



AUSTRALIAN  
COMMUNITIES  
FOUNDATION

# SHARED VISIONS. SHARED IMPACT.

ANNUAL REPORT  
2019/20

Australian Communities Foundation acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants and Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our respects to all Elders past, present, and emerging.



→ Supporters of the Uluru Statement from the Heart at the Tree of Knowledge in Yarrabah. Our giving community supported the UNSW Indigenous Law Centre's work to progress the Uluru Statement in the 2019 Impact Fund Large Grants Round. Credit: UNSW Indigenous Law Centre.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

As we rebuild after the devastating impacts of the bushfires and Covid-19, Australian Communities Foundation remains dedicated to activating giving for a fairer and more sustainable Australia.



Thank you to the members of our giving community and grantee organisations who supplied photographs throughout the year and have helped bring our Annual Report 2019/20 to life.

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# WELCOME

## FROM THE CHAIR

In this year like no other, community philanthropy has stepped up to the plate. And for the Australian Communities Foundation, that ethos means we have never been stronger.

In 2019/20 our community of 350+ funds and foundations distributed 909 grants to 527 organisations and individuals, totalling more than \$12.5 million. This constitutes 11 per cent of the Australian Communities Foundation corpus and is a 33 per cent increase on giving from the previous financial year.

This record year of grant making reflects our giving community's willingness to step up in times of crisis. Not only did our funds and foundations give more to their own personal focus areas than ever before, they also contributed an additional \$2.8 million to support those communities most impacted by the bushfires and Covid-19.

It is extremely heartening to see a culture of philanthropy growing in Australia. I'm proud not only of the contribution Australian Communities Foundation makes to this culture, but also its ambition to activate a nation of givers.

The best philanthropy directs all its resources towards achieving positive outcomes. Australian Communities Foundation's commitment to responsible investing is now a deeply embedded part of the organisation's modus operandi — and as this Annual Report goes to print, we have become a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, another significant milestone on our responsible investment journey.

As Chair, I'd like to thank my board colleagues for their highly committed work and support this year. We farewelled board members David Imber and George Krithis, both of whom have made substantial contributions over many years of service; and we welcomed Adam Milgrom and Sue Dahn, who has returned to the board after several years away.

My final thanks go to the Australian Communities Foundation team, led by Maree Sidey. Their exceptional efforts during these unpredictably challenging times provides the crucial practical underpinning to our giving community.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Beecher". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Eric Beecher**  
Chair, Australian Communities  
Foundation



## FROM THE CEO

The 2019/20 financial year delivered no shortage of challenges for our sector and our giving community. But the response of our community to the multiple crises of 2020 has been overwhelmingly generous.

Our giving community swung into action immediately during the bushfires and again, just a couple of short months later, as the sweeping impacts of Covid-19 began to be felt. With an additional 300 grants going out the door, the ACF team have worked together behind the scenes to support your collective generosity.

Responding to the pandemic swiftly and with agility, Australian Communities Foundation also partnered with peak body Philanthropy Australia in March to launch the Covid-19 National Funding Platform on our new website. The National Funding Platform is a fantastic tool and has been well used by our giving community and beyond to enable the philanthropic response to Covid-19.

To deepen our impact and enhance our ability to channel resources into hard-to-reach and often overlooked places, we established the National

Crisis Response Fund to support communities most affected by the Covid-19 crisis. We have been delighted to partner with the Paul Ramsay Foundation and our giving community to enable more than \$500,000 to be distributed to vulnerable communities through the Fund to date.

During 2019/20, we welcomed 43 new named funds and foundations to our giving community and achieved new giving records, both in terms of the value and number of grants made. Thirty-three per cent more funding went out the door this financial year. We also saw a rise in collective giving within our community this year, with more co-funders contributing to this year's Impact Fund grants than ever before.

Throughout it all, the Australian Communities Foundation team showcased its professionalism and adaptability, responding to the multiple challenges of increased

need in our communities and new working from home arrangements with resourcefulness and tremendous grace under pressure. It was a herculean effort, and I am incredibly proud.

Our team is a very close knit one, so the loss of colleagues is always felt very deeply. Over the past year we were saddened to lose three very dear friends: Sue Beecher, Lynne Wannan and Christopher Baker. Their legacies have helped make Australian Communities Foundation the organisation that it is today.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our community of giving this year, particularly our Board, our donors, my colleagues and the changemakers who are reimagining our country. As we look ahead to 2021, I know that our community's courageous compassion will continue to make Australia a fairer and more sustainable place.



**Maree Sidey**  
CEO, Australian Communities Foundation

# SHARED VISIONS.

No matter what progress you want to see in Australia, there are others who share your vision. Others with the same ambition for a fairer and more sustainable future.

At Australian Communities Foundation, we support you to give effectively by bringing you together with the people who share your vision and the changemakers leading the way.

→ Members of our giving community from Mannifera, Groundswell, APT One Tomorrow Charitable Fund, Unico, Homeward Bound, and more.





## ABOUT US



Australian Communities Foundation is a community of giving, powered by a courageous ambition: a fairer and more sustainable Australia. As a broker of change, we connect those who can give with the people and organisations leading the way.

**With more than 20 years of experience in catalysing positive social and environmental change, we make giving easy and accessible for people from all walks of life, all over Australia.**

We are Australia's only national community foundation.

**LEARN MORE →**

## CREATING A FAIRER AUSTRALIA BY ACTIVATING A NATION OF GIVERS

We're on a collective mission to activate a nation of givers for a fairer and more sustainable Australia. Our vision is an Australia where social, environmental and cultural justice is the norm. As we work towards this future, we are guided by four underlying values.

### INCLUSION

We believe in respecting and understanding the perspectives and experiences of others. We know that collaboration and working collectively is essential because no one force can solve community issues in isolation.

### AGENCY

We support self-determination and believe that people and communities have the power and the right to determine the solutions to their challenges.

### COURAGE

We believe it takes courage to pursue a fairer and more sustainable Australia. The problems we are tackling are complex and we understand that facing and overcoming challenges is part of the path to solutions.

### FAIRNESS

We believe in taking a stand for social, environmental, cultural and economic justice. We believe addressing power imbalances is central to creating a fairer Australia.

← Karrina Nolan from Original Power and Jackie Huggins AM from National Congress of Australia's First Peoples present to our giving community at an Indigenous messaging workshop.



# OUR FOCUS AREAS

At Australian Communities Foundation, we help people give to the issues that matter most to them. Now comprising over 350 funds and foundations – each with their own vision of positive social and environmental change – our giving community supports all kinds of causes across Australia. Giving falls into five key focus areas.



## TACKLING INEQUALITY

Supporting projects and organisations working to combat the unequal distribution of opportunities across the social, economic, political, and cultural spheres. We seek to reduce inequalities along the lines of race and culture, gender and sexuality, faith, age, ability and location.

Tackling Inequality includes five sub-areas:

- Community and economic development
- Education and training
- Employment pathways
- Health, wellbeing and medical research
- Individual and family services.



## STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

Supporting projects and organisations working to strengthen the foundations of Australia's democracy.

We encourage trust and accountability, civic participation, a diversity of voices in public debate, and an improved, more inclusive and representative democratic system.

Strengthening Democracy includes two sub-areas:

- Civic engagement and leadership
- Social inclusion, equity and justice.



## SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Supporting projects and organisations that are led or owned by Indigenous peoples, who we believe are best placed to improve outcomes for their communities. We stand behind Indigenous peoples in their fight for truth, treaty and self-determination.



## SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

Supporting projects and organisations protecting Australia's natural ecosystems and working towards a safe and stable climate. We identify and amplify sustainable solutions to our changing climate and seek justice for those adversely affected by the impacts of climate change.



## BUILDING A CULTURALLY VIBRANT SOCIETY

Supporting projects and organisations that facilitate creative expression. We see the arts as integral to healthy public debate, a robust civil society, social cohesion and the celebration of our differences.



## INTERNATIONAL AID AND DEVELOPMENT

Beyond our vision for a fairer and more sustainable Australia, we also support Australian-based organisations working to improve outcomes for communities across the world.

For a breakdown of this year's funding across these focus areas, see page 38.



# A GROWING COMMUNITY OF GIVERS

↓ Donors meet with Marieke Hardy and Melbourne Writers Festival at an Arts & Culture Funders Group meeting in July 2019.

