



Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation

Submission of reports as required by the Trust Deed for the Marysville and
Triangle Community Foundation

29 February 2016

(amended 22 June 2016)

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

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 1st July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

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.

The Term deposit matured in May 2014 and was invested for six months to maximise the interest rates available. In November 2014, the Board determined to withdraw \$100,000 to cover successful grant applications and invest this amount in a shorter term deposit for ease of access. The interest earning during the period was transferred to the cheque account to cover operational expenses.

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 first formal grant round was established using an online grants management system. The system was implemented after the Foundation's website was launched and time was taken to set up a user friendly application process.

The grant program was advertised broadly throughout local media including the Triangle News, the Alexandra and Eildon Standard, the Yea Chronicle and the Mountain Monthly (in Kinglake) and through the Foundation's growing list of contacts and networks.

The Board of Directors was delighted with the interest received in the first grant round. \$104,468 was allocated to community driven projects in line with the VBAF funding criteria. A number of applications were rejected or withdrawn as they did not meet the eligibility criteria.

Projects funded include:

- Skate Helmet Art Workshop

- Opening – Marysville Skate Park
- Buxton Hall – acoustic treatment and curtaining
- Marysville and District Historical Society – Lou’s historical shed
- Triangle Table Tennis
- Taggerty Hall – Audio Visual installation
- Buxton Primary School – reconnecting the community with nature
- Alexandra District Weather – weather station support
- Narbethong Public Hall – water management project
- Replacement of equipment for emergency services broadcaster (UGFM)
- Mindfulness in Marysville
- Marysville Jazz and Blues Weekend
- Community Board Games Night

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 1st July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

The Bushfire Recovery Fund grant program first opened in September 2014. Grant applications were due to be submitted by 5 November 2014. The grant program was advertised in the *Triangle News*, *the Alexandra and Eildon Standard*, *the Yea Chronicle* and the *Mountain Monthly* (operating in the Kinglake area).

In April 2015, the Bushfire Recovery Fund grant program opened for its second round. This time the round was open until December 2015. This strategic decision to remain open 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. Again, the 2015 grant program was advertised in the *Triangle News*, *the Alexandra and Eildon Standard*, *the Yea Chronicle* and the *Mountain Monthly* (operating in the Kinglake area). It was also promoted through the Foundation’s growing email list and through the Foundation’s Facebook page.

Samples of the advertisements and promotion of the Fund are attached.

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

Postal address: PO Box 42, Marysville, Vic 3779

Report date: 28 February 2016

Signature:

Signature:

Director's Name:

Director's Name:

This form must be signed by two (2) Directors of the Trustee Company.

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.

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

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 the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and then each period of 12 months ending 30 June each year (Accounting Period).

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| Total capital of the Trust at the beginning of the Accounting Period (1 July 2014) | \$1,003,276 |
| Total capital of the Trust at the end of the Accounting Period (30 June 2015) | \$844,058 |

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

The major grant payments are detailed below.

| Project | Name of organisation or institution | Amount provided | Date payment provided | Municipal district benefit was provided in |
|--|--|------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Skate Helmet Art Workshop | Berry Street | \$620 | 23-9-14 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Opening – Marysville Skate Park | Marysville and Triangle Youth Inc. | \$2,000 | 30-9-14 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Taggerty Hall – Audio Visual equipment | Taggerty Hall Committee Inc. | \$10,594.70 | 18-12-14 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Buxton Hall - Acoustic Treatment and Curtaining | Buxton Progress Association | \$15,000 | 23-12-14 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Marysville and District Historical Society – Lou’s Historical Shed | Marysville and District Historical Society | \$15,000 | 23-12-14 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Triangle Table Tennis | Buxton Progress Association | \$2,000 | 23-12-14 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Buxton Primary School – reconnecting the community with nature | Buxton Primary School | \$15,000 | 10-12-14 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Alexandra District Weather – weather station support | Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc. | \$1,035.45 | 23-12-14 | Murrindindi Shire |

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| Narbethong Public Hall – water management project | Narbethong Public Hall Committee | \$4,970 | 21-1-15 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Replacement of equipment for emergency services broadcaster - UGFM | Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc. | \$22,070 | 23-12-14 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Mindfulness in Marysville | Marysville and Triangle Mens Shed | \$9,872 | 18-12-14 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Marysville Jazz and Blues Weekend | Marysville Cultural Community Inc. | \$5,150 | 2-4-15 | Murrindindi Shire |
| Community Board Games Night | Gallipoli Park Committee of Management | \$1,155 | 7-5-15 | Murrindindi Shire |

