



Australian Community Philanthropy

2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT



Australian Community Philanthropy acknowledges the traditional custodians of the country where ACP and its Community Foundation members operate and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Image : Walanga Muru



CONTENTS



Editorial: Gerlinde Scholz
Design: Clare Gregory
© 2020 Australian Community Philanthropy Ltd

About	4
Message from the Chair & Executive Officer	6
Partners & Supporters	8
Membership	9
Highlights	10
Forum 2019: Better Together	11
Development of Community Philanthropy in WA	12
Black Summer	13
Building Financial Capability	16
COVID-19	17
Resources	19
Finance Report	20
Governance	22
Board Members	23
Advocacy	24

ABOUT

Australian Community Philanthropy (ACP) is the peak body for Community Foundations in Australia.

Community foundations are community-owned and-managed philanthropic organisations, a special sector within the philanthropy ecosystem.

ACP services for our Community Foundation members include;

- skills development (information, resources, training) for community foundation practitioners
- connecting members to each other for networking and peer support, and connecting community foundations to other supporters and opportunities
- acting as a champion for the sector to raise awareness about the work and impact of community foundations, and
- advocating for policy reform to create a more enabling operating environment for community philanthropy.

There are currently 40 Community Foundations in Australia, found in all states and in the ACT with four out of five of them operating in regional communities. Between them, they manage more than \$454 million in financial assets and provide over \$30 million in funding each year to the communities they serve.

Community Foundations provide community leadership and offer a way for people to have a say in the development of their local community. Community Foundations help build community agency and voice and strengthen civil society. They create financial assets and attract support to help their communities address local priority issues. This has never been more important than now as communities are dealing with the consequences of successive natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Australian
Community
Philanthropy

Established in 2008 by and for Community Foundation practitioners, ACP is a Company Limited by Guarantee and is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.



ABOUT

MISSION, VISION, PURPOSE, CORE ACTIVITIES

OUR MISSION

To grow a national network of Community Foundations that engage people to be active in the development of their own communities

OUR VISION

Local people leading a more resilient, sustainable, and fairer Australia

OUR PURPOSE

- To support and promote community philanthropy and community foundations within Australia
- Information, resources, training, networking, and peer support opportunities for Community Foundation practitioners
- Seek to create the optimum operating environment for the growth of Community Foundations in Australia
- Focus point for consultation between the community foundation movement and stakeholders in government, philanthropy, and other partners

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES



Skill Developer

Build skills and capacity with existing and new members



Connector

Build Community Foundation sector engagement and membership



Sector Champion

Build awareness and profile of Community Foundations beyond the sector



Advocate

Build stakeholder engagement around priority issues (policy reform, resource mobilisation) for the Community Foundation sector

SECTOR SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS, 2020



32 Community Foundations (80%) serve regional communities with a combined population of 8.5 million 2016 census data, estimate

8 Community Foundations (20%) have been operating for 20 years or longer in 2020

2,056 Community Foundation sector workforce, volunteers outnumber staff 10:1

Status: 30 June 2019
Source: ACNC Annual Information Statements

REFLECTIONS ON A WATERSHED YEAR

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Drought. Fires. Flood. Pandemic. Recession. 2020 has been the year from hell.

But there is more to the story. What stands out most about this year from the vantage point of Australian Community Philanthropy (ACP) is how **place-based, community-led philanthropy is making a positive difference to communities impacted by adversity.**

Community Foundations across Australia met successive crises in their local communities head-on. Foundation practitioners volunteered at the front lines of fire and flood. They raised and distributed money and other practical support to people in need after natural disasters or because of COVID-19. And Community Foundation leaders are contributing to long-term recovery and building resilience in the places they call home.

The Community Foundation network has grown stronger in 2019/20. ACP facilitated connections to bring new resources into the sector, including through GlobalGiving in the USA. With funding from the Minderoo Foundation, we have started to work directly with members on the ground in Western Australia, uncovering interest and energy for the establishment of new community foundations. The Ecstra Foundation has funded ten financial capacity building projects currently being implemented by Community Foundations in their communities, working with local partners.

ACP membership reached its highest level yet in 2020. Member engagement has become more active and regular throughout the year, supported by an ACP team that now includes a staff of three.

In October 2019, Community Foundation practitioners met in Goolwa, South Australia for the National Community Foundations Forum under the theme “Better Together”. Not long after that, the Black Summer bushfires and then the unfolding pandemic drove home the essential truth that the Forum theme encapsulates so succinctly: we will be more effective and create greater impact when we work together, support each other, share our knowledge and resources.

For ACP, the rolling emergencies of 2020 highlighted more than ever that we had to break the ‘starvation cycle’ from which we had been operating for too long. To strengthen the network support we offer to our members and help grow our Community Foundation sector, ACP needs to build its own capacity as an organisation.

We completed a review of the sector and ACP's role, summarised in the report "Community Foundations in Australia: a blueprint for growth". This helped us develop a case for support from an extraordinary group of philanthropic partners that include Perpetual and The Ian Potter Foundation, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, the Minderoo Foundation, Ecstra Foundation, and GlobalGiving.

