

Mr. S. Lonard
Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund
c/o Department of Health and Human Services
Level 7, 50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Vic 3001

28 February 2017

Dear Mr Lonard,

**Re: Reports prepared in accordance with the Trust Deed for Marysville and Triangle
Community Foundation**

On behalf of the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation (MTCF) I am pleased to provide the following reports to the Department as required in clause 8 of the Trust Deed:

- (1) Report to the Department in accordance with clause 8.4 which includes the template report, the financial statement as required in clause 8.2 and the audit report as required in clause 8.3.
- (2) Information to be publicly available in accordance with 8.5 of the deed.

Clause 8.5(b) of the deed requires information to be *made available to the public either on the website of the Trust or in another form reasonably decided by the Trustee to any person seeking it*. The audited statement and this report will be placed on the MTCF's website www.marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au. Hard copies will be available at our office at Lot 5 Murchison Street Marysville or by request to the Executive Officer.

During this reporting period, the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation distributed \$91,360 in grants from the Bushfire Recovery Fund.

The board of the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation looks forward to continuing to deliver its vision of building a legacy for a vibrant, healthy and resilient future across the communities of Murrindindi.

If you would like to discuss the reports further, please contact the Executive Officer, Robyn Hill, on 0488 007 688.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Thompson
Chair



Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation

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

28 February 2017

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 2015 to 30 June 2016.

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. These rates compared favourably to the rates offered by the major banks.

In November 2015, the Board determined to withdraw \$92,000 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 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), Facebook and through the Foundation's growing list of contacts and networks.

During the reporting period, grant rounds were open from 8 May 2015 to 4 December 2015; and then from 24 February 2016 to 24 November 2016.

The grant rounds attracted significant interest and \$91,360 was allocated to community driven projects in line with the VBAF funding criteria.

Projects funded include:

- "Compass Discovery Camp", Buxton Primary School
- "Marysville Art Show Signage", Triangle Arts Group Inc.
- "Yea Arts Carnivale – Opening Night", Yea Arts Inc.
- "Childrens Art Project", Buxton Primary School
- "Taggerty Little River Preservation Project", Taggerty Hall Committee Inc.
- "Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program", Mitchell Community Resource and Advocacy Group
- "Ballan Workshop", Marysville Triangle Men's Shed (Creative Triangle)
- "Mental Health and Wellbeing", Alexandra Secondary College

Further information about these grants is available in Attachment 2.

The Foundation was also an active participant in the second Grants Forum to be offered within Murrindindi Shire. The Grants Forum was hosted in partnership with Murrindindi Shire Council, Kinglake Ranges Foundation, Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, and the Continuing Education and Arts Centre Alexandra (CEACA). This free community event was held on 24 May 2016 at the Yea Shire Hall. The purpose was to build capacity within the communities of Murrindindi Shire to attract and manage grant funds, both from the two VBAF community foundations but also from any other funding source.

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 2015 to 30 June 2016.

In May 2015, the Bushfire Recovery Fund grant program opened for its second round. This time the round was open until December 2015. The 2016 program opened in February 2016 and remained open until November 2016. This strategic decision to remain open for the majority of the year 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.

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). 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, see Attachment 3.

The availability of funds through the Bushfire Recovery Fund was also promoted through newspaper articles promoting projects that were made possible through grants from the Foundation, and through attending community events to promote the work of the Foundation.

The Foundation has also worked hard to establish relationships with key stakeholders in the Murrindindi Shire Community. For example, during the reporting period, plans were underway to work with Alexandra District Health (Alexandra Hospital – Community Health) to hold a Community Health Expo where free health checks were offered to the community. Whilst the event was in the next reporting period (14 November 2016), there was considerable work undertaken to prepare for this significant event, during the months leading up to it.

Another community event that was planned during this reporting period (but occurred in October 2016) was a Community Fire Safety Information Day. The Foundation was the key organiser of this event in conjunction with Buxton CFA, Narbethong CFA, Marysville CFA and Taggerty CFA, as well as CFA Headquarters and the SES.

Both of these community events were funded through the Trust, and will be reported on in the next reporting period. They were an essential tool to promote the role of the Foundation in the Murrindindi Shire community and at the same time to promote the availability of grant funding to support community projects.

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 2017

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).