**In the 2019/20 financial year, we welcomed our 350th fund at Australian Communities Foundation, with 43 funds and foundations joining our community.**

Our new fundholders span individuals and families, collective giving and fundraising groups, scholarship providers, corporates, not-for-profits, and people getting started on their giving journey through a Gumnut Account.

**Australian Communities Foundation extends a warm welcome to all new members of our community.**



## NAMED SUB-FUNDS

Australian Communities Foundation supports individuals and families across Australia to establish and activate their giving plans, primarily through a Named Sub-Fund. When you open a Named Sub-Fund with us, we take care of the administration and compliance, leaving you free to focus on the granting. All funds are responsibly invested and can be distributed at any time to the charitable organisations of your choosing.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT NAMED SUB-FUNDS →](#)

### WHY OPEN A FUND AND NOT JUST GIVE DIRECTLY?

1. It enables you to make philanthropic gifts at the right time for you. Receive an immediate tax deduction and give later.
2. You can plan when the money is granted out of your fund to non-profit organisations based on your granting strategy and the needs of that non-profit.
3. It's a way to give back to future generations or establish a family legacy that can be passed down.
4. Be part of a thriving community of givers, giving you support and access to a variety of events and connections to like-minded donors.

[LEARN MORE →](#)



### ALL TOGETHER NOW: COMMUNITY DONORS REIMAGINING AUSTRALIA

The Guardian speaks with Melbourne-based fundholders at Australian Communities Foundation, Anne Thompson and Paul O'Shea, about why they think community philanthropy is the key to effective giving.

[READ THE STORY →](#)

## JOINING US IN 2019/20

**Asgard Charitable Giving Fund:** Supporting charitable causes and overseas aid.

**Blackfish:** Supporting biodiversity, wildlife and climate resilience, in particular on-ground work and advocacy for the rights of nature.

**Felicity Hampel Making a Difference Fund:** Supporting education, women and children who have experienced family violence and survivors of sexual assault.

**Heartwood:** Providing shelter and strength to human life and the natural world around us.

**Levy Family Fund:** Supporting a variety of social and environmental charities.

**Lynne Wannan Fund:** Supporting young women in leadership roles, particularly in relation to the status of women and community services.

**Pandora Kay and John Larkins Creativity Fund:** General charitable purposes.

**Roan Lyddy-Meaney Fund:** Honouring the life of Roan Lyddy-Meaney and supporting in perpetuity the values he lived by.

**Seedling:** Supporting positive changes in social, economic, political, environmental and cultural spheres.

**Taines Fund:** Supporting women undertaking honours studies in Victoria, in association with Graduate Women Victoria.

**Tripple:** Using the power of capital to propel us towards a just future for people and planet.

**Wajnberg Russell Family Fund:** Supporting organisations with a focus on Indigenous communities and the environment.

**Webster Fund:** General charitable purposes.



## BEQUESTS

Leaving a gift or bequest in your will to a fund at Australian Communities Foundation helps support the causes or non-profit organisations you care about beyond your lifetime. A bequest can be a powerful way of extending the impact of your giving.

[LEARN MORE →](#)



## PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS SUPPORT

### ESTABLISHING A PRIVATE FOUNDATION (PAF)

For those looking to join our giving community while retaining the independence of their own foundation, we can support you to set up a private ancillary fund (PAF) through Australian Communities Foundation.

Once your foundation is established, you can then choose the level of ongoing support you would like by selecting one of three packages:

**Granting:** We develop a crafted, end-to-end philanthropic strategy that brings your interests and passions to life through your giving.

**Compliance:** We undertake all compliance, financial and secretariat services for you, enabling you to focus on the joy of giving to your chosen causes.

**Total impact:** Our total package helps you achieve both strategic purpose and freedom from the compliance burden, ensuring effective and efficient philanthropy.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT ESTABLISHING A PRIVATE FOUNDATION →**

### SUPPORT FOR FOUNDATIONS

Australian Communities Foundation also assists established foundations through our Supporting Foundations Service, which enables you to pick and choose the specific services you need across the areas of grantmaking, communications, administration and compliance.

**SEE A FULL LIST OF THE SERVICES WE OFFER →**

### JOINING US IN 2019/20

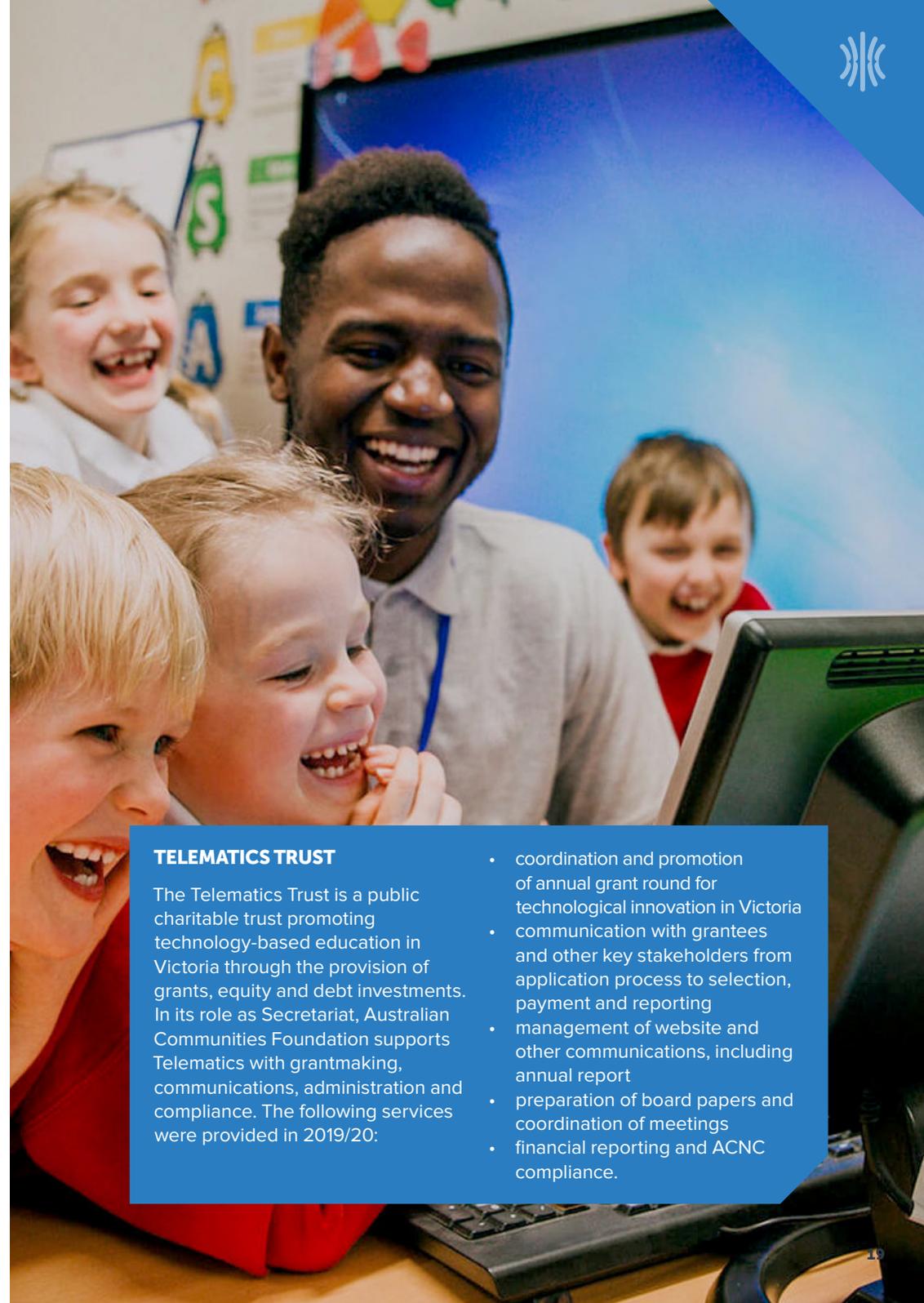
**Garry White Foundation:** Working for a sustainable Australia by funding inspirational people, projects and campaigns in the areas of education, conservation, climate solutions and regenerative agriculture.

As we continued to grow our support services throughout 2020, we provided grantmaking services and compliance support for another five clients.