We are very pleased to report to members that 2019/20 has been ACP's most successful year to date in financial terms. Revenue for the year was in the order of \$250,000 with retained earnings at the end of June 2020 just shy of \$150,000.

Building on this foundation, we are now developing plans for "ACPV2.0", supported by a pipeline of confirmed capacity building funding to 2024. We look forward to sharing more about this evolving work with members and how it will support building a stronger national Community Foundations network and make ACP more sustainable.

It has been a remarkable year. We have been challenged by events beyond our control. In uncertain and distressing times, we have learned more about the power of community philanthropy. With generous help from many supporters, we are collectively making progress towards strengthening our sector for the benefit of our communities.

On behalf of Australian Community Philanthropy, sincere thanks to our members, our partners and supporters, the growing ACP team, and our Board of volunteer directors for everything you do. We look forward to working with you all into the future.

Melbourne, October 2020



Ben Rodgers
Chair



Gerlinde Scholz
Executive Officer

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Australian Community Philanthropy acknowledges with sincere thanks vital funding and in-kind support for projects, capacity building and operations provided by our partners. Your generous support makes our work possible for the benefit of Australia's Community Foundation network.

ACP Members contributing Grants and In-kind Support



Project and Capacity Partners



Additional National Community Foundations Forum 2019 Sponsors



In-Kind Support



MEMBERSHIP

IN 2020, ACP MEMBERSHIP REACHED AN ALL-TIME HIGH, INCLUDING SOME FIRST-TIME MEMBERS. WE WERE PLEASED TO WELCOME BACK SOME FOUNDATIONS THAT REJOINED AFTER A LITTLE BREAK.

Foundation members

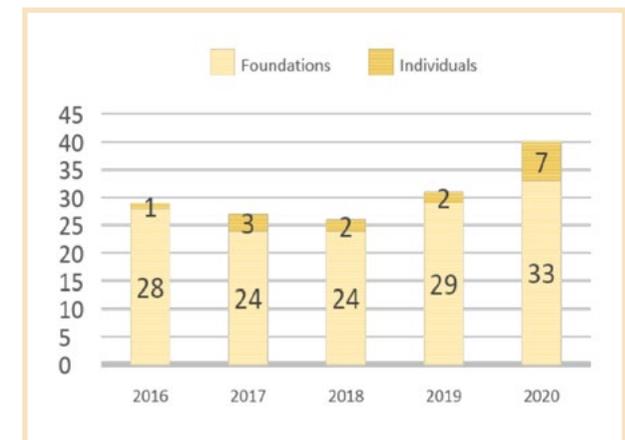
- Albany Community Foundation
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Ballarat Foundation
- Bass Coast Community Foundation
- Border Trust
- Buderim Foundation
- Community Foundation for Tumut Region
- Denmark Community Foundation
- Eyre Peninsula Community Foundation
- Fleurieu Community Foundation
- Foundation Barossa
- Foundation Broken Hill
- Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal
- Fremantle Foundation
- Geelong Community Foundation
- Give Where You Live Foundation
- Hands Across Canberra
- Inner North Community Foundation
- Into Our Hands Community Foundation
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

- Mackay Community Foundation
- Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation
- Mirboo North & District Community Foundation
- Mornington Peninsula Foundation
- Mumbulla Foundation*
- Northern Rivers Community Foundation
- Red Earth Community Foundation
- South West Community Foundation
- Stand Like Stone
- Sydney Community Foundation
- The Southern Highlands Foundation
- Tomorrow Today Foundation
- Upper Murray Innovation Foundation

* Re/joined after 30 June 2020

Individual members

- Sue Charlton AM*
- Georgie McKay
- Matt Jenkins
- Peter Kent
- Dylan Smith
- Kelly Sparke
- Simon Whittle OAM



HIGHLIGHTS

2019 - 2020



October

National Community Foundations Forum, Goolwa (SA)



November

Minderoo Foundation confirms 3-year funding for initiative 'Supporting development of community philanthropy in WA'



December

Ian Potter Foundation approves 4-year capacity building grant on condition that matching funds are secured



December - February

Black Summer bushfires impact some 80% of Australians directly or indirectly. Seven ACP member CFs directly impacted.



January / February

International rapid response support for Community Foundations affected by bushfires from GlobalGiving



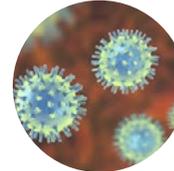
February

Perpetual donates \$100,000 to ACP for capacity building after bushfires



March

Clare Gregory appointed WA Project Coordinator. ACP team grows to three staff.



March - ?

COVID-19 pandemic and economic fallout impact everyone



April

Mirboo North & District CF publishes first Vital Signs™ report for a regional community in Australia



April

New ACP website released



May

Ecstra Foundation announces 10 X \$100,000 in 'Financial Capacity Building' grants for Community Foundations.



