

## MF Chairman's Report 2016

Last year's report foreshadowed the likely announcement of new initiatives aimed at sustaining the Foundation's work during the course of 2016. I am pleased to report that some ideas then in the planning stage have come to fruition, allowing the Foundation to plan with more certainty the continuation and expansion of its current activities. This has been a welcome development.

Two important changes have strengthened the Foundation's position. The first is that during the course of the year the Gold Donor program was successfully launched with a number of individuals generously agreeing to donate \$1000 a year for each of the next 3 years. A second development is that in response to a detailed submission from the Foundation the Council agreed to increase its annual contribution by \$10,000, the first time Council's contribution had changed since the Foundation commenced in 2001.

Once again the Foundation's financial position was aided by its own fund raising activities. The Annual Gala Dinner held in October, generously supported by principal donor Bega Cheese, raised almost \$20,000 and was a great success thanks to the support of the many patrons attending and the unstinting work of Board member Chris Walters in organising the event.

In a sound position financially the Foundation was able to maintain and in some areas increase its spending activities. In 2016 under the community grants program the Foundation provided grants ranging in size from only a few hundred dollars up to \$7500 to more than 30 community groups applying for Foundation assistance. Total funding reached almost \$75,000 and went to groups active in the welfare, arts, education and community service areas.

Direct Foundation support in the education area increased in 2016. The number of scholarships offered to Bega Valley students attending the University of Wollongong campus in Bega increased to 3 and will increase again next year to 6. As well for the first time the Foundation jointly funded with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal an assistance program to help cover back to school expenses. This is in addition to end of year school book awards that have been offered to schools throughout the region for many years.

Overall the Foundation has had a successful year and pursued the objectives of its charter with minimal overheads. It continued to have no paid staff and administrative expenses were kept to the minimum necessary to fulfil its work. It has a small Board of Directors who discharge their responsibilities on a voluntary but highly committed basis. All Directors deserve recognition for the work they do and the enthusiasm they bring to it. I thank each of them personally, including those who will be leaving at the end of the year.

Not for profit organisations that rely on volunteers to discharge their responsibilities often are faced with the challenge of finding new recruits. The Mumbulla Foundation is no exception and it would be remiss of me not to mention that this is proving particularly difficult for the Foundation at this time. Extra Directors are needed to sustain the Foundation going forward and to lighten the workload of Directors remaining on the Board.

GARY POTTS  
CHAIRMAN  
25 NOV 2016