

Mr. S. Lonard  
Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund  
C/o Department of Health and Human Services  
Level 7, 50 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne Vic 3001

28 February 2020

Dear Mr Lonard,

**Re: Reports prepared in accordance with the Trust Deed for Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation**

On behalf of the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation (MTCF) I am pleased to provide the following reports to the Department as required in clause 8 of the Trust Deed:

- (1) Report to the Department in accordance with clause 8.4 which includes the template report, the financial statement as required in clause 8.2 and the audit report as required in clause 8.3.
- (2) Information to be publicly available in accordance with 8.5 of the deed.

Clause 8.5(b) of the deed requires information to be *made available to the public either on the website of the Trust or in another form reasonably decided by the Trustee to any person seeking it.*

The audited statement and this report will be placed on the MTCF's website [www.marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au](http://www.marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au). Hard copies will be available at our office or by request to the Executive Officer.

During this reporting period, the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation distributed \$109,539 in grants and projects from the Bushfire Recovery Fund.

The Board of the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation looks forward to continuing to deliver its vision of building a legacy for a vibrant, healthy and resilient future across the communities of Murrindindi.

If you would like to discuss the reports further, please contact the Executive Officer, Robyn Hill, on 0488 007 688.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Thompson  
Chair



## Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation

Submission of reports as required by the Trust Deed for the Marysville and  
Triangle Community Foundation

28 February 2020

#### **8.4 Report to the Department**

Incorporating 8.2 Financial statements and 8.3 Audit

## Report to the Department

This report has been prepared in accordance with Clause 8.4 of the Trust deed for:

Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation

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1. *Provide details as to how the income and capital of the trust have been invested and used in the Accounting Period (as defined in the trust deed).*

For the purposes of this report, the Accounting Period is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

During this financial year, the Trust amount has been invested in term deposits to maximise the earning potential of the funds. The term deposit accounts were with the Bendigo Bank and the rates above the advertised market rate were sought and received. These rates compared favourably to the rates offered by the major banks.

The attached financial report prepared by DMK Taxation and Business Solutions provides detailed information about how the funds have been used within this Accounting Period.

In accordance with the Trust Deed, the Bushfire Recovery Fund was established to provide assistance to those affected by the 2009 bushfires in Murrindindi Shire for medium to long term recovery projects.

The grant program was advertised broadly throughout local media, Facebook and through the Foundation's growing list of contacts and networks.

During the reporting period, grant rounds were open from 22 February 2018 to 29 November 2018 and 28 February 2019 to 14 November 2019.

During this reporting period \$109,539 was allocated to community driven projects in line with the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF) funding criteria. There has been a declining number of applications that meet the VBAF criteria by linking projects/grants to the 2009 bushfires.

### **Projects funded include:**

- "UGFM Outdoor Broadcast Vehicle", Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.
- "Murrindindi Bushfire Memorials", Murrindindi Shire Council
- "MY (Murrindindi Youth) Reflective Garden", Alexandra Secondary College
- "Recreation building community in Flowerdale", Flowerdale Sports Club Inc.
- "A Place to Think and Link", Taggerty CFA
- "Singing for the Soul", Alexandra and Eildon Brass Band Inc.

Further information about these grants and projects is available in Attachment 2.

The Foundation has been proud to be able to support these projects for the benefit of the bushfire affected communities in Murrindindi Shire.

2. *Provide details of the steps that the Trustee has taken to seek applications from individuals, funds, authorities and institutions for payments of income and capital of the Trust Fund in the Accounting Period.*

For the purposes of this report, the Accounting Period is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

The 2017 Bushfire Recovery Fund grant program opened in February 2017 and remained open until November 2017. The program then opened on 22 February 2018 to 29 November 2018. This strategic decision to remain open for the majority of the year was made to allow community groups' time to discuss their project with the Executive Officer and present a fully prepared application rather than expecting volunteer community groups to rush to meet tight timeframes.

The grant program was advertised in the local newspapers and was also promoted through the Foundation's growing email list and through the Foundation's Facebook page. Grant applications were received from across Murrindindi Shire, including some from the western side of Murrindindi Shire.

The availability of funds through the Bushfire Recovery Fund was also promoted through newspaper articles promoting projects that were made possible through grants from the Foundation, and through attending community events to promote the work of the Foundation.

