



President's Report 2015

The past year has been another successful year for the Foundation. With its revenue sources remaining sound the Foundation has been able to sustain its annual grants program at about the same level as in recent years and to expand its scholarship program to 3 scholarships a year. As a result, since its inception 15 years ago the Mumbulla Foundation has now provided almost \$1 million in funding to not for profit community groups in the Bega Valley area, a very worthwhile contribution to the welfare of local residents.

In 2015 the Mumbulla Foundation provided grants ranging in size from \$500 to \$7,500 to more than 30 community groups applying for financial assistance. Groups supported were active in a wide range of areas including education, indigenous programs, health, the arts and music, and community services. While funds made available were often not large in size, they have enabled many projects to be carried out that would not otherwise have happened.

Funding of the Foundation continued to come from three roughly equal sources. The Bega Valley Shire Council maintained its generous funding under a new 3 year agreement that has enabled the Board of the Foundation to plan ahead with confidence. Also, consistent with its logo Give Where You Live the Foundation continued to seek and receive generous donations from a number of individuals associated with the Bega Valley area. And supplementing these funds were the Foundation's own successful fund raising activities.

Early in the year Nobel Prize winner Professor Peter Doherty of Melbourne University was guest speaker at a fund raising dinner attended by more than 60 people. His informative and thought provoking address on Killer Viruses was followed by a lively question and answer session. More recently the Mumbulla Foundation again held its Annual Gala Dinner at Oaklands in Pambula. The night was a great success both as entertainment to the theme of 1950s Broadway Glamour and as a fund raiser. Thanks to the very generous support of our major sponsor Bega Cheese and assistance from many small businesses the Foundation was able to raise around \$20,000 from auctions conducted on the night.

Mumbulla Foundation
"Give Where You Live"

P.O. Box 629
Bega, NSW 2550

themumbullafoundation@gmail.com
ABN: 75 094 731 601

This year's event was organised by Christine Walters, a new member of the Board. Chris with the assistance of her husband John did an outstanding job, creating a fabulous atmosphere and leaving nothing to chance. The Board is extremely grateful to Chris for her work in the successful staging of the event and also to John Cursley and David Armstrong for their work in organising and conducting the Auction.

At an administrative level the Foundation continues to work at minimum cost. It has no employed staff and its running expenses are largely confined to unavoidable costs such as auditing, insurance and advertising. In fact the work of the Foundation is largely done by volunteer Board members. This year a number of new directors joined the Board and they quickly contributed to the Foundation's work. I am extremely grateful to them and other Board members for the effort made in the past year and for the results achieved.

Finally let me say that the Board is committed to sustaining the Foundation's work under its charter and hopes to announce new initiatives in 2016.

Gary Potts
Chairman
Nov 2015

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