

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

30 March 2019

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 \$139,451 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

30 March 2019

## 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 2017 to 30 June 2018.

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.

During the financial year, the Board received significant interest in its VBAF funded Bushfire Recovery Fund grant program. 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 including the Triangle News, the Alexandra and Eildon Standard, the Yea Chronicle, Facebook and through the Foundation's growing list of contacts and networks.

During the reporting period, grant rounds were open from 22 February 2017 to 30 November 2017 and 22 February 2018 to 29 November 2018.

The grant rounds attracted significant interest and \$139,450 was allocated to community driven projects in line with the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF) funding criteria.

### **Projects funded include:**

- "Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program (Murrindindi Shire)", Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Inc.
- "Mental Health and Wellbeing", Alexandra Secondary College
- "Creative Triangle", Marysville Triangle Community Mens Shed
- "Girlink Transition Program 2017", Alexandra Secondary College
- "Toolangi Community Fitness", Toolangi District Community House Inc.
- "UGFM Outdoor Broadcast Vehicle", Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.
- "Acheron Mechanics Institute – upgrade of facilities", Acheron Mechanics Institute Inc.
- "Murrindindi Bushfire Memorials", Murrindindi Shire Council
- "Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve Development Project – telling our story"
- "Girlink Transition Program 2018", Alexandra Secondary College
- Project: FRRR Back to School Voucher program
- Project: Sponsorship – Triangle Emergency Services dinner
- Project: Sponsorship – Marysville Art Show

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 2017 to 30 June 2018.

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 *Triangle News*, *the Alexandra and Eildon Standard*, and the *Yea Chronicle*. It 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.

Samples of the advertisements and promotion of the Fund are attached, see Attachment 3.

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: 30 March 2019

Signature: .....

Signature: .....

Director's Name: .....

Director's Name: .....

*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).

Total capital of the Trust at the beginning of the Accounting Period (1 July 2017)	\$526,472
Total capital of the Trust at the end of the Accounting Period (30 June 2018)	\$338,150

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

The major grant payments are detailed below.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Name of organisation or institution</b>	<b>Amount provided</b>	<b>Date payment provided</b>	<b>Municipal district benefit was provided in</b>
Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program	Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Inc.	\$15,000	20-6-18	Murrindindi Shire
Improving Mental Health	Alexandra Secondary College	\$27,000	1-7-2017	Murrindindi Shire
Creative Triangle	Marysville Triangle Community Mens Shed	\$2,000	8-8-2017	Murrindindi Shire
Girlink Transition Program 2017	Alexandra Secondary College	\$4,232	28-8-2017	Murrindindi Shire
Toolangi Community Fitness	Toolangi District Community House Inc.	\$10,176	4-1-2018	Murrindindi Shire
UGFM Outdoor Broadcast Vehicle	Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.	\$20,900	22-1-2018	Murrindindi Shire
Acheron Mechanics Institute – upgrade of facilities	Acheron Mechanics Institute Inc.	\$24,615	19-2-18	Murrindindi Shire
Murrindindi Bushfire Memorials	Murrindindi Shire Council	\$20,000	19-3-2018	Murrindindi Shire
Alexandra Showgrounds and recreation Reserve Development Project – telling our story	Alexandra Football Netball Club Inc.	\$5,350	22-6-2018	Murrindindi Shire
Girlink Transition Program 2018	Alexandra Secondary College	\$3,578	22-6-2018	Murrindindi Shire



FRRR Back to School Voucher Program	FRRR	\$5,000	31-12-2017	Murrindindi Shire
Sponsorship – Triangle Emergency Services Dinner	Narbethong CFA	\$500	18-9-2017	Murrindindi Shire
Sponsorship – Marysville Art Show	Triangle Arts Group Inc.	\$1100	25-10-2017	Murrindindi Shire

Details of all other expenditure made during the Accounting Period:

Details of payment	Amount	Date of payment
<b><i>Please see attached financial reports.</i></b>		

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**Attachment 1: Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation financial  
reports 2017/2018**