### TELEMATICS TRUST

The Telematics Trust is a public charitable trust promoting technology-based education in Victoria through the provision of grants, equity and debt investments. In its role as Secretariat, Australian Communities Foundation supports Telematics with grantmaking, communications, administration and compliance. The following services were provided in 2019/20:

- coordination and promotion of annual grant round for technological innovation in Victoria
- communication with grantees and other key stakeholders from application process to selection, payment and reporting
- management of website and other communications, including annual report
- preparation of board papers and coordination of meetings
- financial reporting and ACNC compliance.





## GUMNUT ACCOUNTS

A Gumnut Account is an easy way to start your journey towards structured giving. Simply open an account and make regular, tax-deductible donations to build a lasting endowment fund.

With the option of quarterly or annual contributions, you can get started with as little as \$500 per quarter or \$2,000 per annum. At any time, you can make additional donations or increase your regular contributions to grow your Gumnut faster. Once your

balance reaches \$20,000, your Gumnut matures into a Named Sub-Fund and you have created a lasting legacy.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT GUMNUTS →**

## JOINING US IN 2019/20

**C&F Darcas Fund**  
**Helen's Secret Wish**  
**Murray River Trails**

**Snowdrop**  
**William Birch Australian Biodiversity Fund**



**'YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT TILL YOU HAVE A SPARE \$100K TO START GIVING'**

The Illuminate Fund's Erin Davidson has experienced both sides of the fundraising equation. In this quick Q&A, Erin shares her giving journey so far.

**READ THE STORY →**



## Have you thought about giving a Gumnut Account as a gift?

Over the years, people have established Gumnuts as a special birthday gift for a child or grandchild, for a wedding anniversary, or to introduce a family legacy of giving. Whatever you would like to celebrate, giving the gift of a Gumnut is a unique and accessible way to introduce giving to your loved ones.

↳ Luke and Stacey Thomas started their structured giving journey by opening a Gumnut Account at Australian Communities Foundation 10 years ago. **READ THE STORY →**





## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

We support scholarship providers to increase access to education through our Scholarship Funds. Establish a Scholarship Fund with us to start providing educational payments, prizes and bursaries to students across Australia.

Upon establishment of the fund, you can engage our team to assist in determining the scholarship's purpose and selection criteria. Our team ensures that all scholarships meet the requirements of the

Australian Taxation Office, allowing you to focus on the joy of giving.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS →](#)

### JOINING US IN 2019/20

**MTAA Super Scholarship Fund:** Providing greater opportunity for individuals interested in the automotive and related industries to pursue relevant education and training.



#### A DRIVING FORCE FOR THE FUTURE: MTAA SUPER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Quick thinking and swift action by the board of MTAA (Motor Trades Association of Australia) Super during the Covid-19 crisis spurred the establishment of the MTAA Super Scholarship Fund which offers up to \$5,000 for auto industry workers seeking to extend their qualifications and skills.

[READ THE STORY →](#)



↑ Graduate Women Victoria (GWV) scholarship recipients. GWV offers scholarships to female students enrolled in universities in Victoria who have overcome or are overcoming disadvantage in the pursuit of their studies. Credit: Graduate Women Victoria.



## COLLECTIVE GIVING

We support givers across Australia to harness the power of collective giving. At Australian Communities Foundation, we're strong believers in the power of coming together to maximise impact, and facilitating collaboration is what we do best.

Open a fund for your collective or giving circle as a quick and easy solution for donations. Whether you are holding a fundraising event or seeking payment of recurring membership fees, our online donation services provide quick and easy solutions.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLECTIVE GIVING →**

### FUNDRAISING SUPPORT

For more than 20 years, we've been supporting people and organisations to fundraise for a diverse range of causes. With nationwide licensing, we support best-practice fundraising for our fundholders all across Australia.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT FUNDRAISING SUPPORT →**



### TRANSFORMING POLICY THROUGH RAPID ADVOCACY

Kirsty Albion, Executive Director at Australian Progress, chats with us about the Covid-19 Rapid Advocacy Fund and philanthropy's role in advocating for better policies in response to the pandemic.

**READ THE STORY →**

## JOINING US IN 2019/20

**ACF National Crisis Response Fund:** Providing flexible resources to organisations working with communities who are impacted by disasters or emergencies. Learn more about the NCRF's role in our Covid-19 response on page 50. →

**Amicus Curiae Fidelis:** Supporting the goals of organisations in Western Australia that reflect the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and Conventions. →

**Fire Relief Fund for First Nations Communities:** Offering culturally sensitive support to First Nations peoples on the east coast in response to the 2019/20 bushfires. →

**Groundswell:** A giving circle created in response to the climate crisis, accelerating action and supporting solutions by funding high impact climate advocacy. →

**Mannifera:** Defending and augmenting a thriving, healthy democracy and building an economy that works for everyone. →

**Maritzburg College Fund:** Furthering quality education in sub-Saharan Africa.

**NSW Chinese Community Emergency Response Fund:** Supporting people in need across New South Wales.

**Rapid Advocacy Fund:** Supporting strategic advocacy campaigns, especially those responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in Australia. →

**Seymour District Charitable Fund:** Building the capacity, strength, cohesiveness and wellbeing of the local community and its people. →

**The Gruppetto Fund:** Supporting the care and development of disadvantaged children and displaced people with special needs. →



## CORPORATE AND WORKPLACE FUNDS

We support organisations across Australia to establish and extend their giving programs. Establish a Corporate/Workplace Fund with us to start giving without the administrative burden on internal resources, enabling you and your team to be as engaged or as hands-off in the grantmaking as you like.

### WHY OPEN A CORPORATE/WORKPLACE FUND?

- **Organisation-wide benefits:** Workplace giving has been linked to a variety of organisation-wide benefits, including improved workplace culture and wider support from the local community.
- **Engage our expertise:** Our experienced team can support you to create a community investment approach that best aligns with your organisation's mission and values.
- **Support your triple bottom line reporting:** A Corporate/Workplace Fund is an effective way to support your commitment to measuring performance beyond profit and ensuring your business is good for people and planet.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CORPORATE AND WORKPLACE FUNDS →](#)

### JOINING US IN 2019/20

#### **FG Advisory Charitable**

**Fund:** Supporting community development, education, environment and overseas aid.

#### **Tasmanian Walking Company**

**Fund:** Supporting the Tasmanian Walking Company to inspire people to connect with and conserve the natural environment and culture of the Australian wilderness. →

#### **Wa Initiative:**

Helping Rork Projects support other Indigenous organisations in their work offering quality secondary education scholarships for Indigenous children from regional, rural and remote communities.

→ Unico staff volunteering with non-profit Eat Up, which delivers thousands of lunches every month to schools across Australia.



### 'ENRICHING COMPANY CULTURE & TOGETHERNESS': UNICO COMMUNITY FUND

Melbourne-based technology services company Unico has a strong tradition of giving back to the community. Over the last 12 years, the Unico Community Fund has helped the organisation take a structured approach to regular and strategic giving.

[READ THE STORY →](#)



## NFP FUTURE FUNDS

We support not-for-profits (NFP) across the country through our low-cost NFP Future Funds.

NFP Future Funds can be used by DGR1 organisations to build an endowment providing long-term sustainability and greater independence from external funding sources. Income from the fund can be granted back to your organisation for any purpose, including operational costs or to support specific projects.

An added bonus is the revenue earning potential of access to low-cost ethical investment options and the potential to expand your supporter base by offering an independent and secure option for donor gifts, including bequests.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT NFP FUTURE FUNDS →**



In mid-2020, we held our first Share the Knowledge sessions, where NFP Future Fund fundholders are given the opportunity to share with our community their stories – the positive change they're working towards, what they've learnt along the way, their challenges, and ambitions for the road ahead.

### PROTECTING EARTH'S LAST WILDERNESS: FOREVER WILD

Head of Philanthropy & Impact Louise Kuramoto speaks with Fiachra Kearney, CEO and Founder of Forever Wild. The conversation covers Forever Wild's ambitions to protect Earth's last wilderness areas by building innovative partnerships worldwide to create vast Shared Earth Reserves that are ecologically, politically and socially sustainable.