Mid-2020

"Community Foundations in Australia: A Blueprint for Growth" completed, supports ACP capacity building funding requests

NATIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS FORUM 2019

28-31 OCTOBER | GOOLWA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Better Together

The 2019 National Community Foundations Forum took place in South Australia with the Fleurieu Community Foundation as our local host and guide.

Community Foundation practitioners from around Australia were welcomed to Goolwa and the lands of the Ngarrindjeri people of the Lakes and Coorong region in a traditional smoking ceremony, immediately setting the scene for three special days where learning was steeped in a sense of place and local culture.

Local Forum highlights included the official opening by the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Hieu Van Le; a community event with sports star, social rights campaigner and proud South Australian Erin Phillips; an excursion to the mouth of the Murray River and discussion on environmental issues; and the closing dinner at a local winery.

“Relaxed and supportive atmosphere. Embedded in the community... Diverse presentations - excellent practical content.”

The program also included 16 sessions in which 25 presenters drawn from ACP members and invited guest speakers generously shared their knowledge and experience on topics ranging from an exploration of regional development, to practical sessions on IT and Vital Signs, to the not-to-be-missed legal update with Alice Macdougall that is a regular NCFE feature. The opportunity to join a pitch coaching workshop presented by The Funding Network was available as an optional add-on.

The Forum theme *Better Together* affirmed the central role of solidarity and collaboration in community philanthropy and lent itself to exploring how community foundations can work more closely together to become an effective network that amplifies our collective voice and visibility. These conversations are ongoing.

ACP thanks all presenters and contributors, sponsors and supporters who helped make the National Community Foundations Forum 2019 such a success. Special thanks to all at the Fleurieu Community Foundation under Brad Butler’s leadership for their warm hospitality.



FEEDBACK



“Seriously valuable for all directors and almost essential for Executive Officers to experience these gatherings”

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

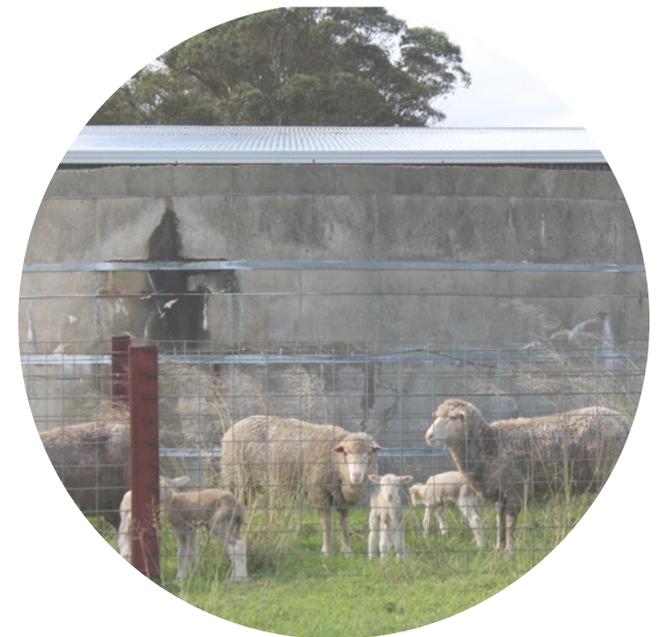
SECTOR STRENGTHENING

In 2019/20, new partnerships have brought additional resources into our organisation and our sector. Building ACP's peak body capacity will benefit our members and foster a stronger community foundation network.

Project funding from the Minderoo Foundation has enabled ACP to appoint a part-time Project Coordinator based in Perth. Clare Gregory joined the ACP team in March, just ahead of the pandemic shutdown. Clare is providing local coordination to strengthen the peer support network between the three current Western Australian community foundations in Albany, Denmark, and Fremantle as a first objective. The foundations have completed a SWOT analysis and identified their priority needs for practical support. Visits to each foundation and workshops are planned, though some of these plans were delayed this year due to COVID-19. Work is now in progress on development of a resource library that will be of benefit to community foundations throughout the country.

The second objective for this project is to understand the potential for community philanthropy in places in WA that do not yet have a community foundation, and for ACP to offer targeted start-up support where appropriate. Exploratory conversations are underway with community leaders in the Esperance and Peel regions of WA.

We expect to see measurable community foundation growth in WA, both in terms of foundation numbers and in terms of asset size, grant making and community impact, within the three-year time frame of this project.



BLACK SUMMER

Australia's Black Summer lasted from September 2019 to March 2020. During that period, exceptionally intense bushfires heavily impacted New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, with other states also affected.

The fires burnt an estimated 18.6 million hectares, destroyed nearly 6,000 buildings (including 2,779 homes), and killed at least 34 people. Countless animals – livestock and wildlife – were killed in the blaze and some endangered species are believed to have been driven to extinction.

At the peak of the fire activity, air quality dropped to hazardous levels in all southern and eastern states. By 7 January 2020, the smoke was evident not only in New Zealand, but also in Chile and Argentina.