## **Attachment 2: Grant and project details**

## Summary of Bushfire Recovery Fund (VBAF) projects funded 2017/2018

### GRANTS

Project Name	Name of organisation or institution	Project Description
<p><b>Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program</b> BRF012 \$15,000</p>	<p>Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Inc.</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria: ✓ Community capacity building</p> <p>The overall aim of the Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program (RRCLP) is to increase the capacity and resilience of communities by strengthening local leadership. The funding amount provided assistance to support two individuals from Murrindindi Shire to attend the program. The program builds community capacity by providing opportunities for emerging leaders to build their skills and confidence, to facilitate a network of community leaders, to support emerging leaders and to drive community change. A feasibility study was commissioned by Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) as part of their bushfire recovery program that concentrating on assisting volunteers during the recovery and rebuild found that in areas affected by the 2009 fires there was increased volunteer fatigue amongst the people who stepped in to leadership roles without having the networks or skills to support them.</p> <p>The project amount covers the third and final part of the RRCLP grant; the grant period cover three years of the program subject to the satisfactory submission of a report on a yearly basis, to demonstrate that the program is meeting its objectives.</p> <p>Two representatives from Murrindindi Shire attended and described noticeable changes in their capacity as community leaders as a result of their participation.</p> <p>One representative reported <i>"To the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation it's been an honor and privilege to have had your financial support to undertake the RRCLP 2018. Thank you for the investment you have made in me and our community for now and into the</i></p>

		<p><i>future. I look forward to continuing my community leadership journey and putting the knowledge and expertise into practice."</i></p> <p>The second representative stated <i>"I have developed new confidence and clarity in my vision and I have started building my connections with local organisations to enhance the educational opportunities available in our region. My creative thinking and innovative approach are now supported by critical self reflection and a more practical understanding of systems, advocacy and lobbying to become a more effective leader."</i></p> <p>The RRCLP is also supported by Regional Development Victoria, Kinglake Ranges Foundation, Mitchell Community Resource and Advocacy Group and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.</p>
<p><b>Improving Mental Health</b> BRF201701 \$27,000</p>	<p>Alexandra Secondary College</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria: ✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</p> <p>This project supports the students of Alexandra Secondary School through the provision of a counsellor during the 2018 school year. A counsellor worked with students and their families to improve their mental health and day-to-day functioning. Helping young people to develop positive mental health improves their learning outcomes and contributes to community capacity and resilience. Improving counselling and support options for young people is in line with several key priorities highlighted in the Murrindindi Shire Council Plan 2013 - 2017 and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 - 2017.</p> <p>After the 2009 bushfires, students were able to access a good range of counselling services in the Alexandra area through Alexandra and District Hospital, Berry Street, Mitchell Community Health, Murrindindi Shire and a range of private psychologists. Most of those services have since been withdrawn, or there is a considerable waiting list to access services.</p> <p>The provision of a counsellor at the College was complimented by the College's participation in the Doctors In Schools program. This allowed a smoother path for those requiring mental health plans to be prepared and then implemented.</p> <p>Nigel Lyttle, Principal at Alexandra Secondary College stated "It has been very helpful having access to counselling for our students that was provided by the M&amp;TCF grant. Many students have been able to access assistance, both in individual and group sessions."</p>