Total capital of the Trust at the beginning of the Accounting Period (1 July 2015)	\$844,058
Total capital of the Trust at the end of the Accounting Period (30 June 2016)	\$723,092

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
Compass Discovery Camp	Buxton Primary School	\$2,200	21-10-15	Murrindindi Shire
Marysville Art Show Signage	Triangle Arts Group Inc.	\$1,550	12-11-15	Murrindindi Shire
Yea Arts Carnivale – Opening Night	Yea Arts Inc.	\$3,902	12-11-15	Murrindindi Shire
Children’s Art Project	Buxton Primary School	\$41,778	24-12-15	Murrindindi Shire
Taggerty Little River Preservation Project	Taggerty Hall Committee Inc.	\$13,892	3-2-16	Murrindindi Shire
Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program	Mitchell Community Resource and Advocacy Group	\$15,000	24-3-16	Murrindindi Shire
Ballan Workshop	Marysville Triangle Men’s Shed Inc. (as auspice for Creative Triangle)	\$3,038	8-6-16	Murrindindi Shire
Mental Health and Wellbeing	Alexandra Secondary College	\$10,000	16-6-16	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>		

**Attachment 1: Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation financial
reports 2015/2016**

Attachment 2: Grant projects - details

Summary of Bushfire Recovery Fund (VBAF) projects funded 2015/2016

Project Name	Name of organisation or institution	Project Description
Compass and Discovery Camp	Buxton Primary School	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing ✓ Community capacity building <p>The Compass and Discovery Camp project supported trauma recovery for the all of the children enrolled at Buxton Primary School. The Camp supported the connection of students with the community and nature, and their development of their sense of self, their resilience, their self-care, their empowerment and their wellbeing through their participation in fitness, challenge and outdoor education experiences. Some children were able to overcome personal concerns including mental health issues through participation in the camp.</p> <p>The families of the school children continue to be affected by the 2009 bushfires; the Camp was structured in line with the KidsMatter Australian Primary School Mental Health Initiative.</p> <p>This Camp was also part funded through Berry Street’s VBAF Therapeutic Activities funding.</p>
Marysville Art Show Signage	Triangle Arts Group Inc.	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Deliver community events and arts programs ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing

		<p>The Marysville Art Show is the flagship for arts lead recovery in the Marysville and Triangle communities. The events connects local artists, volunteers and stakeholders. The Show is managed by the Triangle Arts Group, which was formed out of the recovery process and believes in the healing ability of the Arts for all its communities, of all ages. This grant enabled the purchase of signage to be located at Triangle township entries, to welcome people to the Art Show.</p>
Yea Arts Carnivale Opening Night	Yea Arts Inc.	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community events and arts programs ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing <p>This grant supported free community events at the Opening Night of the Yea Arts Carnivale in January 2016. The 2009 fires caused unprecedented loss within the Murrindindi Shire, both physical loss and loss of community for many. There is increasing evidence that the arts plays an important role in the healing and recovery from traumatic events. The free events at the opening night provided a wonderful opportunity to foster the local community and enhance social and cultural wellbeing, as well as bringing people together and providing networking opportunities for many. The outcome is a strengthened community, which in the long term builds resilience. The free events included performances by local musicians, face painting, jumping castle, and children’s arts activities. This grant supported the opening night by covering the insurance, assisting with promotions and marketing and covering costs of jumping castle etc. This project was also supported by Regional Arts Victoria. Other events for the Carnivale were supported by Murrindindi Shire Council, Yea and District Community Bank and event sponsors.</p>
Children’s Art Project	Buxton Primary School	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community events and arts programs ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing <p>This grant covered a three year program for Children’s Arts activities. Although the application was from Buxton Primary School, the program is an after school program and is available to all children in the Marysville and Triangle areas and was broadly advertised. The art program includes visual arts, drama, dance, music and circus.</p> <p>The Children’s Art project provides local children with an opportunity to participate in a range of expressive visual and performing arts activities, which research has proven to</p>