Nearly 80 percent of Australians were affected either directly or indirectly by the bushfires.

While the fires raged in Australia, a pandemic was gathering momentum elsewhere in the world.

By early March, ubiquitous news about fires and public debate about climate policy turned into ubiquitous news of the coronavirus pandemic and debates about public health. Within a matter of days, the bushfires had ceased to be the topic on everyone's mind.

For our Community Foundation network, Black Summer brought horror and heartache, but also the consolation of peer support, both practical and intangible.

Seven of our member Foundations serve communities that were directly impacted by the fires: in Victoria, the Upper Murray Innovation Foundation in Corryong and Into Our Hands in the Alpine Shire; in NSW, Border Trust in Albury, Community Foundation for Tumut Region, Mumbulla Foundation in Bega, Southern Highlands Foundation in Bowral, and Northern Rivers Foundation in Ballina.

ACP leading members the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation and FRRR were among philanthropy's first responders,

approving rapid response grants, setting up appeals, and providing resources, information, and support beyond funding.

At ACP, we focused on connecting those in our network who were in the line of fire with others who could offer support or resources. Robyn Hill, Executive Officer of the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation that was set up after the 2009 Victorian Black Saturday fires, generously offered to be available as a sounding board for Community Foundation peers living through this year's fire emergency.

On 30 January, we organised a zoom check-in for interested ACP members to share experiences and ideas for peer support. This has since turned into a regular 'last Thursday of the month' ACP catch-up that has found its niche and is well supported by members.



BLACK SUMMER

On 9 January, ACP Chair Ben Rodgers sent an email to some of our peers in the international community philanthropy network in Canada, the USA, the UK, and New Zealand:

Subject: Bushfire update

Colleagues,

I'm in touch regarding the 2019-2020 bushfires with a quick update on how community foundations are impacted. In typical Australian style, the horror of disaster is matched with amazing examples of generosity and kindness, both in Australia and from people watching from overseas. We're really grateful for the support from individuals and organisations in your countries that have given time and money to help our communities (and sorry for the smoke over in NZ, Eleanor...!)

Our members have been affected either directly like in places like the Southern Highlands of NSW, or indirectly through recovery efforts like in the Fleurieu Peninsula in SA (Kangaroo Island is just off the coast there). It's a horrible time for many communities, and with more hot days likely to come this summer, the road to recovery and rebuilding will need all the support and solidarity we can muster..."

Among the responses to this note was an email from Brad Ward, Director Community Philanthropy at the Council on Foundations in the USA:

"Thank you for the comprehensive update. Here in the U.S., the Council has fielded several calls from U.S. Community Foundations inquiring about how their donors can support. To date, we have been directing them through the U.S. based intermediary, GlobalGiving. ..."

And that's all it took to establish a relationship with a pragmatic and generous new funding partner. Two emails. And the trust and goodwill that is embodied in the idea and practice of community foundations.

[GlobalGiving](#) is an online crowdfunding platform with a special focus on disaster relief and a commitment to working through grassroots community organisation to get help promptly to where it is needed most.

The GlobalGiving Australian Wildfire Relief Fund has raised over \$5.2 million.

Through ACP, GlobalGiving connected with our members affected by the fires, with Into Our Hands, Border Trust, and Community Foundation for Tumut Region among the first to receive emergency relief funding. ACP also received a donation to help us better support our members affected by the fires.

ACP has since put all our members impacted by the Black Summer fires in touch with GlobalGiving and all are receiving financial support.

Thank you to GlobalGiving and all donors to the Wild Fire Relief Fund.

MEMBERS VOICE

TUE 4/02/2020 10:58 PM

"Thanks for getting in touch again. It has been an incredibly difficult few months and our communities are still under threat from fires to the north, south and west. We are hoping the predicted rain this weekend will provide some relief. We're all exhausted from being on alert, coping with smoke, preparing our homes, evacuating, supporting those who've lost homes and then doing it all again. I think we will struggle to get through this. So many businesses are impacted - either burned out or having missed their entire summer trading boost. There is no one who hasn't been impacted financially, by the stress, losing their home, business, or worst of all, a loved one.

Thanks again for getting in touch...
Cheers, Jo Dodds

Jo is a Bega Valley Shire Councillor. She is also on the board of the Mumbulla Foundation.

Wed 29/01/2020 8:52 AM

"The Community Foundation for the Tumut Region is coordinating an appeal for victims directly affected by the Dunns Road fire.

To date, we have no real idea of the numbers, but 183 homes were lost with many more damaged. Untold damage to farm buildings, sheds, and machinery. Miles and miles of fencing and stock losses ...and over 30% of the soft wood plantations, plus significant hardwood resources.

The loss of both the built heritage and natural environment in the high country is simply catastrophic and heartbreaking for all who have given so much to that area.

The loss of native vegetation across the fire-ground, the major trees and lower vegetation and ground cover, all the animals in our unique ecosystem - many are now locally extinct. All of this is gut wrenching. The colony of platypus and all aquatic life in the Adelong creek and all affected waterways have suffered with the black water runoff ...a side tragedy of the fire storm.