**WATCH →**

## JOINING US IN 2019/20

### AMCS Millennium House

**Redevelopment:** Supporting the redevelopment of community centre Millennium House for the long-term benefit of culturally and linguistically diverse communities. →

### National Parks Community Fund:

Supporting work to protect the integrity of Victoria's unique national parks and conservation reserves, and better protect other natural areas, plants and wildlife for future generations. →

**One for The World:** A movement of people changing charitable giving to end extreme poverty. Members pledge to give 1% of their income to the world's most cost-effective non-profits. →

### Our Societies, Our Earth, Our Future:

Helping Forever Wild build a legacy for our planet and our societies thousands of years from now. Contributions are directed to vast Shared Earth Reserves, protecting wild landscapes, rich biological diversity, remote communities and their diverse cultures, and our shared histories. →

### Safe Steps Family Violence

**Response Centre:** Supporting the Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre – Victoria's state-wide first response service for women, young people and children experiencing family violence. →



# STAYING CONNECTED

Our usual calendar of events took a different shape in 2019/20 as we grappled with the unfolding public health crisis. Our community banded together, albeit virtually, to enjoy a number of online catch-ups as we all sought to stay connected during the pandemic.

Before the onset of social distancing restrictions, we hosted a packed donor circle program featuring guest speakers such as **Peter Singer**, **Kerry O'Brien** and **Marieke Hardy**, as well as **Lindon Coombes** from the **Jumbunna Institute** and **Dennis Batty** who spoke on Indigenous self-determination.

We partnered with the **Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network**, **Philanthropy Australia**, **Australian Progress**, the **Climate and Health Alliance**, and the **Human Rights Law Centre** to bring the giving community a wide range of timely and informative events on environmental, social and economic issues.

The 2019 Impact Fund Showcase at The Wheeler Centre attracted a record number of guests. Our four Impact Fund partners gave compelling and impressive pitches on their projects that left the crowd buzzing with excitement.

To celebrate the year, we invited the giving community to the Melbourne Recital Centre where we enjoyed a special preview of *The Barber of Seville* performed by the Victorian Opera.

Our thanks go out to the giving community and our event partners, who made each and every event an enjoyable and enriching experience.

- Philosopher Peter Singer mezets with our giving community for a Tackling Inequality Learning Circle on effective altruism.
- Our giving community celebrates the end of 2019 at the Melbourne Recital Centre.
- Our Impact Fund 2019 Large Grants partners celebrate after presenting their projects to our giving community in October 2019.



# SHARED IMPACT.

At Australian Communities Foundation, our giving community is united not only by a shared vision for a fairer Australia; we're also united in our drive to bring this vision to life – to support positive change together and maximise our impact across the country.

This year saw our giving community step up in a particularly challenging time, giving more to Australian communities than ever before, including \$2.8 million to support those most affected by the 2019/20 bushfire season and Covid-19. And with a record number of funds contributing to our flagship Impact Fund, it's clear that collective giving is on the rise in our community.

→ Grantee partners including Batyr, 350.org, Koondée Woonga-gat Toor-rong, Economic Media Centre, AbSec, MarionLIFE, Karrkad Kanjdji Trust, Bush Heritage Australia, Dhadjowa Foundation, Fair Agenda, and the Welfare Rights Centre.





## GRANTS OVERVIEW 2019/20

**IN 2019/20, OUR COMMUNITY OF 350 FUNDS & FOUNDATIONS DISTRIBUTED 909 GRANTS TO 527 ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS. TOGETHER, WE GRANTED \$12,502,071 IN TOTAL: 11% OF OUR ENTIRE CORPUS. THAT'S 33% MORE OUT THE DOOR THAN LAST YEAR. OUR LARGEST GRANT WAS \$380,000 AND OUR AVERAGE GRANT WAS \$14,000.**



→ Senior Ecologist Dr Matt Appleby from grantee partner Bush Heritage holds a tray of seedlings ready to be planted in a climate-ready revegetation experiment on Bush Heritage's Nardoo Hills Reserves in north-central Victoria. Credit: Amelia Caddy/Bush Heritage Australia.



# SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES ACROSS AUSTRALIA 2019/20

## TOTAL FUNDING

**\$12.5M**

## GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

**909**

## NATIONAL PROJECTS

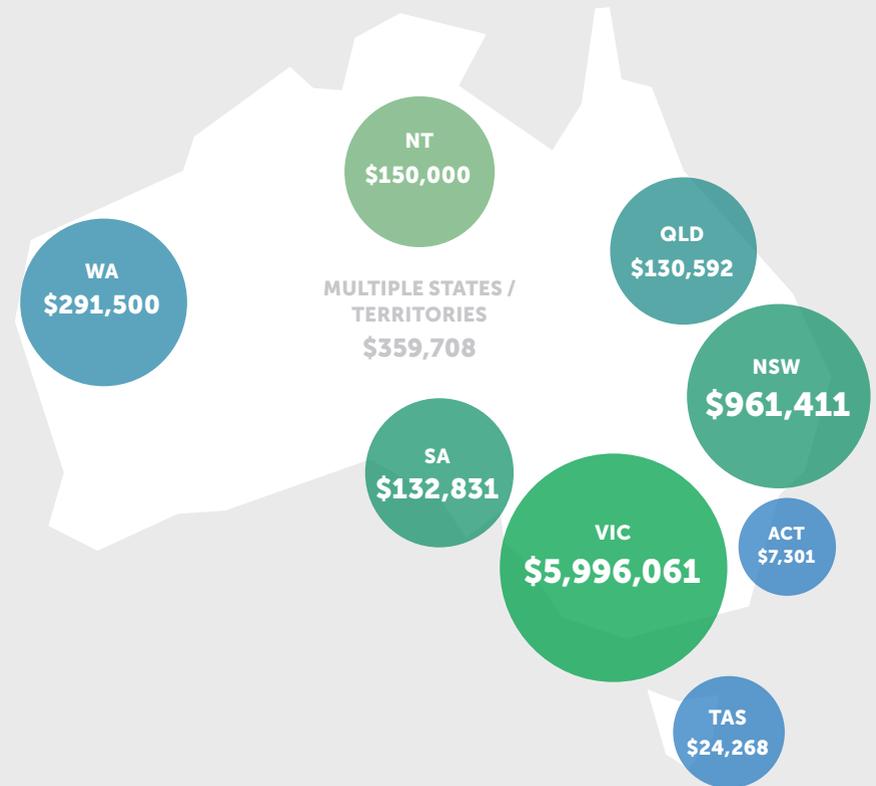
**\$4,004,476**

(32% of all funding)

## INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

**\$443,924**

(3.6% of all funding)



**The Australian Communities Foundation team is here to help you achieve your giving goals. Get in touch today to talk about supporting the causes close to your heart.**

(03) 9412 0412  
grants@communityfoundation.org.au

**Louise Kuramoto**  
Head of Philanthropy & Impact



**Georgia Mathews**  
Philanthropy & Engagement Manager



**Gabby Lam**  
Grants Coordinator



**Daphne Tan**  
Grants Support Officer



**Andrea Lindores**  
Impact & Insights Manager





# SUPPORTING THE CAUSES AUSTRALIANS CARE ABOUT 2019/20

In 2019/20, our giving community gave generously. Almost 40 per cent of the \$12.5 million in grants went to organisations working to tackle inequality, particularly in the areas of health and education.

A quarter of all funding went towards supporting Indigenous communities, while another fifth went towards safeguarding our environment, particularly in the fight against climate change.

The majority of the remaining 20 per cent landed with organisations working for a stronger democracy and a more culturally vibrant society.

## FOCUS AREA TACKLING INEQUALITY



## FOCUS AREA STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY



## FOCUS AREA SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



## FOCUS AREA SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT



## FOCUS AREA BUILDING A CULTURALLY VIBRANT SOCIETY



# STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGES OF 2020



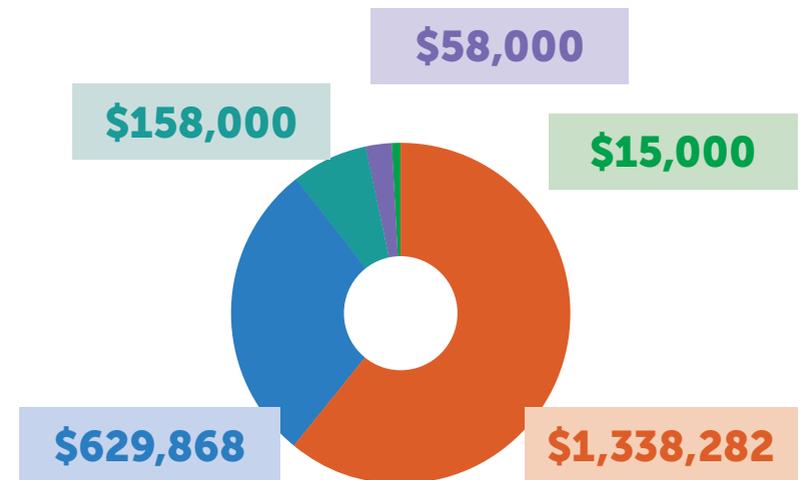
## KEY INSIGHT

Not only did our community give more to ongoing causes in 2019/20 than ever before; we also gave an additional \$2.8 million to support communities most affected by the bushfires and Covid-19.