<p><b>Creative Triangle</b> BRF201702 \$2,000</p>	<p>Marysville Triangle Community Mens Shed</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria: ✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</p> <p>The Project was auspiced by the Marysville Triangle Community Mens Shed on behalf of the Creative Triangle group.</p> <p>The Ballan Workshop project provided assistance to members of the Creative Triangle to attend a workshop to further develop their skills. The aim of the Creative Triangle is to develop the creative talents of its members, and to provide a place where members find companionship and be able to share joys and concerns. Its main focus has been to provide a place where women can gather to relax and socialize away from the demands of putting our lives back together after the 2009 fires. Some members were physically burnt, others lost homes and incomes, and many were emotionally traumatised because they lost their former community and friends. The effect of the bushfire trauma has been to accentuate these negative factors, making day to day life a greater struggle.</p> <p>This workshop was a follow on from a previous workshop hosted by the Creative Triangle. Participants were able to learn new creative skills, and create new connections. This contributes to confidence and personal wellbeing, as well as collective wellbeing. Participants contributed to the cost of the workshop.</p> <p>Organiser Marg Adams said "Opportunities for a lot of sharing of skills and encouragement happened through the time at the workshop. New friendships have been made and older ones deepened. As a result, we have become a stronger group sharing common interests and skills. We are most grateful to the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation for their provision of funds towards this time away. Since returning home, we have enjoyed an Open Day where we displayed many of pieces of work including our Crazy patchwork cushions to people of our community." The atmosphere during the workshop was positive and encouraging and has continued into the weekly group meetings.</p> <p>The Australian Psychological Society states "... we know very well that rebuilding social connections after a disaster is incredibly important. People need people. They help give us a sense of belonging, a feeling of being loved and cared for and that we're not alone, and reassurance that our reactions are normal. They can share burdens, provide practical support like helping replant gardens and caring for children. They can provide a sympathetic ear when we need to talk, or sensible advice when we're struggling with a problem. They can show us that we are important to them, too"</p>
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		<a href="https://www.psychology.org.au/getmedia/0166e8d9-a1de-463a-8c89-a36923389838/Bushfire-recovery-social-connections.pdf">https://www.psychology.org.au/getmedia/0166e8d9-a1de-463a-8c89-a36923389838/Bushfire-recovery-social-connections.pdf</a>
<b>Girlink Transition Program 2017</b> BRF201704 \$4,232	Alexandra Secondary College	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</li> <li>✓ Community capacity building</li> </ul> <p>Girlink is a transition program for Grade 6 girls in the Cathedral Cluster (Alexandra, Marysville, Buxton, Taggerty and Eildon) primary schools - it is a 2 day residential camp facilitated by staff and Year 11 students at Alexandra Secondary College with the aim of building social bonds and resilience before starting high school.</p> <p>“One of the most overwhelming aspects of this disaster is the way in which it destroyed community cohesion, social fabric and in some cases, even family integrity” Understanding the impact of bushfires on children, Perry, B and Dobson, C. 2009</p> <p>The objective of the transition program was to create new social connections, create a strong sense of belonging; and developing confidence and self-efficacy though challenging themselves and gaining new skills – confident and resilient youth are more engaged and motivated.</p> <p>All Grade 6 girls in the Cluster were eligible to attend and the program is particularly beneficial to the students from the smaller schools. The program was held at Alexandra Adventure Resort and included a range of activities that stimulated the girls both physically and mentally. 24 Grade 6 girls, 7 year 11 peer mentors and 4 staff attended the program.</p> <p>Students were surveyed before and after the camp. Prior to the program, the Grade 6 girls stated possible bullying as a concern, but no girls did after the program. Similarly, a common concern prior to the program was getting to know others, but only 2 grade 6 girls noted that was a concern after the program. Students noted less overall concerns about going to the Secondary College after the program, and said they would know how to solve any problems at Secondary School that arose.</p>
<b>Toolangi Community Fitness</b> BRF201707	Toolangi District Community House 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>✓ Reconnecting the community with nature</li> </ul>