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This Report has been prepared by:

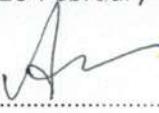
Name of Trustee Company: Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation

Contact person: Robyn Hill

Email address: [robyn@marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au](mailto:robyn@marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au)

Postal address: PO Box 42, Marysville, Vic 3779

Report date: 28 February 2020

Signature: 

Director's Name: ANTHONY THOMPSON

Signature: 

Director's Name: COLIN DAVIES

*This form must be signed by two (2) Directors of the Trustee Company.*

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**This report is to be submitted to the Department by 28 February each year until the Distribution Date (as defined in the trust deed).**

**Please ensure that the Financial statement, Audit and public report prepared in accordance with clause 8.2, 8.3 and 8.5 of the of the trust deed are attached to this report.**

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**Completed Reports to be sent to:**

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund c/o the Department of Human Services

Level 7, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3001

Email: [Sam.Lonard@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sam.Lonard@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

8.5 Information to be made publicly available

**Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation Report on Funds dispersed from the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation Trust**

This Report details payments made from the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation Trust, for each period of 12 months ending 30 June each year (Accounting Period).

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Total capital of the Trust at the beginning of the Accounting Period (1 July 2018)	\$338,150
Total capital of the Trust at the end of the Accounting Period (30 June 2019)	\$167,671

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Details of all payments made from the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation Trust in the Accounting Period:

The major grant payments are detailed below.

Project	Name of organisation or institution	Amount provided	Date payment provided	Municipal district benefit was provided in
UGFM Outdoor Broadcast Vehicle (payment 2 of 2)	Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.	\$8,959	19-06-2019	Murrindindi Shire
Murrindindi Bushfire Memorials (payment 2 of 2)	Murrindindi Shire Council	\$22,528	19-06-2019	Murrindindi Shire
MY (Murrindindi Youth) Reflective Garden	Alexandra Secondary College	\$29,600	05-10-2018	Murrindindi Shire
Recreation building community in Flowerdale (payment 1 of 2)	Flowerdale Sports Club Inc.	\$28,000	16-04-2019	Murrindindi Shire
A Place to Think and Link	Taggerty CFA	\$17,412	11-12-2018	Murrindindi Shire
Singing for the Soul	Alexandra and Eildon Brass Band Inc.	\$3,040	27-03-2019	Murrindindi Shire

Details of all other expenditure made during the Accounting Period:

Details of payment	Amount	Date of payment
<i>Please see attached financial reports. Note that expenses include payment from the Trust to MTCF Limited for the administration and operational expenses of the Trust.</i>		

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**Attachment 1: Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation financial  
reports 2018/2019**

**Attachment 2: Grant and project details**

## Summary of Bushfire Recovery Fund (VBAF) projects funded 2018/2019

### GRANTS

Project Name	Name of organisation or institution	Project Description
<b>UGFM Outdoor Broadcast Vehicle</b> BRF201708 \$8,959 (payment 2 of 2)	Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</li> <li>✓ Community capacity building</li> <li>✓ Community events and arts programs</li> </ul> <p>Murrindindi's local radio station, UGFM, purchased a Ford Transit Van to fit out as a mobile studio (outdoor broadcast vehicle) to support, strengthen and promote community events and activities across Murrindindi Shire. UGFM is a volunteer based community organisation and is a designated emergency services broadcaster. The Outdoor Broadcast unit provides greater flexibility to broadcast from community events. UGFM played a key role in broadcasting during and after the 2009 bushfires and a new outdoor broadcast vehicle will provide additional capacity in future emergencies and disasters.</p> <p>This project was also funded through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR). The Foundation split the payment for the grant in to two deliverables. This payment is part two of two payments.</p> <p>UGFM have increased capacity to support community events. As a community radio broadcaster most people listen for local news, information and variety of music and programs, however they can now attend events and activities such as schools events, community markets, club and community groups, agricultural shows, sporting events and celebrations such as Carols by Candlelight, ANZAC and Remembrance Day, youth and seniors events and emergency service open days.</p>