# BUSHFIRE RESPONSE \$2,199,150

AFTER THE DISASTROUS 2019/20 AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRE SEASON, OUR GIVING COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO FUND EMERGENCY RESPONSE, RECOVERY, AND POLICY REFORM. GIVING WAS FOCUSED IN FOUR STRATEGIC AREAS.



- INDIGENOUS-LED CRISIS RESPONSE (19 GRANTS)
- CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (7 GRANTS)
- PUBLIC POLICY, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY (2 GRANTS)
- DISASTER PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (38 GRANTS)
- OTHER (3 GRANTS)



## BUSHFIRE RESPONSE: GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

### INDIGENOUS-LED CRISIS RESPONSE \$1,338,282

#### WALBUNJA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION \$250,000

**Project:** Indigenous Bushfire Disaster Partnership Agreement

**Fund:** Fire Relief Fund for First Nations Communities

**Focus area:** Supporting Indigenous Communities

In February 2020, 16 Aboriginal Corporations adopted the Indigenous Bushfire Disaster Partnership Agreement to provide relief to all Indigenous peoples who have been directly affected and impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfire disaster on the South Coast of NSW and Eastern Victoria.

#### KEY INSIGHT

With the establishment of the Fire Relief Fund for First Nations Communities, we saw a significant focus on culturally sensitive and community-led crisis support for Indigenous Australians. Over a million dollars has been directed to support the material, financial and health needs of Indigenous individuals and families affected by the bushfires.

### THE VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION (VACCHO) \$200,000

**Project:** 2019-2020 Bushfire Disaster Appeal

**Fund:** Fire Relief Fund for First Nations Communities

**Focus area:** Supporting Indigenous Communities

As the peak body and leading advocate for the health of Aboriginal peoples in Victoria, VACCHO was selected by eight Victorian Aboriginal organisations to coordinate and centralise the distribution of funds raised in order to provide relief for the Aboriginal communities in Victoria impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfire disaster in Australia.

### KATUNGUL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION REGIONAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES \$131,010

**Project:** Aboriginal Bushfire Healing Project

**Fund:** Fire Relief Fund for First Nations Communities

**Focus area:** Supporting Indigenous Communities

Aboriginal community-controlled organisation Katungul Aboriginal Corporation received funding to engage with those in the Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shires, NSW, whose wellbeing has been negatively impacted by social and psychological factors due to the recent bushfires. Funding will help Katungul fill the gap in allied health staff such as social workers, Koori Connectors and psychologists.

### DISASTER PREVENTION & RESPONSE \$629,868

#### WILDLIFE VICTORIA \$115,100

**Project:** Victorian Bushfire Appeal

**Funds:** One Tomorrow Charitable Fund, Abercrombys Charitable Fund, Vilde Family Fund, Dennoch Fund, Rana and Alan Fund, Jax Acacia Fund

**Focus area:** Safeguarding the Environment

Wildlife Victoria has provided the community with the Wildlife Emergency Response Service for 30 years, receiving about 80,000 requests for help every year. Donations to the Victorian bushfire appeal were distributed to wildlife shelters and carers to help rebuild and replace enclosures and equipment so that they can continue their lifesaving work.

#### KEY INSIGHT

It is times like these we see the collective potential of our giving community come to life with a number of funds coming together to give in response to appeals such as Wildlife Victoria's Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

### HORNSBY RFS EMERGENCY PUBLIC FUND \$100,000

**Project:** Hornsby Rural Fire Brigade

**Fund:** NSW Chinese Community Bushfire Appeal

**Focus area:** Safeguarding the Environment

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is the lead combat agency for bushfires in NSW. For over 100 years, it has been a significant part of the history and landscape of NSW. Funding supported the Hornsby RFS' service operations during the fire season.

### FOUNDATION FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL RENEWAL \$50,000

**Project:** Disaster Resilience and Recovery Fund

**Fund:** One Tomorrow Charitable Fund

**Focus area:** Safeguarding the Environment

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's (FRRR) Disaster Resilience and Recovery Fund provides grants to communities to support disaster preparedness and disaster recovery. FRRR believes that there needs to be greater focus on preparing for disasters at an individual and community level, and investment in locally-led approaches that build preparedness and resilience in concert with regional strategies and plans.



## CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE \$158,000

### PORT STEPHENS KOALA AND WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY \$100,000

**Project:** Bushfire response

**Fund:** NSW Chinese Community Bushfire Appeal

**Focus area:** Safeguarding the Environment

Port Stephens Koala and Wildlife Preservation Society provides best-practice standards of care to sick, injured and orphaned koalas to give them the best opportunity to be returned to the wild, while supporting research and collaboration to preserve their habitat.



↑ Port Stephens Koala and Wildlife Preservation Society.

## PUBLIC POLICY, RESEARCH & ADVOCACY \$58,000

### CLIMATE COUNCIL \$50,000

**Project:** Climate Media Centre – Emergency Leaders for Climate Action

**Fund:** Groundswell

**Focus area:** Strengthening Democracy

The Climate Council is Australia's leading climate change communications organisation. It provides authoritative, expert advice to the Australian public on climate change and solutions. Climate Council's Emergency Leaders for Climate Action is comprised of 22 former senior emergency service leaders with first-hand experience of escalating climate change impacts, who are uniting to push for strong leadership on climate change action.

### THE AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE \$8,000

**Project:** National Climate Disaster Fund

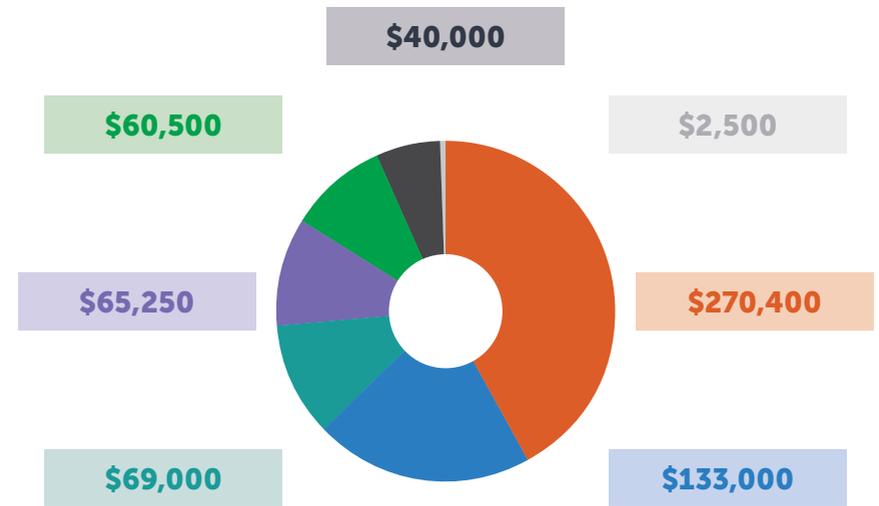
**Fund:** Fairer Futures Fund

**Focus area:** Strengthening Democracy

The Australia Institute (TAI) is one of the country's most influential think tanks. TAI's National Climate Disaster Fund is a proposal for an independently administered fund to reduce the cost of burden of natural disaster response and recovery to Australian households, businesses and taxpayers.

# COVID-19 RESPONSE \$640,650

OUR GIVING COMMUNITY'S COVID-19 FUNDING HAD A STRONG FOCUS ON RESPONDING TO IMMEDIATE NEEDS AS WELL AS ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL CONCERNS ARISING FROM THE CRISIS. GIVING WAS FOCUSED IN SIX STRATEGIC AREAS.



