donors who provide the necessary support that assists the Foundation to run day to day. This includes Belmores Accountants, Nevin Lenne Gross, Total HRM, Herbert Smith Freehills, Australian Community Philanthropy, Austview Sashless Windows, Intermezzo Café, Aboriginal Exhibitions Gallery, Rutherglen Estates, Garry Nash Real Estate, The Old Beechworth Gaol and the Rotary Clubs of Appin Park Wangaratta and Myrtleford. I would also like to thank the diligence and dedication of our Volunteer Board, without whom none of our success over the past 5 years would have been possible.

I would like to welcome our new charitable fund holders and new donors who have joined the Foundation over the past twelve months and congratulate them on discovering the benefits of working, giving and granting with their local community foundation. This includes Totally Renewable Yackandandah, who have utilised our structure to support them to attract philanthropic grants.

I look forward to the next twelve months as we move to implement a number of the big ideas we have been discussing and planning for in 2017/18. Here's to the next 5 years.

**Loretta Carroll  
Chair**

## Executive Officer's Report

In the short time that I've supported Into Our Hands Community Foundation as Executive Officer, I have been struck by the interest in philanthropy from across the North East Victoria region. This has made way for many conversations about the service offering of the foundation and how we can support the community. In each meeting I aim to illustrate the potential for Into Our Hands Community Foundation to be transformative for our region.

- Community Foundations across the globe are a model for community led development and action on projects. The philanthropic structure is a base from which to hold and build funding that can make community ideas, energy and priorities happen. The team at Into Our Hands Community Foundation have this vision for our Foundation and we want to spread this message to our community so you can understand how it works and how you can support us.

This annual report highlights our strategic achievements to position the foundation for a more sustainable future, whilst also showcasing our efforts to structure the Foundation to ensure we can attract donations, partnerships and investment in our region. In undertaking this work, we've sought to develop the local profile of the Foundation and we've talked with as many people as possible about why you would donate and invest in your local community foundation. Below are just some snapshots of work that highlight our achievements in these areas during this year:

### **Local capacity building: A resource base for charitable giving, knowledge and philanthropy connections.**

Whilst many see the Foundation as a vehicle through which to obtain and gain funds from through our grants, foundations like Into Our Hands Community Foundation, are also organisations that give back to the community via our resources, staff, networks and fundraising knowledge. This year, we have supported grant recipients to attract and leverage further investment in their projects from other philanthropic funders. Over time, we aim to have an impact on the levels of philanthropic investment into our region through providing matching grants or developing networks and capacity of local non- profit organisations to engage with funders outside of government. So far, we've seen two of our current grant recipients benefit from this approach through the building of new relationships with larger philanthropy organisations.

### **Promoting partnerships for greater impact**

We have met with likeminded charitable and philanthropic organisations and service clubs. Whilst this aims to educate people on our model and potential, it also seeks out interest in collaborating and pooling our efforts for greater outcomes in our community. We have engaged with 3 Rotary Clubs and 1 Lions Club and we've had numerous meetings with other local philanthropic organisations to explore partnership projects that promote philanthropy and non-profit capacity. We have seen new partnerships develop with our Back to School Challenge and promoting philanthropy projects and several new non-profit sub funds set up via Into Our Hands Community Foundation's structure. We have also seen a couple of corporate donation partnerships emerge. Each project is an example of the Foundation pooling funds and efforts to achieve shared goals for our region.

### **Ready for local giving and investment: A place to hold funds *for our community, in our community***

A significant effort has been put into ensuring that our house is in order and ready to take donations from local people, businesses and other philanthropy. We have reviewed our giving policies and procedures, and established easy pathways for people to give locally and invest in their community via gifts of funds, property or other assets. We are pleased to report that we are now set up to hold tax deductible and non-tax deductible sub funds, non-profit funds and corporate funds – all products that allow local people or groups to invest and keep their money locally for community charity projects. Our website has been updated with this giving information and we are currently working with a number of local non-profit organisations to establish a DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) item 1, service that allows non DGR charitable projects to attract and receive funding . This is significant for our local community where there are few eligible DGR organisations.

## Our Impact Areas & Grants Program



### Stepping into the gap: offering larger grants for strategic projects

This year we revitalised our grant program in order to fill a gap we saw in the region. This aims to provide more flexible funding to fire affected communities on large scale projects that can have ripple effect for our region. The new grant program encourages communities to think bigger and more boldly about their goals. We have made funding available for strategic project elements that can move ideas forward and be the difference in making plans happen. This includes funding for planning, feasibility studies and partnership development in order to bridge the funding gap between small community grants from local government and large infrastructure funding provided through state and federal government. Already, we have had positive feedback on this grant strategy and have supported significant planning in communities to get their projects moving in places like Harrietville, Wangaratta and Stanley.