Details of all other expenditure made during the Accounting Period:

| Details of payment | Amount | Date of payment |
|--|--------|-----------------|
| <i>Please see attached financial reports.</i> | | |
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**Attachment 1: Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation – Annual
Report 2014/2015 (including financial reports)**

Attachment 2: Sample Press Clips

Alexandra - Eildon Standard 3-9-2014 p3

Foundation announces opening of first round of community grants

THE Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation has announced the opening of its first grant program, advising that funds are available to provide assistance to communities affected by the 2009 bushfires within the shire.

"We are pleased to open our first grant round from September 10, 2014," MTCF chair Tony Thompson said.

"The foundation's Bushfire Recovery Fund was established from funds received from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund and is intended for projects that address a

hardship caused by the 2009 fires in Murrindindi Shire," he said.

"The foundation sees this grant round as an important first step towards achieving its vision of building a legacy for a vibrant, healthy and resilient future across the communities of Murrindindi."

Grants are available for projects that fall within at least one of the criteria of 'improve community connectedness,' 'health and wellbeing,' 'build community capacity,' 'deliver community events and arts programs,' and 'reconnect the community with nature.'

The grant round opens on September 10 and applications must be received by November 5.

Applications can be submitted online at marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au.

Guidelines for submitting grant applications are available on the website together with a Bushfire Recovery Fund fact sheet.

For more information, contact MTCF executive officer Robyn Hill via robyn@marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au or 0488 007 688.

Community Foundations Forum

THE four community foundations established following the Victorian bushfires will jointly welcome over 90 delegates to the annual Community Foundation Forum at the Yarra Valley Conference Centre in Dixons Creek this Thursday, September 4.

The Forum program is filled with presentations from those involved in Community Foundations from across

Australia and there will also be plenty of opportunities for staff and board members attending to network and share ideas.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Margaret Rae will be in attendance, as will special guest Community Foundations of Canada president Ian Bird.

Local programs Firefoxes Australia and the Rivers and Ranges Community

Leadership Program will be showcased at the forum.

This year marks 100 years since the first Community Foundation was established in the US and the theme is 'Planning for the next century, while surviving the next year.'

Centennial dinner celebrations take place at DeBortoli in Dixons Creek also on Thursday.

Alexandra - Eildon Standard 3-9-2014 p3



The Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation announces the Bushfire Recovery Fund grant program is open from 10 September 2014.

Grants are available for projects that provide assistance to those affected by the 2009 bushfires in the Murrindindi Shire.

Grant applications are submitted online and must be submitted by 5 November 2014.

Information about the grant program is available at www.marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au or by contacting the Foundation's Executive Officer

Robyn Hill at
robyn@marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au
 or by telephone on 0488 007 688.

COMMUNITY OPENINGS IN MARYSVILLE

The Skate Park

The Community Skate Park opening / Fun Day which was held last Thursday October 2nd, was a great community get together. Thank you to all those that attended, the youth that stayed on enjoyed the workshops and fun with the YMCA, thank you to Lake Mountain for the Jumping Castle, also thank you to The Community Foundation for supporting us on the day with the BBQ and the organized activities.

In 2009 there were a lot of people coming to our community to give support and also see what they could do to help our town rebuild. On one of these occasions the youth at the time were asked what they would like to see in the community, they replied with a SKATE PARK, so from there the funds were found to build a Skate Park in Marysville at Gallipoli Park. The youth were invited to help design the plans for their Skate Park, with several meetings and road trips.

There were many people involved, including the Lions Club, Murrindindi Shire Council and Contractors also local volunteers too many to individually thank.

So on behalf of the youth of our community we would like to say a BIG Thank you to everyone who was involved in making our Skate Park happen.

The New BBQ Canopy

The Triangle Community turned out to see the new BBQ Canopy opened and enjoyed a sausage in bread and a soft drink at the Community Opening. The funds to build the Canopy were donated by the Mansfield Community through Marks Supa IGA Mansfield Community Chest points program after the fires.

Stephen Marks one of the supermarket owners said "The Mansfield Community generously donated many points to the program which enabled Marks IGA to donate around \$32,000 for the project". He also said, "We are proud to be able to see the project finished and we are sure many people will benefit from the new covered area".