The more we learn, and the more affected residents come forward, the more important this appeal becomes to and support our local economy.

The funds will be distributed to eligible residents in the form of vouchers/gift cards for goods and services from local businesses from Tumbarumba to Tumut; this includes Batlow and Adelong and roadside stalls with EFTPOS.

We hope the Appeal will continue to attract further donors. We are extremely grateful to all who have donated. "

LOUISE HALSEY, FOUNDING CHAIR
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR TUMUT REGION

"Dear Louise, thanks for the gift card sent to us from the Dunn's Road Bushfire Appeal.

While the money will be a great help, we would also like to acknowledge the boost to our morale your gift has given us. It has added some much-needed positivity to our outlook.

In comparison to the horror stories experienced by our neighbours and other Tumut region properties we count ourselves so, so lucky, but your thoughtfulness reminds us yet again why we chose the Tumut region as our home 45 years ago and have stayed here ever since."

"As a recipient of a Dunn's Road Gift Card we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the generous gift and thought that you might be interested to know that the majority was spent on a new wire spinner to help us complete our fencing that was destroyed by the fires on January 4th."

"On behalf of the family I just want to say thank you for the most generous gift card. We really appreciate the generosity which has been shown since the bushfires and all your hard work in organising these cards."

"We very much appreciate your kind gesture and will be happy to use the money in the local community."

"We are slowly recovering from that awful time in which ninety-five per cent of our property was burnt out and we lost 130 head of cattle. It has been a lot of hard work getting the place back into working order."

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: BUILDING FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

Late in 2019, the Ecstra Foundation announced a grant round specifically for community foundations under its 'Building Financial Capability' program. Ten grants of \$100,000 each were available for initiatives led by Community Foundations working with partners in their local community.

Grants for the following successful Foundations and projects were announced in May 2020:

- **Hobsons Bay Community Fund** - a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) is delivering financial education programs for students by using local peer and co-design approaches.
- **The Koondie Woonga-gat Toor-rong Foundation** - a sub-fund of ACF- will deliver evidence-based financial capability training for frontline staff of the Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network ICAN in Melbourne and Gippsland to empower them to better support indigenous communities on money matters.
- Regional communities recently devastated by bushfires and floods face unique challenges. **Into Our Hands Community Foundation** wants to help shift conversations about money in the communities it supports, particularly talking about money know-how across generations.
- **Inner North Community Foundation** is expanding on the success of the pilot program for Young Changemakers of Inner North Melbourne, where students learn practical money management skills while working with local charities.
- A collaboration between **Give Where You Live Foundation** and **Geelong Community Foundation** aims to improve the financial capability of frontline workers.

They are using their existing Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) to guide activities and improve access to services for community members.

- 'Roads to financial wellbeing' through the **Bass Coast Community Foundation** involves mapping community financial wellbeing to inform the development of information and education tools.
- **Be Kind Sydney (Sydney Community Foundation)** aims to raise awareness of the importance of financial education to empower women. The project will map financial capability programs available in Western Sydney to identify gaps and improve connections for women seeking support.
- The Village Well is an initiative of the **Northern Rivers Community Foundation** offering financial education and micro loans, with an impact measurement component to track success for future programs.
- **Fleurieu Community Foundation** will develop a tailored community financial capability program for women seeking support in Adelaide and regional SA.
- **Denmark Community Foundation** has embarked on building the financial wellbeing of their community by trialling new support models and workshops to improve the financial capability of local residents.

In addition to \$1 million in funding for these diverse communities, the Ecstra Foundation also provided \$50,000 to enable ACP to help coordinate and evaluate this program. We are all immensely grateful for this practical support.

RESOURCES

Capacity Building

In December 2019, The Ian Potter Foundation approved a \$200,000 grant over four years for ACP capacity building, on condition that we first secure 2:1 matching funds over the relevant period.

The ACP leadership team rose to the challenge with targeted support from Simon Lewis of GoodWolf.

Our sincere thanks to Perpetual, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Ecstra Foundation, Annie and Peter Duncan and the Fairness Fund (a sub-fund of ACF), and GlobalGiving for their generous contributions, and to FRRR for vital donation account management services.

With a confirmed pipeline of funding to 2024, we are now able to put ACP on a solid foundation for the future and scale up member services, network building, and advocacy.

Philanthropy Australia

In 2019, Philanthropy Australia and ACP signed a Memorandum of Understanding to signal our mutual interest in working more closely together to achieve 'More and Better Philanthropy' across Australia.

One of the benefits for ACP members under this MoU is that community foundations with limited assets under management can access Philanthropy Australia 'Connected' membership as part of their ACP membership fee.

This special offer provides a significant benefit to our sector. We greatly appreciate Philanthropy Australia's practical support for community foundations in this way.

