



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014

Thanks to our partner, Bega Valley Shire Council, major sponsor, Bega Cheese, and private donors, the Foundation has raised funds of over \$90,000 during 2014. Accordingly we were able to disperse grants amounting to \$85,000 among community organisations in the Bega Valley.

Our major fundraiser event continues to be the Gala dinner, professionally organised by Bettina Richter. This year's theme was 'Midsummer Night's Dream' and was again well supported with participants raising around \$18000 through auctions and raffles. However the Gala would not be possible without the support of Bega Cheese, who committed \$10,000 annually, this year and for the next two years, to the event. The Foundation continues to be grateful to Bega Cheese and for the other major sponsors, Merimbula News Weekly, 2EC Radio, Sapphire Coast Buslines, Excell Printing and Oaklands. I particularly wish to thank ex-Board member, John Cursley, for his help with arranging the Auctions and thanks also to all the many supporters who donated excellent prizes for the auctions and to the auctioneer, David Armstrong, and his 'helpers' who kept the bids flowing.

Our second big fundraiser, the Speaker's Dinner at the Wharf, had to be cancelled this year as guest speaker, Peter Doherty, was unable to attend owing to illness. However Peter has agreed to speak at the dinner on 27 February 2015.

Apart from the annual granting round we again have supported two students from the University of Wollongong campus to the sum of \$1000 each and given book voucher awards of \$50 to each school in the Valley. Also thanks to Ivan McKay for organising with FRRR to distribute Back-to-School vouchers for needy schoolchildren.

Unfortunately the Board was unable to make a firm decision regarding the Flagship grant, which morphed throughout the year into a Donation programme. This will be considered further next year.

Four Board members are leaving at the end of this year: Ann Montague and Prue Neidorf have served for many years on the Board of the Foundation and their input has been invaluable; John Aveyard has put in many hours organising the grant programme; I am also leaving the Board having spent 3 years as Chair. Cr Ann Mawhinney who gave valuable advice during her time as Council representative has vacated her position, which has now been taken by Cr Bill Taylor. I thank Cr Mawhinney for her time and welcome Cr Taylor to the Board.

It remains for me to thank all members of the Board who work rigorously to see that funding is maintained and governance is strictly followed. We are accountable for substantial amounts of money that are donated by the Council and other businesses and individuals who 'give where they live', and we ensure that those funds are returned to community groups within the Bega Valley Shire.

Olwen Morris
Chairperson