

The Bass Coast Community Foundation was established in 2002 to improve the quality of life for those living in the Bass Coast region by building a long term source of funds for community needs. Our vision is for Bass Coast to be an engaged, connected and successful community.

# Bass Coast Community Foundation

Annual Report 2017/18



## **CHAIR'S REPORT 2018**

I would like to express my gratitude for the work of the Directors of the Bass Coast Community Foundation. All board members undertake their work for the foundation on a voluntary basis and for the good of the community. I would also like to express my thanks to our Executive Officer, Mr David Wall, for his commitment to the Bass Coast Community Foundation, and his efforts in supporting and promoting the foundation.

The Board of the foundation is working hard to maximise its impact in procuring support from both donors and through maintaining the partnerships that have supported the foundation over the years. The Bass Coast Shire Council, for example, has initiated a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure that Council is able to provide financial support to cover administration costs. The MoU is currently being negotiated and due to be completed in December. The council has been an extraordinary supporter over the years, and this new agreement demonstrates that this partnership is valued and that the work of the foundation is considered critical to the building of our community across the Bass Coast Shire.

A highlight of this year was the BCCF Gala event that provided an overview of the work of the foundation to an appreciative audience at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre. The audience was enthralled by the performers, whose talent continues to develop. Recipients of other Bass Coast Community Foundation support spoke to the audience about the support they received and how this was making a difference to them, both as individuals and in some cases, as organisations.

One of the functions of the board of the foundation is to ensure a sustainable source of funds to support the community. The Board has identified an ambitious target of reaching a corpus of one million dollars by next year's AGM. In order to reach this target, we will need to raise \$65,000. This is not a simple task given the many demands on both individuals and groups to provide financial support to any number of organisations, all doing good work and providing important services within the community.

Community Foundations, by the nature of their work in funding and promoting those in the community who work for the common good, are less known than other fundraisers. Therefore, we rely on those we support, and our current donors and partners, to help promote the Bass Coast Community Foundation. Whilst the board has developed several initiatives to raise funds, it is the generosity of individuals that will help us reach the target of one million dollars.

I would like to highlight two opportunities that have enabled the board to determine such an ambitious target:

- we received a significant bequest that has brought the goal into range. A number of years ago the board set about contacting local solicitors with a view to supporting those making wills to consider a bequest to the foundation in order to create an ongoing legacy. This work came to fruition this year.
- the Vivian Docking Reith fund was established this year, with local identity Vivian Reith creating a named fund to provide support for families. Vivian provided funding to start the fund and has promoted the fund through family and friends. This fund continues to grow and will provide support within the community forever.

During the year the Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Deputy Chair Delyse Graham. Delyse made a valuable contribution to the Board during the years she served as a Director, particularly with the promotion of the work of the Foundation and in developing a communication strategy.

Along with my fellow directors and our Executive Officer, I look forward to the next 12 months of working to achieve on behalf of this community.

Martin Keogh

Chair

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

As usual, the start of the 2018 school year saw the Foundation again distributing Back to School vouchers to local schools and welfare agencies. The \$22,100 worth of vouchers that were received and distributed this year takes the total distributed by the Foundation over the twelve years that the program has operated to nearly \$230,000.

As the name suggests, Back to School vouchers help struggling local families meet some of the costs of getting kids to school at the start of the school year. Most schools also hold some vouchers back until the start of the wet and cold Bass Coast winter to help families provide warm and water-proof clothing.

The Bass Coast Community Foundation thanks the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and the Sidney Myer Fund for their ongoing support of this important national program.

Elsewhere in the Annual Report you will read of the newly established Vivian Docking Reith Named Account. Established in April 2018 with a generous donation of \$20,000, it has since grown by more than \$2,200 thanks to further generous donations from Vivian's family and friends.