Blueprint for Growth

The research report "Community Foundations in Australia: a Blueprint for Growth" was prepared by ACP in 2019. It traces the evolution of community foundations in Australia to date and maps out a pathway to growth for this special sector within the philanthropy ecosystem.

It was scheduled for release early in 2020. This had to be delayed so it could be updated in light of the Black Summer fires, and then the emerging COVID-19 situation.

The publication has been used to support ACP's requests for capacity building funding to help us grow a stronger community foundation network across Australia.



COVID-19

“If you are open for business, we bet it won’t be business as usual”
started an email in March from the Inner North Community Foundation to its supporters as Australia headed into its first government mandated lockdown.

For many of us, the coronavirus pandemic will be the defining story of 2020.

Australia’s public health response has kept the number of infections and deaths relatively low. This was achieved at considerable cost to the economy, social and community life, and mental health impacts resulting from isolation, especially for vulnerable groups.

Local, connected, and collaborative responses to supporting people in need have become more important than ever. As with the bushfire response, Community Foundations engaged promptly with the issues, starting COVID-19 appeals, changing application and reporting requirements for grantees, modifying established practice around fund distribution, and so on.

The Inner North Community Foundation [COVID-19 appeal](#) raised over \$470,000 in six months. By September, the Foundation had distributed more than \$378,000 of that in 142 grants.

Other examples from around the country include:

The [WA COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Fund](#) set up by the **Fremantle Foundation** to provide support to homeless people, families, seniors, Indigenous Australians, and culture and arts organisations.

Foundation Barossa focused its 2020 community grants program entirely on [COVID-19 rapid response grants](#).

The Northern Rivers Community Foundation [Resilience and Regeneration Fund](#) that responds not only to COVID-19 and its socio-economic fallout, but also to the drought, bushfires and flood that had impacted local communities ahead of the pandemic. NRCF is based in Ballina, NSW and covers the largest geographic footprint of any community foundation in Australia: more than 20,000 km² encompassing seven local government areas with a combined population of about 300,000 (ABS 2016).

Hands Across Canberra surveyed the 250 community sector organisations it supports early in the year to understand better the impact of COVID-19 so soon after the bushfires on these organisations. HAC joined forces with two other foundations to distribute some [\\$570,000 in 63 initial rapid response grants](#) as early as April and later ran the Canberra Recovery Appeal, both initiatives supporting community organisations in need.

The Red Earth Community Foundation in Queensland observed growing homelessness, unemployment, family violence and need for mental health support as some of the consequences of COVID-19, with emergency response to these needs only sporadically available. The Foundation started “Essentials for the Elderly”, a community-led initiative to supply essential groceries to the most vulnerable by partnering with local businesses and philanthropists. Individuals in the community stepped up to harness supporters and source essentials to meet needs that may not have been eligible for mainstream charity.

COVID-19

Australian Communities Foundation established a national [COVID-19 crisis response fund](#) and jointly with Philanthropy Australia developed an online [coordinated national funding platform](#) to bring together funding needs with funding available.

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation made [21 COVID-19 related grants](#) to a total value of \$1.76 million to projects and organisations working in homelessness, health, community resilience, renewable energy, the cultural and social enterprise sectors.

This is just a selection of how Community Foundations around Australia have engaged with community need emerging from the pandemic. We know all ACP members have stories to share about this.

The pandemic is not over yet, and the story is far from complete. We will explore our learning from 2020 over the coming year, hopefully including at our next National Community Foundations Forum.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CURRENT GRANTING OPPORTUNITIES

COVID-19 NATIONAL FUNDING PLATFORM

Australian Communities Foundation logo: A stylized blue and white wave icon next to the text 'AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION'.

philanthropy australia logo: A blue square with a white triangle pointing right, containing the text 'philanthropy australia'.

LORD MAYOR'S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION logo: A colorful fan-like icon next to the text 'LORD MAYOR'S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'.

APPLY FOR A GRANT button

WAYS TO GIVE button

NEWS button

\$1.76 MILLION IN COVID-19 GRANTS TO BUILD BACK BETTER

Background image: A smiling woman in an orange safety vest holding several red tomatoes.

FINANCE REPORT

JULY 2019-JUNE 2020

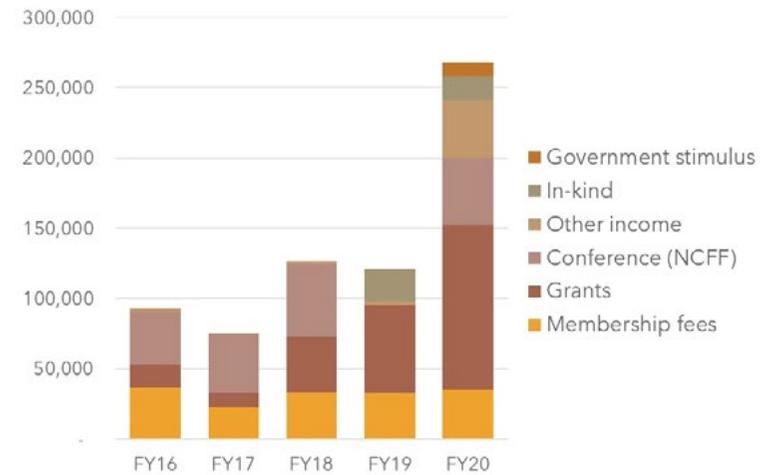
The financial year ended on 30 June 2020 marked an important point in the evolution of Australian Community Philanthropy. With revenue for the year exceeding \$250,000, the company became a medium sized charity within the ACNC framework.