		<p>support trauma recovery in children. Trauma effects a child's ability to develop self-awareness, store memories, think positively, reason and regulate their emotions. The project will build children's resilience as they develop their skills, and increase their social connections; enhance their sense of community as art works are displayed through the community; foster creative capacity and develop their sense of self and a positive self-image.</p>
Taggerty Little River Preservation Project	Taggerty Hall Committee Inc.	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reconnecting the community with nature ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing <p>This project is the final step of the VBAF funded Taggerty walking trail and Little River Reserve beautification project. The project involved clearing and mulching dead weeds and clearing debris from the river side (Little River). The project improves the amenity of the area for people suffering from anxiety, fear and stress, particularly those affected by the 2009 bushfires; reduces the fire risk at the centre of Taggerty, improves the natural environment so that people can reconnect with nature and builds on the work already completed at the Taggerty Trail. Taggerty Community Progress Group were actively involved in volunteer tasks throughout the project. The project was also supported by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.</p>
Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program	Mitchell Community Resource and Advocacy Group	<p>VBAF Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community capacity building <p>The overall aim of the Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program (RRCLP) is to increase the capacity and resilience of communities by strengthening local leadership. The funding amount provided assistance to support two individuals from Murrindindi Shire to attend the program. The program builds community capacity by providing opportunities for emerging leaders to build their skills and confidence, to facilitate a network of community leaders, to support emerging leaders and to drive community change. A feasibility study was commissioned by Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) as part of their bushfire recovery program that concentrating on assisting volunteers during the recovery and rebuild found that in areas affected by the 2009 fires there was increased volunteer fatigue amongst the people who stepped in to leadership roles without having the networks or skills to support them.</p>

		<p>The project amount covers the one year of the RRCLP, the grant period will cover three years of the program subject to the satisfactory submission of a report on a yearly basis, to demonstrate that the program is meeting its objectives.</p> <p>The RRCLP is also supported by Regional Development Victoria, Kinglake Ranges Foundation, Mitchell Community Resource and Advocacy Group and the Hugh Williamson Foundation.</p>
Ballan Workshop	Marysville Triangle Men's Shed (Creative Triangle)	<p>VBAF Criteria: ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing</p> <p>The Ballan Workshop project provided assistance to members of the Creative Triangle to attend a workshop to further develop their skills. The aim of the Creative Triangle is to develop the creative talents of its members, and to provide a place where members find companionship and be able to share joys and concerns. Its main focus has been to provide a place where women can gather to relax and socialize away from the demands of putting our lives back together after the 2009 fires. Some members were physically burnt, others lost homes and incomes, and many were emotionally traumatised because they lost their former community and friends. The effect of the Bushfire trauma has been to accentuate these negative factors, making day to day life a greater struggle.</p> <p>At the workshop, participants were able to learn new creative skills, predominantly sewing and quilting, and have worked hard at creating and completing creative projects. This contributes to confidence and personal wellbeing, as well as collective wellbeing. There was also significant deepening of friendships and support networks by spending time together as a group.</p> <p>The Workshop was followed by an Open day / Exhibition day on September 29 in the Buxton Hall to showcase the work of the Creative Triangle and to invite others to attend, and to share expertise and welcome new members. The event was also used to promote the aims and objectives of the Foundation, see attached newspaper clips.</p> <p>Participants contributed to the cost of the workshop.</p>

<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Alexandra Secondary College</p>	<p>VBAF Criteria: ✓ Improving community connectedness and social wellbeing</p> <p>This project supports the students of Alexandra Secondary School through the provision of a counsellor. A counsellor (Social Worker / Psychologist) has been recruited at 0.2 EFT and works with students and their families to improve their mental health and day-to-day functioning. Although it is 7 years since the 2009 bushfires, students and families are still struggling. The school states "We have over 60 students this year who have sought mental health assistance and we have been unable to assist most of them. We have many students with a variety of anxiety issues, at least ten who are self-harming, and many who experience a range of depressive symptoms."</p> <p>After the 2009 bushfires, students were able to access a good range of counselling services in the Alexandra area through Alexandra and District Hospital, Berry Street, Mitchell Community Health, Murrindindi Shire and a range of private psychologists. Most of those services have since been withdrawn, or there is a considerable waiting list to access services.</p> <p>The Murrindindi Youth Network's Resilience Survey data demonstrates that local students who participated had higher than average acute mental health scores.</p> <p>The project payment was split in to two payments, the initial payment of \$10,000 (as reported in this year's financial data) was followed by an additional payment in the 2016/2017 financial year. The primary reason for splitting the payment was that the funds were held in a term deposit and the Foundation wished to maximise the interest earned without early withdrawal. The primary payment allowed Alexandra Secondary College to recruit and pay the counsellor for the initial period, the second payment was made in the subsequent month.</p>
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Attachment 3: Sample press clips