		<p>Emergency Management Victoria states "Everyone has capability to contribute to emergency management. Building safer and more resilient communities is the shared responsibility of all Victorians. We each have an obligation to contribute to improving the preparedness, capability and resilience of all communities." <a href="https://files-em.em.vic.gov.au/public/EMV-web/VictorianPreparednessFrameworkMay2018.pdf">https://files-em.em.vic.gov.au/public/EMV-web/VictorianPreparednessFrameworkMay2018.pdf</a></p> <p>The provision of equipment for community broadcasting to UGFM, as a trusted source of local information across Murrindindi Shire, is an important part of community preparedness.</p>
	<p><b>Murrindindi Bushfire Memorial Project</b> BRF201709 \$22,528</p>	<p><b>VBAF Criteria:</b> ✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</p> <p>Bushfire Memorials provide reflective, respectful public spaces that acknowledge the loss experienced by communities affected by the 2009 bushfires. Murrindindi Shire Council formed the Bushfire Commemorations Working Group in 2009 to provide community input on the design of six bushfire memorials across Murrindindi Shire. The project funds were used to complete the construction of the Marysville and Narbethong memorials.</p> <p>The construction of the memorials will contribute to long term recovery by provided a place of remembrance. The memorials will reflect the resilience, community spirit and determination of individuals and groups to rebuild their lives and communities.</p> <p>The Marysville memorial features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three multi-coloured and meandering paths which all lead to a central gathering space near the creek.</li> <li>• Three sculptural entry portals and two shadow inscription sculptures, which overhang the central gathering space like giant tree ferns.</li> <li>• A curved inscription wall with words and images that tell the story of the February 2009 events.</li> </ul> <p>The key themes of this memorial are remembrance, life, environment, loss, hope, grief, resilience, gratitude and respect. It also pays tribute to the courage shown by those who provided assistance in the response, relief and recovery effort. The spirit and determination of the Marysville and surrounds community to nurture regrowth and renewal remains the enduring legacy.</p> <p>The Narbethong memorial is nestled into the surrounding bushland of Narbethong Forest Reserve. Its features include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The perimeter of the memorial site consists of four large, locally-sourced seating rocks, these rocks honour the four lives lost in the fire at Narbethong.</li> <li>The centre piece of the memorial has three key elements: the unfurling fern frond motif, a stone cairn and a viewing portal.</li> <li>The stone cairn in the centre of the memorial is comprised of locally-sourced rocks. Each rock commemorates the lives lost during the fires. Four of the rocks in the stone cairn are significantly different, these represent the four individuals who lost their lives in Narbethong during the 2009 bushfire.</li> </ul> <p>It was important to the Marysville and Narbethong communities that the memorials were constructed before the tenth anniversary of the 2009 bushfires. The amount funded through the Foundation addressed a shortfall in the budget for the Marysville and Narbethong memorials.</p> <p>The memorials were finished in December 2018, in time for the commemorations of the tenth anniversary of Black Saturday in February 2019.</p> <p>This payment is part two of two payments.</p>	<p><b>MY (Murrindindi Youth) Reflective Garden</b> BRF201802 \$29,600</p> <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</li> <li>✓ Reconnecting the community with nature</li> </ul> <p>The project involved creating a quiet reflective space where students could relax and enjoy the natural environment.</p> <p>The purpose of the reflective garden, was to create a sense of belonging and connection to the school space and address the data that indicated Murrindindi Youth were low in resilience. Two of the factors which influence resilience are connection and sense of belonging.</p> <p>Data collected from the 2019 Student Attitude to School Survey, indicates the school is making progress in these fields. School connectedness, (belonging), has increased 16 % on our 2018 data. Resilience data has also shown an 8% improvement, motivation and interest increased by 11%. Self regulation and goal setting has improved by 7% as has student attitude towards attendance.</p>
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	<p>This data supports anecdotal evidence that students at the Secondary College are engaging with the space and connecting to school. Observed student behaviours indicates students are calmer; they are working collaboratively and enjoying a positive school environment.</p> <p>Students can be seen enjoying time in the garden, and value the space that has been created for them. This is evident in the pride taken to maintain the space eg they do not litter in the garden.</p>	<p>Alexandra Secondary College has provided some student testimonials</p> <p><i>"somewhere which reflects our community values and which shows how with resilience we can create something beautiful and calm from an adverse situation" - Chelsie</i></p> <p><i>"a reflective garden makes our school feel relaxed and a comfortable place to be" - Tom</i></p> <p><i>"an area to enhance happy, relaxed, calm emotions which can be reflected within our classrooms and our schoolwork" - Hamish</i></p>	<p>There has also been a lot of positive comments from the wider community regarding the landscaping and garden, this has had a positive impact on the students, staff morale and improved the overall school attractiveness and visual appeal.</p>	
<b>Recreation building community in Flowerdale Inc.</b> BRF201803 \$28,000 (payment 1 of 2)	<p>Flowerdale Sports Club Inc.</p> <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</li> </ul> <p>The Spring Valley Recreation Reserve (Rec Reserve) in Flowerdale was used as a central community area after the 2009 bushfires. The Temporary Village was at the Reserve, and the club rooms were used as a community kitchen. It was used for community briefings, a food and resource centre and communications centre. In addition, the annual Australia Day celebrations are held at the Rec Reserve as well as other large community outdoor events.</p> <p>The kitchen was upgraded after the 2009 fires but the toilet and washroom facilities were not upgraded to cope with heavy extra use resulting in considerable wear and tear and damage.</p> <p>The 2009 fires created disconnection within the community which was experienced at the recreation reserve. A large turnover of residents has been experienced, which has impacted the community's resilience, cohesion and connection. The Flowerdale Sports Club was determined to drive this project to enhance community connection, belonging and leadership.</p>			