- **DISASTER PREVENTION AND RESPONSE** (25 GRANTS)
- **HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MEDICAL RESEARCH** (16 GRANTS)
- **PUBLIC POLICY, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY** (8 GRANTS)
- **EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT** (9 GRANTS)
- **HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS** (5 GRANTS)
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION** (3 GRANTS)
- **OTHER** (2 GRANTS)



## COVID-19 RESPONSE: GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

### DISASTER PREVENTION & RESPONSE \$270,400

#### NATIONAL ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION \$35,000

**Project:** Protective measures for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations

**Funds:** Fairness Fund, ACF National Crisis Response Fund

**Focus area:** Supporting Indigenous Communities

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is the national peak body representing 143 member organisation across the country working on First Nations health and wellbeing issues. After the outbreak of Covid-19, NACCHO predicted a shortfall in personal protective equipment within two weeks for Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations (ACCHOs) nationally. This grant contributed to the provision of hand sanitiser to 120 ACCHOs.

### HEALTH, WELLBEING & MEDICAL RESEARCH \$133,000

#### PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE \$55,000

**Project:** Asylum seeker health rights during Covid-19

**Funds:** ACF Impact Fund, Dennoch Fund, BB & A Miller Fund, O'Shea-Thompson Fund, Bell Family Fund,

#### KEY INSIGHT

As the impacts of Covid-19 and resulting lockdowns were felt across Australia and the world, we saw a spike in donor support for mental health and wellbeing, employment pathways, and domestic violence prevention.

Clark-McLure Fund, Macston Social Endeavour, Reve Fund. Co-funding from River Capital and Planet Wheeler Foundation.

**Focus area:** Tackling Inequality

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) tackles difficult social problems that impact on the lives of many Australians. After the outbreak of Covid-19, PIAC's Asylum Seeker Health Rights Project received funding to respond urgently to the dangers presented by Covid-19 for immigration detainees in order to improve conditions and continue building the case for long-term legislative reform.

#### NATIONAL LGBTI HEALTH ALLIANCE \$10,000

**Project:** QLife

**Funds:** ACF National Crisis Response Fund

**Focus area:** Tackling Inequality

QLife provides Australia-wide, anonymous, LGBTI peer support. QLife services are free and include telephone and webchat support,

delivered by trained LGBTI people across the country. LGBTI communities often fall through the cracks when it comes to both funding and service delivery, and during Covid-19 this is no different. Funding helped QLife quickly adjust their systems to allow their councillors to work from home, including investment in a new phone system.

### PUBLIC POLICY, RESEARCH & ADVOCACY \$69,000

#### CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE \$10,000 + \$55,000 PLEDGED THROUGH THE IMPACT FUND

**Project:** Covid-19 action on climate and health

**Funds:** Groundswell, Rapid Advocacy Fund, ACF Impact Fund, Macston Social Endeavour, BB & A Miller Fund, Reve Fund, Alf & Meg Steel Fund, Diversicon, 2 x anonymous contributions

**Focus area:** Safeguarding the Environment

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA's) is a coalition of health care stakeholders who work together to see the threat to human health from climate change and ecological degradation addressed through prompt policy action. Funding supported CAHA to seize the opportunity provided by the Covid-19 crisis to highlight the underlying health emergency of climate change and leverage the deepened public trust in health professionals to ensure the economic recovery is health-led and delivers climate action.

### EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT \$65,250

#### MUSIC AND OPERA SINGERS TRUST \$20,000

**Project:** Freelance Artist Relief Australia

**Fund:** Henkell Family Fund

**Focus area:** Building A Culturally Vibrant Society

Freelance Artist Relief Australia (FARA) was established to bring immediate financial help to Australian classical singers affected by the Covid-19 crisis. Arts venues were among the first institutions to close after the Covid-19 outbreak, with many freelance artists losing their income for the foreseeable future. FARA supported Australian freelance singers suddenly facing months of no work and income throughout 2020.

#### KEY INSIGHT

In addition to supporting essential services during Covid-19, our giving community recognised the importance of funding systems change work – 10 per cent of all Covid-19 granting went towards public policy, research and advocacy.



### CHILDREN'S GROUND \$7,500

**Project:** General charitable purposes

**Fund:** Nicholas R Taylor Fund

**Focus area:** Tackling Inequality

Designed with First Nations people, Children's Ground builds on the ability, strength and culture of communities while responding to trauma and creating opportunities. Working where people live, Children's Ground builds generational change by supporting each child, in every family within a community over a 25-year period. This grant provided general support to Children's Ground during Covid-19.



### HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS \$60,500

#### LAUNCH HOUSING \$35,000

**Project:** Emergency Covid-19 aid for people experiencing homelessness

**Fund:** Sally Browne Fund, Juno Fund, Story Street Fund, Vanraay Family Fund, Clare Murphy Fund, Reve Fund

**Focus area:** Tackling Inequality

Launch Housing is an independent Melbourne-based community organisation passionately committed to ending homelessness. This grant supported Launch Housing workers on the frontline of the Covid-19 response to distribute essential food, toiletries, medical care, transport and emergency accommodation to people experiencing homelessness.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION \$40,000

#### REFUGEE LEGAL \$10,000

**Project:** Family Violence and Migration Law Project

**Fund:** ACF National Crisis Response Fund

**Focus area:** Tackling Inequality

Refugee Legal is Australia's largest provider of free specialist legal assistance to people seeking asylum, refugees and disadvantaged migrants. Refugee Legal's Family Violence and Migration Law Project is focussed on being responsive to women experiencing family violence during Covid-19. Women who seek help experienced increased isolation from family, friends and other supports during this period. Funding supported Refugee Legal to provide legal advice and assistance to women on temporary visas or without visas who are experiencing family violence during Covid-19.

### COVID-19 RESPONSE: INITIATIVES

#### COVID-19 NATIONAL FUNDING PLATFORM

In early 2020, Australian Communities Foundation partnered with Philanthropy Australia to launch the Covid-19 National Funding Platform to coordinate the national philanthropic response to the crisis. The Platform provided not-for-profit organisations the opportunity to register their Covid-related funding needs.

In the period between March and June 2020, over 300 projects requested a total of more than \$11 million through the platform, giving funders an understanding of the exact needs of the sector during this time.

[VISIT THE PLATFORM →](#)

#### KEY INSIGHT

During Covid-19, we saw a trend towards more collective giving in our giving community, with 12 per cent of grants disbursed through the National Crisis Response Fund and Rapid Advocacy Fund. Over 30 funders contributed to these funds between February and June 2020.

#### RAPID ADVOCACY FUND

Partnering with Australian Progress and Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS), Australian Communities Foundation launched the Covid-19 Rapid Advocacy Fund – a pooled funding initiative that can rapidly inject funds into strategic advocacy campaigns demanding ambitious policies in response to the pandemic in Australia. In the period between February and June 2020, the Fund pooled over \$150,000 and supported 22 Covid-related advocacy projects.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

#### GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

- 350.org Australia** \$4,000
- Alliance for Gambling Reform** \$10,000
- Anti-Poverty Week** \$10,000
- Australian Association of Psychologists** \$5,000
- Climate & Health Alliance** \$5,000
- Deadly Connections Community & Justice Services** \$9,500
- Digital Rights Watch** \$5,000
- Multicultural Youth Affairs Network** \$3,000
- National Council of Single Mothers and their Children** \$6,000
- Refugee Voices** \$5,000
- Road to Refuge** \$5,000
- The Parenthood** \$6,000
- Tomorrow Movement** \$10,000

↑ Children's Ground.



# NATIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE FUND: COVID-19



Shortly after launching the Covid-19 National Funding Platform, Australian Communities Foundation established the National Crisis Response Fund – a pooled funding initiative to enable an effective philanthropic response to the pandemic.

Along with a broader analysis of need within the sector, the National Funding Platform revealed where funding is still desperately needed: gaps in the national response, where existing government and community support isn't going.

By leveraging Australian Communities Foundation's national reach and our extensive network of not-for-profit and sector experts, the National Crisis Response Fund has been able to get funding out to communities where it's needed most.