Income more than doubled over the previous year, with sources of income more diverse than previously.

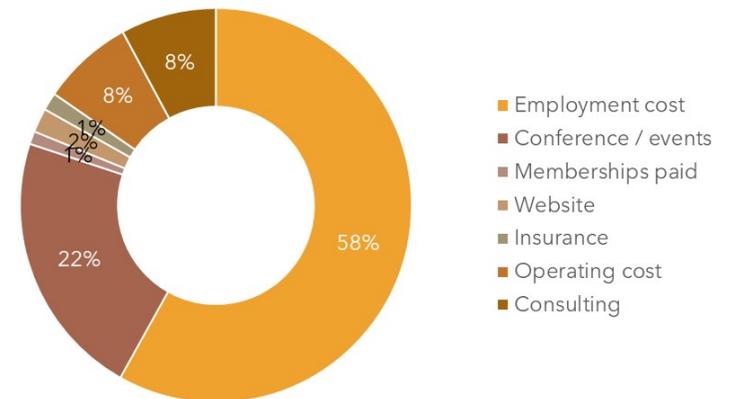
Philanthropic support was the main driver of growth for the year, primarily through capacity building grants. This will help ACP provide more and better member services to strengthen the community foundation network, and become a more effective public champion and advocate for the sector.

ACP greatly appreciates the support from philanthropic partners that has enabled this growth at a time that is difficult for many in the not-for-profit sector. We recognise the responsibility that comes with this investment from our funding partners, and we relish the challenge inherent in it. We look forward to taking ACP to the next level for the benefit of our members and the Australian community.

ACP: sources of annual revenue, FY2016-2020



ACP expenditure FY2020



AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY

ABN 11 128 866 419

Abridged Financial Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

	Note	2020	2019
Revenue		\$	\$
Membership Fees		35,300	33,000
Grant Revenue		117,176	62,425
Sponsorship		22,925	-
Conference registrations		24,671	-
Other revenue		40,744	2,585
Sub Total		240,816	98,010
In-Kind Contributions	1	17,372	23,072
Government stimulus – Cash flow booster		10,000	-
Total Revenue		268,188	121,082
Expenditure			
Employee benefits expense		(92,037)	(69,231)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(81)	-
Consulting expenses		(12,494)	(12,191)
Conference Expenses		(34,736)	-
Professional expenses	1	(12,018)	(17,718)
Occupancy costs	1	(5,354)	(5,354)
Other expenses		(19,013)	(16,929)
Total Expenditure		(175,733)	(121,423)
Profit / (loss) before income tax		92,455	(341)
Income tax expense		-	-
Profit / (loss) for the year		92,455	(341)
Total comprehensive income for the year		92,455	(341)

Notes:

1 In-Kind Contributions
Australian Community Philanthropy Limited has performed an internal review of the in-kind support received and elected to value and record these contributions received within the Statement of Profit or Loss. The company recognises the generous in-kind market values of support received during the financial year, for professional expenses (including Accounting, Audit, Legal and IT support) and Occupancy costs.

The Company has initially applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 111, AASB 118, AASB 1004 and related interpretations.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2020	2019
Assets	\$	\$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	239,950	66,414
Trade and other receivables	3,195	5,000
Total Current Assets	243,145	71,414
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant, and equipment	1,812	-
Total Non-Current Assets	1,812	-
Total Assets	244,957	71,414
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	17,986	4,938
Employee benefits	6,759	4,043
Deferred income	70,324	5,000
Total Current Liabilities	95,069	13,981
Non-Current Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	95,069	13,981
Net Assets	149,888	57,433
Equity		
Retained earnings	149,888	57,433
Total Equity	149,888	57,433

GOVERNANCE

CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The Members unanimously approved adoption of an updated Constitution for Australian Community Philanthropy at the Annual General Meeting held in Goolwa on 31 October 2019.

The revised document brings the Company's governance framework in line with contemporary best practice in not-for-profit governance.

Warm thanks to Alice Macdougall and Samantha Loff of Herbert Smith Freehills for their generous pro bono assistance for this important task.

BOARD CHANGES

The Board of Australian Community Philanthropy provides oversight for planning, risk management and operations and ensures compliance with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements.

The Board comprises up to nine Directors who are appointed in accordance with the Company's Constitution.