### \$246,000 committed for local community driven projects

In the 17/18 year we awarded approximately \$119,000 to 15 community projects and bushfire affected communities across our region. In addition to this we can also report our 18/19 commitment of \$127,000 for 10 new projects under our new granting strategy. A list of these projects is provided below. Each project has been developed and put forward by the community and seeks to improve facilities, lifestyle and programs available in the North East. Talk to me more to understand the grants we make and how you can support these efforts. Full financial reports are available on our website : [www.intourhandsfoundation.com.au](http://www.intourhandsfoundation.com.au)

Finally, I do want to emphasize that the Foundation will rely on the generosity of our community through local partnerships with businesses and donors for a sustained future. At Into Our Hands Community Foundation, we are ready and committed for the next phase and we are excited about where it will take us. If you give to any charity or cause, please consider Into Our Hands Community Foundation and make an investment in the North East. Not only does your money stay here, but I strongly believe a donation to the Foundation is one of the best ways to give back and invest in the community you live in. We encourage all donations at any level and we can talk more in your groups and networks about the benefits of local giving through a foundation model.

I want to thank the Board and the community for a warm welcome to my role. I am extremely motivated about our next five years and I look forward to engaging with the region and local people in the future.

**Sarah Thompson, Executive Officer**  
**November 2018**

## 2017/18 Awarded and Committed Grants

Recipient	Project Description	Amount	LG *
<b>Alpine Children's Service</b>	To improve educational outcomes for vulnerable children from the Myrtleford community by redeveloping the 3 to 5 year old spaces at Mountain View Children's Centre and improving connections with vulnerable families	\$9731.10	A
<b>Alpine Health</b>	Communities That Care Alpine (The Resilience Project)	\$10,000	A
<b>Alpine Shire Council</b>	Teen Mental Health First Aid	\$2500	A
<b>Beechworth Food Co-op</b>	Keeping Our Food and Farmers Close	\$10000	I
<b>Dederang Rec Reserve</b>	Dederang Recreation Reserve Mower	\$10000	A
<b>Everton Playgroup</b>	Outdoor Sensory Space/ Elf (Everton Local Friendship) Garden	\$8603.00	W
<b>Mt Beauty Cricket Club</b>	New Year's Eve Mount Beauty 2017 (community event at the cricket club)	\$3000.00	A
<b>Mt Beauty Neighborhood Centre</b>	Kitchen Upgrade	\$2600.00	A
<b>Mudgegonga Hall</b>	Mudgegonga Hall Outdoor Shelter and Catering Area	\$9089.00	A
<b>Myrtleford Recreation Reserve</b>	Myrtleford Recreation Reserve Strategic Plan	\$8000.00	A
<b>Porepunkah Public Hall</b>	Improvements to the Porepunkah Public Hall to encourage greater use by the community	\$5000.00	A
<b>Porepunkah Recreation Reserve</b>	Improve Porepunkah Public Recreation Reserve for the benefit of the community	\$6180.00	A
<b>Whorouly Memorial Park</b>	Projecting a Resilient Community, for tomorrow.	\$8848.50	W
<b>Alpine Valleys Community Leadership</b>	Scholarship place for three years under the AVCL program	\$16,000	ALL
<b>Totally Renewable Yackandandah</b>	CFA power up project- Reliable alternative energy project pilot with CFA branch	\$10,000 (Committed)	I

## 2018/19 Newly committed grants

<b>Alpine Community Plantation</b>	Mystic Park Emergency Response Signage Project	\$10,000	A
<b>Myrtleford Recreation Reserve</b>	Black Saturday Memorial Gateway	\$6200	A
<b>Beechworth Food Co-op</b>	Beechworth Food Co-op- Eater meets Grower/ cool room purchase	\$6125	I
<b>Harrietville Community Forum</b>	Harrietville Community's Tracks and Trails, information development and Community Launch.	\$14245	A
<b>Stanley Wetlands CoM</b>	Walking Stanley's Environmental History	\$5770	I
<b>Dederang Recreation Reserve</b>	Relighting our community- LED lighting installation & upgrade	\$9873.80	A
<b>Happy Valley Hall CoM</b>	Permanent BBQ = Gathering Together, Sharing, Caring , Laughing & Supporting	\$10,000	A
<b>Myrtleford Chamber of Commerce</b>	Improved community connectivity through provision of a Registered Food premises in hall adjacent to Myrtleford central town Piazza	\$10,000	A
<b>Totally Renewal Yackandandah</b>	Business case for community off grid power project	\$30,000	I
<b>Wangaratta Art Gallery</b>	Redevelopment Feasibility Study	\$25000	W

\***LG – Local Government Area**  
**A – Alpine Shire**  
**I – Indigo Shire**  
**W- Rural City of Wangaratta**