**\$539,000**  
**DISTRIBUTED**  
**THROUGH**  
**45 GRANTS**  
**TO COMMUNITIES**  
**ACROSS AUSTRALIA**

Through our partnership with the Paul Ramsay Foundation and support from our giving community and the public, the National Crisis Response Fund has distributed \$539,000 through 45 grants to communities across Australia.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

**Aboriginal Child Family and Community Care Secretariat (AbSec)** \$25,000 – Meeting Aboriginal community needs during Covid-19 →

**Australian Migrant Resource Centre** \$5,000 – Providing financial support to refugees on bridging visas →

**Australian Unemployed Workers' Union** \$10,000 – Supporting people needing job-seeking advice →

**Ballarat Foundation** \$12,000 – Providing food relief in the Ballarat area →

**Barpidhila Foundation** \$25,000 – Indigenous Artists Relief Fund →

**Council of Single Mothers and Their Children** \$15,000 – Providing financial support for single mothers →

**Didi Bahini Samaj** \$5,000 – Providing financial support for Nepali students →

**Encompass Care** \$15,000 – Providing emergency food relief for asylum seekers and international students →

**Georges River Life Care** \$5,000 – Supporting disadvantaged individuals and families in Georges River →

**Inner Melbourne Community Legal** \$15,000 – Providing communications strategy and support for Covid-19 public housing lockdown →

**Jesuit Refugee Service** \$5,000 – Providing food and medicine to refugees and people seeking asylum →

**Law & Advocacy Centre for Women** \$10,000 – Supporting women exiting prison during Covid-19 →

**National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation** \$5,000 – Supporting protective measures in vulnerable communities in response to Covid-19 →

**QLife (National LGBTI Health Alliance)** \$10,000 – Supporting LGBTI peer support throughout Covid-19 →

**Refugee Legal's Family Violence and Migration Law Project** \$10,000 – Supporting refugee women experiencing family violence during Covid-19 →

**RISE: Refugees, Survivors and Ex-Detainees** \$5,000 – Providing door-to-door emergency relief to low-income households →

**Stepping Out** \$10,000 – Keeping survivors connected during Covid-19 →

**Welfare Rights Centre** \$10,000 – Assisting Australians on JobSeeker →

**Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN)** \$15,000 – Supporting homeless women and children through Covid-19 →

**Wungening Aboriginal Corporation's Covid-19 Food Appeal** \$10,000 – Supporting Indigenous people and families across Perth and SW Western Australia throughout the crisis →

[VIEW ALL GRANTS →](#)



# IMPACT FUND

## INVESTING IN MOMENTOUS CHANGE

Established as a vehicle for collective giving, the Impact Fund inspires investments in the boldest solutions to our country's biggest issues.

In brokering co-funding from our giving community and external partners, the Impact Fund has mobilised a total of \$3 million to 30 projects across Australia.

In 2019/20, the Impact Fund raised \$814,000 for 11 projects with support from 60 co-funders.

### VIEW THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT THE IMPACT FUND HAS ACHIEVED SO FAR →

#### LARGE GRANTS

**Protecting Australian Species Against Extinction** Invasive Species Council **\$150,000**

**Raise the Rate** campaign Australian Council of Social Service **\$150,000**

**The Democracy Project** Shark Island Institute **\$150,000**

**Voice, Treaty, Truth: Progressing the Uluru Statement** UNSW Indigenous Law Centre **\$150,000**

**CONVENING GRANTS**  
**Digital Rights Convening Project** Responsible Technology Australia **\$10,000**

**COVID-19 AGILE GRANTS**  
**Asylum Seeker Health Rights project** Public Interest Advocacy Centre **\$50,000**

**Covid-19 Action on Climate and Health** Climate and Health Alliance **\$50,000**

**Misinformation Medic** campaign Responsible Technology Australia **\$50,000**

**Protecting First Nations Communities from Covid-19** Central Australian Aboriginal Congress **\$14,000**

**Raise the Rate for Good** campaign Australian Council of Social Service **\$50,000**

**OTHER AGILE GRANTS**  
**Our Islands Our Home** campaign 350 Australia **\$23,000**

↖ Li-Anthawirriyara Ranger Jodie Evans being interviewed by SBS News about the benefits of working as a ranger through the Country Needs People program, funded by the Impact Fund. Credit: Alex Inglis.  
← Supporters at a rally for marriage equality in Melbourne. The YES campaign was supported by the Impact Fund in 2017. Credit: Paris Buttfield-Addison.  
↘ Supporters of the Alliance Gambling Reform meet in Melbourne. The Alliance's campaign for poker machine reform has received funding from the Impact Fund.



# IMPACT FUND

## 2019 LARGE GRANTS ROUND

For the 2019 Impact Fund Large Grants Round, our giving community once again came together to fund national campaigns across the Fund's four Impact Areas. Here's a snapshot of what each campaign has achieved so far, and what's next in their journeys towards positive impact.



### RAISE THE RATE CAMPAIGN

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

#### TACKLING INEQUALITY

Raise the Rate is a national campaign that seeks to secure an increase to the base rate of Newstart/JobSeeker and other allowances by at least \$75 per week. While the allowance was increased at the onset of the Covid-19 crisis, this has since been reduced, prompting ACOSS to launch the Raise the Rate for Good campaign. With more people on the unemployment allowance than ever before in Australia's history, the campaign continues to push for a permanent increase to JobSeeker.

[READ MORE →](#)



### THE DEMOCRACY PROJECT

SHARK ISLAND INSTITUTE

#### STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

*The Democracy Project* is an upcoming social impact documentary film that seeks to pull back the curtain on the relationship between money and power in Australia. The extent to which money has infiltrated our political process has become even more apparent in the aftermath of Covid-19, creating even more timely and powerful content for the film, which is now expected to be released in March 2021. The film's impact campaign is expected to generate greater support for critical democratic reform.

[READ MORE →](#)



### VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH: PROGRESSING THE ULURU STATEMENT UNSW INDIGENOUS LAW CENTRE

#### SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS SELF- DETERMINATION

The Indigenous Law Centre at the University of New South Wales is the backbone organisation that coordinates the ongoing national dialogue process to ensure First Nations voices remain at the heart of delivering on Voice, Treaty, Truth—the three pathways to justice set out in the Uluru Statement. Having recently facilitated two leadership dialogues and launched a video campaign to raise public awareness, the campaign is now engaging media to build a more nuanced First Nations-led conversation with the Australian people about the Uluru Statement.

[READ MORE →](#)



### PROTECTING AUSTRALIAN SPECIES AGAINST EXTINCTION INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

#### SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

With invasive species being the leading cause of Australia's current extinction crisis, the Invasive Species Council (ISC) has been working to develop a package of institutional, legal and policy reforms for a more concerted focus on abating major threats to native species. The ISC is continuing to engage a broad network of government stakeholders and experts to stop the processes that cause extinction and find opportunities to generate new jobs in a threat abatement industry.

[READ MORE →](#)

# STORIES BEHIND THE IMPACT

At Australian Communities foundation, we believe storytelling is a powerful tool for effecting social change.

We share stories from our giving community in order to grow knowledge about giving practices, inspire others to act and demonstrate that anybody can be a philanthropist.

Click through on any of the stories here to learn more about our community of givers and the impact we're achieving together on our journey towards a fairer Australia.



## THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON I'VE LEARNED ABOUT GIVING: EWAN OGILVY

Ewan Ogilvy, a long-standing member of our giving community shares some highlights of his personal giving journey.

[READ THE STORY →](#)



## 'YOU'VE GOT TO BE OPTIMISTIC': PLAYING THE LONG GAME WITH ENVIRONMENTAL GIVING

The Melliodora Fund's Bruce and Ann McGregor reflect on their long and varied history in safeguarding the environment and what they've learnt about optimism and our connections with nature along the way.

[READ THE STORY →](#)



## 'SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED SOMEONE TO BELIEVE IN YOU': FELLOWSHIP FOR INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP

Maree Davidson AM and three inspiring Indigenous leaders, Peter Aldenhoven, Kathryn Coff and Ngarrá Murray, share the story of the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership and how it has supported their ambitions and Victoria's Indigenous community.

[READ THE STORY →](#)



## FINDING NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT CHANGE: MANNIFERA

Mannifera is a collective of Australian philanthropic funders, some visible, others anonymous, that supports organisations and initiatives that aim to develop a stronger democracy and a more inclusive economy.