Richard Rogerson from the Community Foundation said that this type of event was ideal for funding support, and urged the Community to present applications for funding for suitable events or projects.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor, Cr Margaret Rae said the Canopy was a fine example of what is achievable

when Communities worked together and commended the inclusion of solar lighting, which means no ongoing power cost to Council. Nat Morandi, of the Gallipoli Park Precinct Committee of Management, thanked the contributors to the project including the suppliers and the GPPCM.

Stephen Marks unveiled the plaque (with a very complicated rope pulley system!) within the BBQ Canopy for many to see in years to come.

The Community Foundation

The Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation were proud to support the opening of the Marysville Skate

Park on Thursday 2 October.

"The Foundation is delighted to support community events such as the opening of the skate park as part of its Bushfire Recovery Fund grant program" said the Foundation secretary, Richard Rogerson, "The Foundation's current grant round closes on 7 November and we encourage everyone to take a look at our website for information about the grant program".

The Bushfire Recovery Fund grant program supports projects that provide assistance to those affected by the 2009 bushfires in Murrindindi Shire.

For more information go to

www.marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au

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Mindfulness returns to Marysville



MARYSVILLE local and mindfulness training project co-ordinator Merran Guest has worked closely with Openground Mindfulness Training to secure another grant.

The grant, from the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation and auspiced again by the Marysville Men's Shed, will be used to provide Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction training to the Marysville and Triangle community.

The grant will cover all costs to run the program, bringing the participation price down from \$700 to \$50 per person, although further concessions may still apply to certain applicants.

"There is still no doubting the trauma everyone who lived, worked or visited Marysville and district felt before, during and after the 2009 bushfires," Ms Guest said.

"Although it is now almost six years since the day of the bushfires, the deep seated trauma experienced by many is still apparent. Many people have found it enormously difficult to recover, not only from the practical losses such as property, but also the psychological effects of the fires," she said.

"Many are still finding it difficult to find a

helpful thoughts and difficulty with sleep and personal interactions."

The long term objective of the mindfulness training project is for people who participate to obtain better skills to think clearly and less reactively and function at a higher level than before.

Originally developed by mindfulness pioneer Dr Jon Kabat-Zinn, the eight week course has been helping people around the world acquire tools to manage their stress.

Mindfulness is a skill that anyone can develop, and more than three decades of research has found people who complete the course experience lasting decreases in physical symptoms of stress, major improvements in mental functioning, and enhanced creativity and resilience.

The course will commence on February 3, 2015, with classes running on Tuesday evenings at the Marysville Community Centre.

Any adult who has experienced the trauma of the 2009 bushfires and its aftermath, or stress as a result of the bushfires although not directly affected by the bushfire, who lived or currently lives in the Marysville and surrounding district, is encouraged to apply

Mindfulness training project co-ordinator Merran Guest and Foundation

Table tennis comes to the Triangle

RESIDENTS of the Triangle can now enjoy a game of social table tennis at the Buxton Memorial Hall.

For the past couple of months the newly formed Triangle Table Tennis Club has been playing at the Narbethong Hall whilst seeking assistance to purchase equipment and locate premises more suitable for playing on a number of tables at the same time.

With assistance from the Buxton Progress Association and a grant from the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation the New Year has started with the club moving to a permanent home at the Buxton Memorial Hall with four new tables and a good supply of bats and balls.

Club spokesperson Steve Ripper thanked the Narbethong Hall Committee for the use of their tables and their support in getting the club started.

The aim of the club is to provide table tennis for all ages with the emphasis on social connection and enjoyment. Games are played Sunday evening, commencing at 6.30pm, the cost is \$5 per person and soft sole shoes must be worn. Junior players, fifteen years and under, will need to be accompanied by an adult.

If sufficient interest is shown an earlier start time could be introduced to cater for children/parents sessions.

After attending for three weeks players are required to become a member of the club and pay an annual cost of \$35 which covers player registration, public risk insurance, and player accident insurance.

For all information on the Triangle Table Tennis Club contact Steve Ripper on 0417 503 756.



Triangle residents enjoy a game of table tennis at the Buxton Memorial Hall, new home of the Triangle Table Tennis Club. -S

Foundation congratulates successful projects funded by the first grant round

The Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation (MTCF) are proud to announce the successful projects funded as a result of its first Bushfire Recovery Fund grant round.

The Foundation provided grants totalling nearly \$100,000 to support 11 projects.