The Foundation has continued its support of local tertiary students through the Tertiary Support and Performance Award Programs. In 2018 the six Tertiary Support Program recipients were Kelsey Tong (Bachelor of Environmental Science at Deakin University), Sarah Lindsay (Bachelor of Communication at RMIT University), Dominique Brown (Bachelor of Arts & Law at Monash University), Jasmine Chambers (Bachelor of Design at the University of Melbourne), Oscar Price (Bachelor of Business at LaTrobe University) and Alex Bradley (Bachelor of Psychology at Deakin University). The 2018 Performance Award recipient was Finnan Donohue. Finnan is completing a Creative Arts (Drama) course at Deakin University's Burwood Campus.

The Foundation has also continued its support of the Energy Innovation Cooperative's exciting Old Energy New Energy Project. The Foundation has agreed to provide funding of \$15,000 a year for 4 years commencing in 2016. The Cooperative has been able to leverage this funding into much larger contributions from the State Government.

Finally, late in the year the Board adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan to guide its activities through to 2021.

David Wall

Executive Officer

## OUR DONORS

*"I think it is a shame that most folk regard private philanthropy as a preserve of the super-rich when in fact the vast amount of charitable funding comes from people like us."* Donor comment.

BCCF as a community foundation is an organisation that is accessible for all people who wish to contribute to improving the quality of life of people living in the Bass Coast region. We are building a sustainable fund from donations and distributing funds to support individuals and groups. Donations large and small come from a cross section of the community. Donors like Gerry Lonergan, Vivian Reith and the Inverloch Mahjong ladies.

Gerald (Gerry) Lonergan has had a long association with BCCF as a director from 2007 to 2010. He lives in Inverloch and continues to donate to the Foundation *"... because I am pleased with how well it is run, its objects, and its achievements , particularly community building'.*

Gerry was born in Korumburra the youngest son of railway guard. The family moved to Melbourne but Gerry returned to South Gippsland as a teacher at Leongatha and Mirboo North Secondary schools. He is an active member of Inverloch Rotary Club. In 2002 he was a member of a working group that successfully applied for State and Federal Funding to upgrade Wonthaggi's State Coal Mine. He is a volunteer with the L2P Learner Driver Program, currently mentoring two people from a Burmese Karen background.

The Board on Gerry's behalf ensures the Wonthaggi Secondary College welfare program benefits from his donation.

The Inverloch Mahjong ladies have been donating regularly to Bass Coast Community Foundation for many years. Each time members play they make a gold coin donation. Twice a year the group's organiser Glenys Day and her husband Barry drop in to the BCCF office and hand over \$200-300 worth of accumulated gold coins to be deposited in the Foundation's bank account. Over the years this valuable contribution totalling over \$1,600 has helped to grow our fund for the benefit of the community.

Vivian Reith and family are one of our most recent donors. Vivian has established a named account and has indicated she would like to support young children and their families. She understands how important the early years are in developing children and what a difference even small amounts of money can make when families are in need. The initial donation of \$20,000 has already grown to over \$22,000 with additional donations from Vivian's friends and family. Her large and loving family look on the Vivian Docking Reith Named Account as a fitting acknowledgment of the care and nurturing Vivian has shown throughout the 101 years of her life as a parent, grandparent, great grandparent and friend, and in her work as a kindergarten teacher.

Bass Coast Community Foundation is only as strong as its donor base. We thank all donors for their support and hope others may be inspired to make a donation.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

In the financial year ended 30 June 2018:

- The Foundation's Corpus increased by 1.4% during the year to \$834,931 at 30 June.
- Donations received totaled \$91,435 (compared to \$93,995 in 2016-17).
- The Foundation's investments generated \$33,353 in income, representing a return of 4.05% on net assets at 30 June.
- The Foundation made grants totaling \$48,464 representing 5.89% of net assets at 30 June.
- The Foundation's administration costs, including Executive Officer salary, and office rental and related costs, were \$55,025 representing 6.59% of net assets at 30 June.