At the 2019 AGM

- Directors **Sally Gamble**, **Georgie McKay**, **Ben Rodgers** and **Dylan Smith** were re-elected for a further term of three years.
- The Board and Members thanked retiring Director **Dr Genevieve Timmons** for her service and her contribution to strengthening the organisation during her time on the Board.
- **Peter Kent** and **Simon Whittle OAM** were elected to the Board for their first term.
 - Peter Kent is Chief Executive of strategic communications agency Porter Novelli Australia. Peter contributes strategic communications expertise and strategy across business, government and community sectors to ACP.
 - **Simon Whittle** is a Director of Buderim Foundation, an active ACP member foundation in Queensland. He has a particular interest in working with State and Local Government in encouraging more Sunshine Coast and Queensland communities to set up their own Community Foundations.
- In the first half of 2020, Directors **Matt Jenkins**, **Georgie McKay** and **Dylan Smith** resigned from their respective Community Foundation executive appointments. They continue to draw on their extensive Community Foundation experience and networks in their ACP board roles. Together with **Peter Kent**, there are now four independent directors, the maximum number provided for under the Constitution.

BOARD MEMBERS

FROM 31 OCTOBER 2019 AGM



CHAIR

Ben Rodgers is Executive Officer of the Inner North Community Foundation in Melbourne.



COMPANY SECRETARY

Sally Gamble is a founding director and Chair of Benalla's Tomorrow Today Foundation.



TREASURER

Georgie McKay was the Executive Officer at Stand Like Stone Foundation from 2012 to 2019.



DIRECTOR

Shelley Boyce OAM has been Chair of the Southern Highlands Foundation since 2010.



DIRECTOR

Matt Jenkins was Chief Executive Officer at the Ballarat Foundation 2018-20.



DIRECTOR

Peter Kent is the Chief Executive of strategic communications agency Porter Novelli Australia.



DIRECTOR

Maree Sidey is Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Communities Foundation.



DIRECTOR

Dylan Smith founded the Fremantle Foundation in 2010 and was its Executive Officer for ten years.



DIRECTOR

Simon Whittle OAM has been involved with the Buderim Foundation since inception in 2004.

Director	No. of meetings eligible to attend *	No. of meetings attended
Ben Rodgers	7	7
Sally Gamble	7	5
Georgie McKay	7	6
Shelley Boyce OAM	7	5
Matt Jenkins	7	6
Peter Kent	4	3
Maree Sidey	7	6
Dylan Smith	7	6
Simon Whittle OAM	4	4
Genevieve Timmons	3	3

*'Eligible to attend' means number of meetings held while director was in office.

IN 2019/20, ACP HAS BEGUN TO DEVELOP A TEAM WITH COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER
GERLINDE SCHOLZ

Go [here](#) to view bio.



COMMUNICATIONS &
MARKETING COORDINATOR
REBECCA BRIDGES

Go [here](#) to view bio.



PROJECT COORDINATOR
CLARE GREGORY

Go [here](#) to view bio.



RESEARCH & DATA BASE
SCOTT PEACOCK

Casual

SECTOR STRENGTHENING

Over the past year, ACP has continued to advocate actively for policy reform in the federal arena, mainly focused on the challenges of the current Deductible Gift Recipient framework for community foundations.

October 2019

Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters visited Stand Like Stone Community Foundation in South Australia together with the local Member for Barker, Tony Pasin MP. Community Foundations based in federal coalition-held electorates subsequently contacted their federal MPs to urge the Minister to support changes to the DGR status for community foundations.

November 2019

ACP Submission to the House Select Committee on Regional Australia, chaired by Tony Pasin MP

January 2020

ACP letter to Minister Seselja, urging action on DGR reform to enable community foundations in bushfire affected areas to meet critical local community needs more effectively.

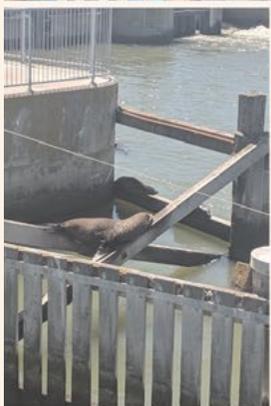
May/June 2020

ACP invited to give evidence at a hearing into the House Select Committee Inquiry into Regional Australia, chaired by Tony Pasin MP. Supplementary ACP Submission to House Select Committee lodged, updated with case studies from the Black Summer bushfires and COVID-19 emergency.

June 2020: Select Committee Hearing

Delegation included ACP Chair (and Inner North Community Foundation Executive Officer) Ben Rodgers, ACP Director and Tomorrow Today Foundation Chair Sally Gamble, Chair of Stand Like Stone Foundation Bill DeGaris, Chair of Red Earth Community Foundation Georgie Somerset AM, Executive Officer of Border Trust Glenys Atkins, and ACP Executive Officer Gerlinde Scholz.

Download the Hansard transcript of the hearing by clicking [here](#).





Australian
Community
Philanthropy

Australian Community Philanthropy Ltd
ABN 11 128 866 419
PO Box 3359
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8002
info@australiancommunityphilanthropy.org.au
www.australiancommunityphilanthropy.org.au