"These projects will result in providing assistance to those affected by the 2009 bushfires in Murrindindi Shire," said MTCF Chair, Tony Thompson. "The board of directors of the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation were delighted with the interest we received in our first grant round and we look forward to seeing the projects implemented for the benefit of our community."

Successful projects include:

- Mindfulness in Marysville program
- Reconnecting the Buxton community with nature
- The replacement of UGFM's prime transmitter generator to aid in the delivery of emergency services announcements

- Taggerty Hall audio visual equipment
- Marysville skate park opening
- Buxton Memorial Hall acoustic treatment
- Marysville Historical Society completion of History Centre
- Narbethong Public Hall water management project
- Maintenance of the Alexandra district weather station used by emergency services
- Triangle Table Tennis
- Skate Helmet Art Workshop run by Berry Street

The grants were assessed according to the criteria required by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF). The primary objective of the grant program is to assist communities in their recovery from the 2009 bushfires.

The Foundation will continue to operate the Bushfire Recovery Fund grant program in 2015, and details will be announced soon.

Applicants with ideas for projects for the 2015 funding year are encouraged to commence initial dis-

cussions with the Executive Officer, Robyn Hill. "The purpose of the initial discussions is to confirm that projects are eligible for funding, to provide advice about how the MTCF's online grant program works and to be a resource for queries about grant applications", said Robyn Hill.

The board of directors has completed a strategic planning process for activities in 2015 which reflect the vision of the Foundation ... to build a legacy for a vibrant, healthy and resilient future across the communities of Murrindindi. This includes establishing a formal arrangement for the establishment of a new trust fund using funds received last year from the State Government following from the sale of Marysville Central.

More information about the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation can be found at www.marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au or by contacting the Executive Officer, Robyn Hill, on 0488 007 688.



BUXTON PROGRESS “AUTUMN POT LUCK DINNER”

The Buxton Progress Association inc. held a "Pot Luck Dinner" last Saturday Evening to enjoy some socialising and to show off the new improvements to the Hall.

Buxton Progress Members excelled themselves by decorating the Hall and cooking some really tasty dishes. The menu consisted of Chicken, Beef and Lentil casseroles followed by Apple Crumble, Apple Pie, Cream Puffs, Profiteroles and a Strawberry Jelly Slice. It proved to be a most enjoyable night for all those in attendance.

There were many comments to how the acoustics of the hall have been greatly improved by the installation of acoustic batts and curtaining which we were able to purchase through a grant from the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation. We thank the M.T.C.F for funding the improvements and “the cooks” for their very tasty contributions, also thanks to the those community members who came along and helped to make the night so enjoyable and successful.

W. Cureton (Secretary)



Foundation announces 2015 grant round open

THE Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation has announced the opening of its 2015 grant program.

Funds are available to provide assistance to those affected by the 2009 bushfires in the Murrindindi Shire.

The MTCF was established with the vision of building a legacy for a vibrant, healthy and resilient future across the communities of Murrindindi.

"We are delighted to open our grant round for 2015. The grant program is intended for

projects that address a hardship caused by the 2009 fires in Murrindindi Shire. Last year the Foundation funded projects to a total value of just over \$100,000 to assist a number of community groups and organisations to provide a range of services and projects to build the resilience and wellbeing of their communities," MTCF chair Tony Thompson said.

Grants are available for projects that fall within at least one of the following criteria: improve community connectedness, health

the required information has been provided. Applications are submitted online through the Foundation's website, following the link to Bushfire Recovery at marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au.

Guidelines for submitting grant applications are available on the website together with a Bushfire Recovery Fund fact sheet.

For more information, contact the Executive Officer via robbyn@marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au or on 0488 007 688.

and wellbeing; build community capacity; deliver community events and arts programs; and reconnect the community with nature.

The MTCF will keep this grant round open until December 4 to allow applicants time to thoroughly scope their projects and prepare grant applications for assessment by the Board of Directors.

Grant applications will be assessed at the monthly Board of Directors meetings, provided the applications are eligible and all of



The Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation Bushfire Recovery Fund 2015 grant program is now open.

Grants are available for projects that provide assistance to those affected by the 2009 bushfires in the Murrindindi Shire.

This year, the grant round will remain open until December 4, 2015. Applications may be submitted at any time until then.