<p>\$10,176</p>		<p>The aim of the project is to increase the fitness and stamina of the participants in the Toolangi Castella District Community House fitness group. Physical fitness is associated with lower stress levels, improved mood and reduced anxiety leading to resilience both mental and physical.</p> <p>The project funded five one hour classes of fitness for 43 weeks, followed by refreshments, fruit and social time. It also included a BBQ and awards celebration at the end of the year. 30 – 35 people regularly participate in the fitness classes.</p> <p>Each class starts with a group walk around Toolangi and along the Tall Trees Trail (which was established with the help of VBAF funds).</p> <p>Attendance at the class encourages friendships and support of one another through good times and bad. The sharing of fruit at the end of each session and the accompanying conversations lead to closer cross community information sharing. A benefit of information sharing has been and increased attendance at the Toolangi Community dinners by residents of nearby area such as Kinglake and Glenburn. This project has also increased community volunteering.</p>
<p><b>UGFM Outdoor Broadcast Vehicle</b> BRF201708 \$20,900</p>	<p>Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.</p>	<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 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, the second payment will happen in the 2018/19 financial year.</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>Acheron Mechanics Institute – upgrade of facilities</b> BRF201706 \$24,615</p>	<p>Acheron Mechanics Institute Inc.</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</li> <li>✓ Community events and arts programs</li> </ul> </p> <p>This project involved the upgrade of facilities that are part of the Acheron Mechanics Institute hall (Acheron Hall). It included the installation of a fence, viewing/storage shelter, basketball ring and landscaping works that are part of the only recreational facility in Acheron. The upgraded facilities are open to the community and promote health, improve community connectedness and enhance wellbeing.</p> <p>After the 2009 bushfires, the Acheron Hall was used as the location for the Marysville kindergarten, which was lost in the fires.</p> <p>The project provides the only outdoor recreational facility in Acheron. The relaxed and supportive environment will contribute to a sense of wellbeing, the facilities augment the existing community hall and provide a recreational facility that will increase the use of the hall.</p> <p>Investment in cultural and community infrastructure is important for the health and social wellbeing. Community halls and facilities are the heart of rural communities and play an important role in bringing people together, helping to form friendships and social support networks. This in turn contributes to the creation and maintenance of strong communities.</p>

<p><b>Murrindindi Bushfire Memorials</b> BRF201709 \$20,000</p>	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria: ✓ 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>
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		<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>This payment is part one of two payments.</p>
<p><b>Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve Development Project – telling our story</b> BRF201804 \$5,350</p>	<p>Alexandra Football and Netball Club Inc.</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria:  ✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing  ✓ Community capacity building</p> <p>This project aimed to assist the Alexandra Football and Netball Club (AFNC) to tell their story, in order to attract funds to proceed with the redevelopment of facilities at the recreation reserve. The recreation reserve was the main staging area during the 2009 fires and the facilities are in a poor state. The current club /reserve facilities are ageing and decaying and not fit for purpose.</p> <p>The AFNC has invested significantly in recent upgrades to other facilities at the reserve.</p> <p>A communications consultant was employed to work with Club volunteers and the Reserve’s Committee of Management to develop their story in order to attract funding for a multipurpose community facility. The Alexandra township and regional community were struck hard by the 2009 bushfires, with members of the community suffering from loss of loved ones as well as property, and the trauma associated with the fires. The role of community clubs such as the AFNC is crucial for social recovery as people join to share in common interests and resumed the normality of life post fires. The Club brings people together to support their teams, act as volunteers and provide new connections in the community. It also offers affordable and nutritious meals during the season to assist in the development of connections and contribute to overall wellbeing.</p> <p>The new multipurpose building would be used as a safe place assembly point in the event of a community emergency. In addition it would be used for displays for the annual Agricultural Show, meeting space for community groups, function space, for educational purposes and storage.</p> <p>The funding document was completed in September 2018.</p> <p>On 16 October 2018, Jaclyn Symes, State Member for Norther Victoria announced:</p>