	<p>The Flowerdale Sports Club states "The project includes the construction of accessible and modern multi-purpose change rooms and bath rooms at the Spring Valley Rec Reserve. The ultimate vision for the project is to create a clean, safe and friendly environment encouraging more community participation and better cohesion. The facilities are unisex, disabled friendly, functional, accessible and modern, encouraging more use of the reserve facilities and a more harmonious co-existence between user groups".</p> <p>Works were completed by late November 2019 and the facilities were officially opened on Sunday 26 January 2020 (Australia Day) by Ms Danielle Green MP, Member for Yan Yean and Parliamentary Secretary for Sport. The contribution of the VBAF Trust was acknowledged by a speech by a representative of the Foundation, at the official opening event.</p> <p>As of 25 February 2020, the president of the Club reports that "the tennis club has signed up 15 new members since the opening!".</p> <p>The Rec Reserve facility is a valuable community space and would be an important asset for the Flowerdale community particularly in the event of a future emergency.</p>	
<b>A Place to Think and Link</b> BRF201806 \$17,412	Taggerty CFA	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</li> <li>✓ Community capacity building.</li> <li>✓ Reconnecting the community with nature</li> </ul> <p>This project improves connectedness, health and wellbeing by providing an aesthetically pleasing shelter and garden for volunteers and community members to gather. CFA members attend various types of emergency incidents. They can be exposed to traumatic, sometimes life-threatening events. Examples include car accidents and severe fires. This presents an increased potential risk of mental health issues. This area will be utilised as an outdoor training area and as a debriefing area for CFA teams after attending incidents - a therapy before returning home. This may help avoid the development of serious mental illness, affecting not only the sufferer but also family, friends and community life. The creation of the outdoor space will assist with creating and strengthening community connections by facilitating discussions, sharing of knowledge and stories and the provision of peer support.</p> <p>Volunteers gave up their time and labour to help realise this project. Supplies were purchased locally as much as possible. The outcome of the project is the creation a quiet, reflective place</p>

		<p>for members and for community members to use during fire related events and/or other fire brigade occasions.</p> <p>Members of the local community had the opportunity to work together for a common goal to create a beautiful outdoor space. This has fostered an increased sense of community spirit and achievement in coming together as a community to complete the project.</p>
<b>Singing for the Soul</b> BRF201901 \$3,040	<p>Alexandra and Eildon Brass Band Inc.</p> <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</li> <li>✓ Community events and arts programs</li> </ul>	<p>Dr Jonathon Welch AM, and 60 members of his community choir - 'THECHOIR' - visited Alexandra on April 7 2019 to conduct a singing workshop with local participants, then participated in a free concert performance in the afternoon for the general public involving all members of THECHOIR and all local participants. In total there were 135 people participated in the workshop and concert.</p> <p>This was an inclusive event that was promoted across the Murrindindi Shire and encouraged participation regardless of age or singing ability. The aim of the event was to provide a fun and positive experience as the community move through the 10 year anniversary of the Black Saturday fires.</p> <p>The event was well received by those who participated and attended the community concert. Jonathon Welch made everyone feel equally welcome and valued, and the joy on many faces shows how positive this experience was. The project gave participants the opportunity to connect with others in their community and enjoy the uplifting and powerful effect of singing and making music.</p> <p>Members of the Alexandra U3A choir group were unexpected beneficiaries from this event. This group gained a lot of inspiration and skills from Jonathon Welch which in turn they can continue to use in their regular choir group.</p> <p>An anecdote from the event: "a member of the local community had independently contacted the choir master, Jonathan Welch, and sent a song that she had written after the 2009 bushfires. The song was well received by Jonathan Welch and his team, and they surprised her by asking her to sing it to the audience at the event. She was supported by</p>

	<p><i>the pianist and sang a moving rendition despite never having performed in public before. There was not a dry eye in the hall".</i></p>
	<p>According to Creativity Australia, singing is proven to make us happier, healthier, smarter and more creative. And the distinguishing feature of singing was that it bonded groups more quickly than other activities.</p>