Grant applications are submitted on line through the MTCF website marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au

Information about the grant program is available at the MTCF website or by contacting the Foundation at robbyn@marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au or by telephone on **0488 007 688**.

Taggerty Hall to light up

IN an exciting development, the Taggerty Memorial Hall has installed a state of the art audio visual system.

After receiving a generous grant from the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation and a significant donation from the Taggerty Community Progress Group, the hall committee was able to fund the gap and commission DIB AV to design and install the new system.

The projector is high definition and is able to present blue ray video, excel and power point presentation at full resolution.

The system is compatible with computers and

iPods and presents top quality sound for hand and lapel microphone presentations.

The hall will now be able to host meetings for various user groups where this technology is needed and can be used as a venue for weddings, funeral and general community social events.

The Taggerty community will be treated to movie nights, commencing soon and music on tap for social functions.

Part of the motivation behind the project to install the new system was to bring the community together and provide them with updated facilities.

Summary of Bushfire Recovery Fund (VBAF) projects funded 2014/2015

| Project Name | Name of organisation or institution | Project Description |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Skate Helmet Art Workshop | Berry Street | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community events and arts programs <p>A two day skate helmet art workshop to support youth effected by the 2009 fires. Berry Street Tune In Youth Counselling services organised and ran the event, providing support to youth in a non-clinical environment. The focal elements of the program were to enable participants to engage with an activity within their community and to build relationships with peers, community, support services and counselling professionals. The context also enabled clinicians to identify any issues for the young people who attended that may warrant further attention, assistance and/or support.</p> |
| Opening – Marysville Skate Park | Marysville and Triangle Youth Inc. | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community events and arts programs <p>The Marysville Skate Park was developed as part of the Gallipoli Park precinct rebuilding works. The skate park was a VBAF funded project. This event was a celebratory community event with a focus for the youth to thank those who made the skate park happen. It was organised by the Marysville and Triangle Youth Group and all of the local community was invited to attend.</p> |

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| <p>Taggerty Hall AV installation</p> | <p>Taggerty Hall Committee Inc.</p> | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community capacity building ✓ Community events and arts programs <p>The Taggerty Hall is the heart of the small community of Taggerty. The hall has been central in bringing the community together for social events in an event to promote community connectedness, assisting in the healing process post 2009 fires. This grant provided for the installation of audio visual equipment bringing the capability of the hall in to the modern era. The hall is used for community dinners and dances, funerals and weddings, state and federal voting, public and private functions and art displays. A great example of the importance of the equipment is the Taggerty Progress Committee's organisation of a series of free community movie nights with record attendance in the hall.</p> |
| <p>Buxton Hall - Acoustic Treatment and Curtaining</p> | <p>Buxton Progress Association</p> | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community events and arts programs <p>The Buxton Progress Association received VBAF funding to refurbish the Buxton Hall. The Hall was used after the 2009 fires as a community goods distribution centre, a meeting place for CFA and DSE and for many community gatherings. A number of community groups were formed after the 2009 fires and Buxton Hall was used as a central meeting space. The acoustics of the Hall were very poor, and the grant has specifically focused on improving the acoustics of the hall so that it is a viable asset for concerts and music and theatre productions (it is one of very few local community halls with a stage).</p> |

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| Marysville and District Historical Society – Lou’s Historical Shed | Marysville and District Historical Society | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community events and arts programs <p>The Marysville History Centre and contents were destroyed in the 2009 bushfires. The Historical Society have been rebuilding their history collection and a new home has been found. The Historical Society have built “Lou’s Shed” which showcases Marysville’s history as a timber town. The shed, when complete, could also be used for community events, and educational and heritage groups. This grant contributed to the outer wall cladding, internal palings, rock floor and electrical works.</p> |
| Triangle Table Tennis | Buxton Progress Association | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing <p>Table tennis is a recreational activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and fitness levels. In areas of small population, there are few activities outside the football/netball and cricket clubs that promote participation to a range of people. This newly formed group were keen to ensure that it be a social activity that would connect people who wouldn’t otherwise cross paths and reduce the sense of isolation felt by some. Connected communities are more resilient communities. The table tennis group of volunteers have successfully promoted the table tennis nights and they are well supported by the local communities. This grant assisted the Triangle Table Tennis group to purchase table tennis equipment.</p> |
| Buxton Primary School – reconnecting the community with nature | Buxton Primary School | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Reconnecting the community with nature <p>The Buxton Primary School community was affected by the 2009 bushfires, the focus immediately after the fires was on recovery and supporting students and families. The school had a large Land for Wildlife area which was destroyed by the fires. This project allows the creation of a sustainable area of indigenous flora and fauna that allows the residents and the school community to reconnect with the area. The grant provides the opportunity to recover a native habitat that was lost in the 2009 fires. The school grounds are open to the public. The students are involved in creative signage as part of the project.</p> |