		<p><i>A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will deliver a \$1.79 million major upgrade of the Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve. Labor Upper House Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes, and Labor candidate for Eildon, Sally Brennan, made the commitment today at the Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve.</i></p> <p><i>Last year, locals raised nearly \$250,000 through the running of the canteen and their afternoon teas to build female friendly facilities at the reserve's netball club, which was backed with \$95,000 from the Andrews Labor Government.</i></p> <p><i>Despite this amazing effort, other parts of the reserve's facilities are failing to meet the sporting and community needs of the precinct.</i></p> <p><i>Under a re-elected Labor Government, funding will go towards the rebuild of the multipurpose facilities at the reserve, benefitting Alexandra Rebels Football Netball Club. The showground and recreation reserve is also used by the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association, Alexandra Cricket Club, and Alexandra Poultry Society.</i></p> <p>The new multipurpose facility will now be fully funded.</p>
<p><b>Girlink Transition Program 2018</b> BRF201805 \$3,578</p>	<p>Alexandra Secondary College</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</li> <li>✓ Community capacity building</li> </ul> <p>Girlink is a transition program for Grade 6 girls in the Cathedral Cluster (Alexandra, Marysville, Buxton, Taggerty and Eildon) primary schools - it is a 2 day residential camp facilitated by staff and Year 11 students at Alexandra Secondary College with the aim of building social bonds and resilience before starting high school.</p> <p>The objective of the transition program was to create new social connections, create a strong sense of belonging; and developing confidence and self-efficacy through challenging themselves and gaining new skills – confident and resilient youth are more engaged and motivated.</p> <p>All Grade 6 girls in the Cluster were eligible to attend and the program is particularly beneficial to the students from the smaller schools. The program was held at Alexandra Adventure Resort and included a range of activities that stimulated the girls both physically and mentally. 30 Grade 6 girls, 11 year 11 peer mentors and 4 staff attended the program</p>

		<p>The grade 6 girls were able to make connections with each other, year 11 mentors and staff from the College. Feedback from the girls was that they loved getting to know each other, share concerns and develop transition strategies.</p> <p>In addition, College staff “were able to get a really good sense of the strengths and any areas of concerns for each of the Grade 6 girls, giving us a head start in planning how best to cater for them in 2019+ at Alexandra Secondary College”.</p>
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## PROJECTS

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
<p><b>FRRR Back to School</b> FRRR \$5000</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improving community connectedness, health and wellbeing</li> <li>✓ Community capacity building</li> </ul> <p>The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal’s (FRRR) annual “Back to School” program of \$50 vouchers to support students and families has been operating since 2005. In that time the program has distributed over \$5 million to over 90,000 children across Australia.</p> <p>The Foundation distributed \$16,450 in Back to School Vouchers to primary and secondary schools in Marysville, Buxton, Eildon, Alexandra and Yea in the last financial year. FRRR provided 129 vouchers and the Marysville Triangle Community Foundation funded an additional 200 vouchers. In total 329 vouchers were able to be used to purchase school supplies and uniforms and are provided to families who need a helping hand with their back to school costs.</p> <p>The Back to School Program is a practical and positive program that can make a real difference to the lives of children by improving their confidence and self-esteem. Helping kids fit in helps them to participate fully at school and to continue with their education.</p> <p>Schools provided the following feedback:</p> <p><i>When we receive these vouchers and distribute them to families that we feel are in most need of support we get an overwhelming sigh of relief and an enormous amount of gratitude. To give a little something to brighten their day is a sense of what our school community is all about.</i></p> <p><i>The parents were very grateful and thankful for the assistance.</i></p>

	<p><i>We very much appreciate the ongoing support in this area of student wellbeing and in supporting struggling families.</i></p> <p><i>Students have experienced a greater sense of pride in how they prepare for school and being able to independently provide resources that help them to be organised and prepared for learning.</i></p>
<p><b>Sponsorship – Triangle Emergency Services Dinner</b> Narbethong CFA \$500</p>	<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>The Foundation provided sponsorship for the Triangle Emergency Services dinner. This dinner brings together volunteers from Marysville SES, Marysville CFA, Taggerty CFA, Buxton CFA and Narbethong CFA. These volunteers regularly come together in emergency situations operating in stressful environments and the dinner provides an opportunity to develop relationships outside of an emergency scenario. This enhances working relationships for the teams.</p> <p>An MTCF Board member spoke at the event promoting the Foundation and thanking the volunteers for their efforts, on behalf of the community.</p>
<p><b>Sponsorship – Marysville Art Show 2017</b> Triangle Arts Group \$1100</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community events and arts programs</li> </ul> <p>The annual Marysville Art Show is a highly regarded event local event. The Foundation provided sponsorship for the venue hire for the Art Show to assist in the reduction of the operating expenses, and a named prize for a category of art.</p> <p>The Chair of the Foundation spoke at the opening night of the Art Show to express support for the event and promote the role of the Foundation in the local community.</p>

