

Chairman's Report 2018

2018 has been a challenging year for the Foundation with fewer Board members and several absences during the year. Such is the case with a volunteer based organisation. As a result fundraising was curtailed but by drawing on reserves built up in previous years the Foundation was able to maintain the annual grants program, the scholarship program and the schools prize-giving book voucher program. The partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Back to School program also continued.

2018 was the third year of the Gold Donor program which was put to potential donors as a donation of \$1000 a year for three years. One new donor was added during the year in addition to the original eight. In total the Foundation received \$9,000 from this program. Another major donation of \$5,700 came from another ongoing donor.

Bega Valley Shire Council remains our major partner and donated \$30,000, \$5,000 of which helps cover administrative expenses with the remaining \$25,000 going towards the Annual Grants Program.

This was the final year during which we received funds from Bega Cheese. The Foundation is highly appreciative of the support from Bega Cheese over many years and realises that there are many other organisations which also need their support and philanthropy. This year the company awarded a final payment of \$5,000.

I am saddened to report of the death of John Cursley this year. John was a valued Board member and Treasurer for many years before he retired five years ago. His support for the Foundation continued, especially providing help with organising past annual Gala dinners. He requested that, rather than flowers at his funeral, people make donations to the Mumbulla Foundation. More than \$600 was received.

The total value of grant applications from not-for-profit organisations in the Bega Valley Shire this year was \$121,183. In view of limited fund-raising during the year the approved target for distribution was \$50,000, based on Council contribution of \$25,000 and matched contribution from the Foundation. The approved value of grants to be presented was \$50,533.50. As well as this support, the Foundation also awarded \$6,000 in Scholarships for 6 students at the Wollongong University Bega Campus, \$1,100 in book vouchers for schools' prize-giving and \$1,500 to FRRR for Back to School Matched Funding Program.

It remains for me to thank my fellow Board members, all of whom are volunteers and give their time generously to assist the Foundation's mission to "Give where you Live". In particular I wish to thank long-serving members, Gary Potts and Peter Law, who are not standing for re-election next year. Both have been outstanding in their commitment to the Foundation, Gary in his role as Treasurer and past Chair and Peter as Secretary, and they and their expertise will be missed.

2019 will be a challenge for the Foundation. The first task will be to secure more Board members, Then new methods of raising funds need to be considered if the Foundation is to continue to give grants to the community. On the other hand a new Board may decide to follow a different path for the Foundation. Either way it will call for clear thinking and commitment in carrying the Foundation forward.



Olwen Morris, Chair