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| <p>Alexandra District Weather – weather station support</p> | <p>Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.</p> | <p>VBAF Criteria: ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Reconnecting the community with nature</p> <p>The Alexandra Weather Organisation operates an on line weather station which has been funded by CFA brigades, SES, donations and some bushfire relief funds. The information is used to assist fire danger ratings, rate of spread, fire danger indices etc for the Eastern end of Murrindindi Shire by the Incident Control Centre (Murrindindi Shire –East) and local emergency services. This small grant assists with the internet fees and maintenance of the weather station.</p> |
| <p>Narbethong Public Hall – water management project</p> | <p>Narbethong Public Hall Committee</p> | <p>VBAF Criteria: ✓ Community capacity building</p> <p>The Narbethong Public Hall was destroyed in the fires of 2009, and the Narbethong Public Hall Committee worked hard to rebuild a new community hall, with funds provided by VBAF, together with other funders. The hall was completed in November 2011. The Committee has a goal of sustainable water management at the Hall. This grant provided for the installation of a fully automated 6 station irrigation system to water the lawn at Narbethong Hall. Prior to this, volunteers were hand watering during long hot summers and being done at times that suit the volunteers rather than maximising the efficiency of the hall’s tank water. The lawn is important to the hall as a green lawn as is part of the hall’s fire protection strategy. It is also an important strategy to relieve volunteer fatigue, particularly in small towns like Narbethong.</p> |
| <p>Replacement of equipment for emergency services broadcaster - UGFM</p> | <p>Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.</p> | <p>VBAF Criteria: ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community events and arts programs</p> <p>The Upper Goulburn Community Radio (known as UGFM) is the Murrindindi Shire community radio station. UGFM was the first community radio station officially accredited as an official state government broadcaster of essential information. This project allowed for the replacement of a backup generator at the primary transmission site at Eildon. This site is an important part of the UGFM transmitter network. The replacement of the generator ensures continuity of the radio transmission in the event of another catastrophe. The provision of emergency information during a disaster event is critical to community</p> |

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| | | connectedness and wellbeing. UGFM also conducts outside broadcasts at a wide range of community events and is active in promoting and contributing to community events across Murrindindi Shire. |
| Mindfulness in Marysville | Marysville and Triangle Mens Shed | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community capacity building <p>There is still evidence of trauma experienced by many in the Marysville and Triangle areas. A Mindfulness course was run in Marysville in February 2014 and was oversubscribed, with a waiting list of participants. Through this grant, an 8 week Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction program was offered to the communities of the Marysville and Triangle area. MBSR is a stress reduction technique to enable a person to think more clearly, change patterns of unhelpful thought processes and increase wellbeing and interpersonal skills and interaction with the community. Some participants continue to practice Mindfulness together in a non-structured environment.</p> |
| Marysville Jazz and Blues Weekend | Marysville Cultural Community Inc. | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community events and arts programs <p>The Marysville Jazz and Blues Weekend was held for the first time in 2015. The Weekend was aimed at offering a number of free and paid performances at various venues around Marysville. A volunteer group organised the entire event, with the aim of sharing culture, creating connections, celebration of music and providing accessible venues for all to participate. The grant contributed to the free community events. The Weekend was a great success, and subsequently was awarded the Murrindindi Shire Australia Day Award for Best Community Event.</p> |
| Community Board Games Night | Gallipoli Park Committee of Management | <p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community events and arts programs <p>The Community Board Games Nights were organised by the Gallipoli Park Committee of Management to provide a monthly night out. Before the event was established, an expression of interest sheet was placed in various venues to confirm community interest in the event and to see what games people would prefer</p> |

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| | | <p>to play. The small grant covered the costs of board games including Monopoly, Scrabble, Cluedo, Yahtzee, Trouble etc., as well as chess sets, playing cards and soft tipped darts and dart board. The games nights have been successful, introducing people to other people that they may not have connected with in other circumstances. Quite a few attendees have been single, older people who have said that they enjoy a fun night out in a safe environment.</p> |
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