[READ THE STORY →](#)



## COLLABORATING AND LEADING FOR THE GREATER GOOD: HOMEWARD BOUND

'Homeward Bound is about leading for the greater good.' We catch up with founder and social entrepreneur, Fabian Dattner.

[READ THE STORY →](#)

# FINANCIALS

The 2019/20 financial year proved to be a turbulent period with Covid-19 plunging the global economy into a recession. Despite these challenging conditions, the Foundation's net revenue in 2019/20 was \$18 million.

Since our appointment of Brightlight Advisory in 2018/19 as our new investment advisers, we have continued to further align our investment portfolio with our values on our journey towards 100 per cent responsible investing.

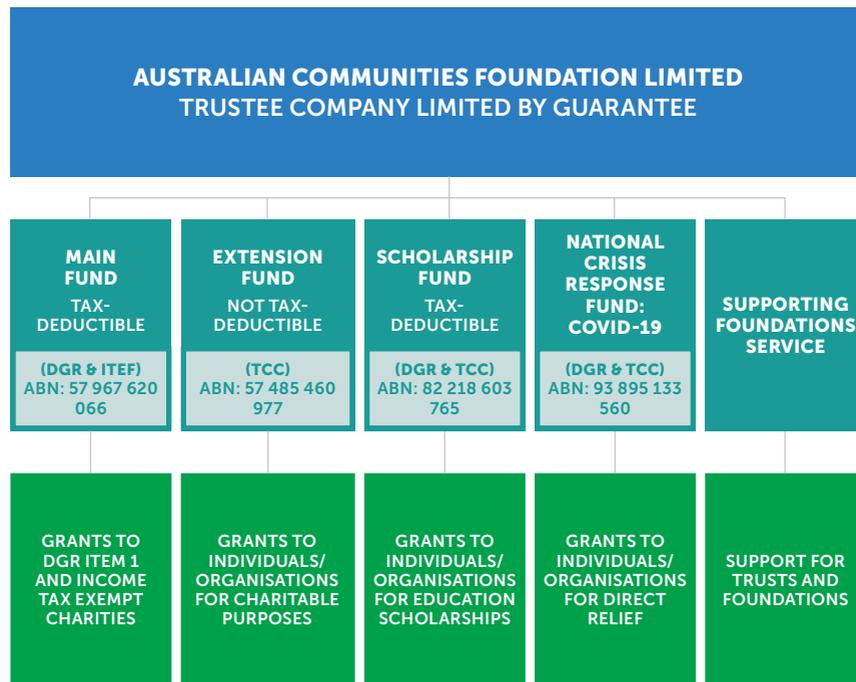
→ As part of our commitment to responsible investing, Australian Communities Foundation is investing in projects that make a positive and sustainable difference to society, such as loans and debt securities in the renewable energy and social infrastructure sectors.





## STRUCTURE

Australian Communities Foundation operates three charitable trust funds, providing flexibility to suit individual giving preferences and areas of interest. A fourth fund, the National Crisis Response Fund, was established this year to provide disaster relief grants. We also offer fee-for-service support of private ancillary funds.



**DGR: Deductible Gift Recipient status.** A DGR is an organisation that is entitled to receive income tax deductible gifts and deductible contributions.

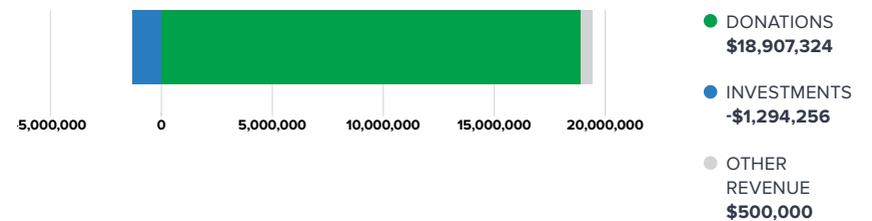
**ITEF: Income Tax Exempt Fund.** Registered charities must be endorsed by the Australian Tax Office to be income tax exempt.

**TCC: Tax Concession Charity.** A TCC is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office to access one or more of the following tax concession: income tax exemption, goods and services tax (GST) charity concessions, fringe benefits tax (FBT) rebate and FBT exemption.

## 2019/20 PERFORMANCE

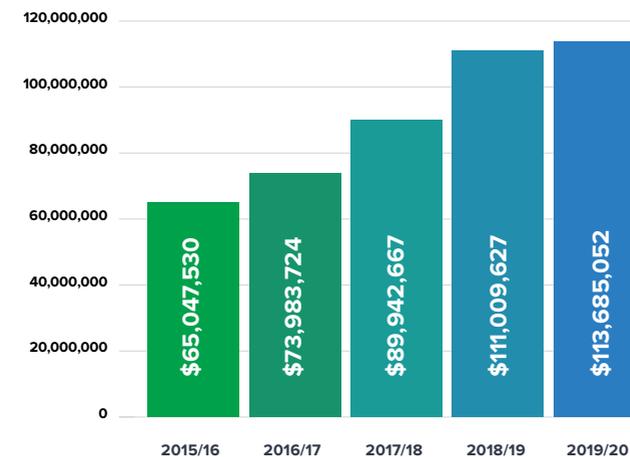
### REVENUE

Despite challenging conditions, the Foundation's net revenue in 2019/20 was \$18 million. As with many other organisations, the Foundation's investment returns were heavily impacted by the market volatility caused by Covid-19. However, our donor community continued to rise to the challenge, donating \$18.9 million during the year.



### TOTAL CORPUS

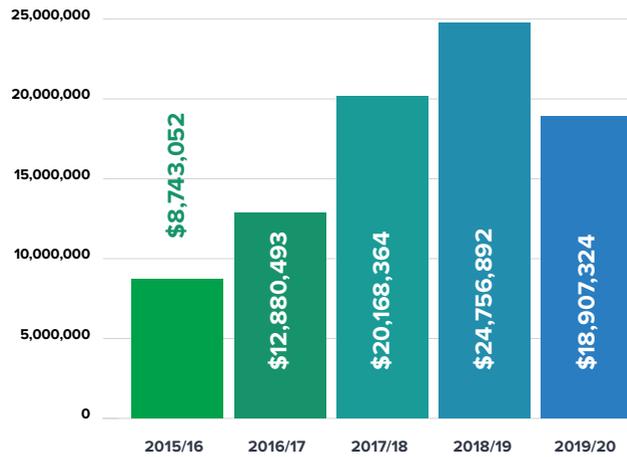
At June 2020, the total corpus was over \$113.7 million – an increase of approximately \$2.7 million from the prior year.





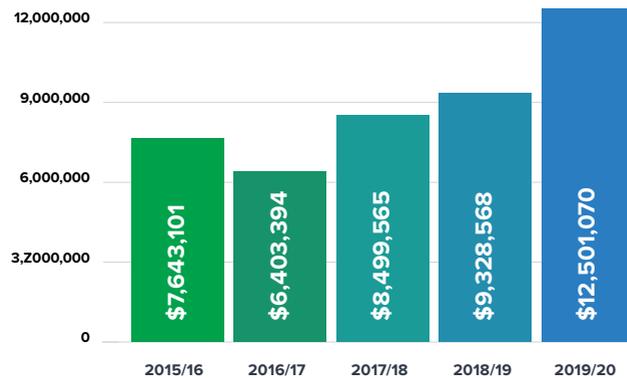
## DONATIONS

Donations continued to be strong – a total of \$18.9 million was received in 2019/20.



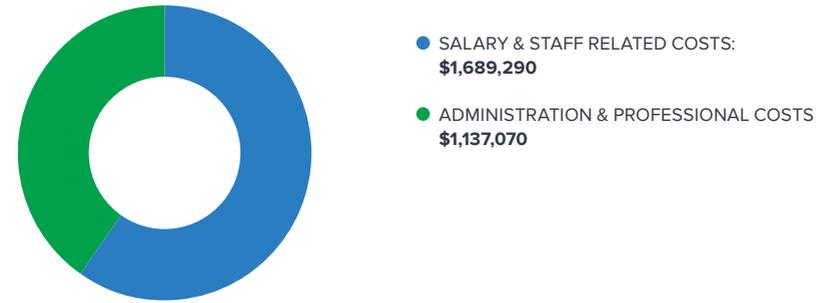
## GRANTS

Our giving community granted a record \$12.5 million across the year – approximately 11 per cent of the total corpus.



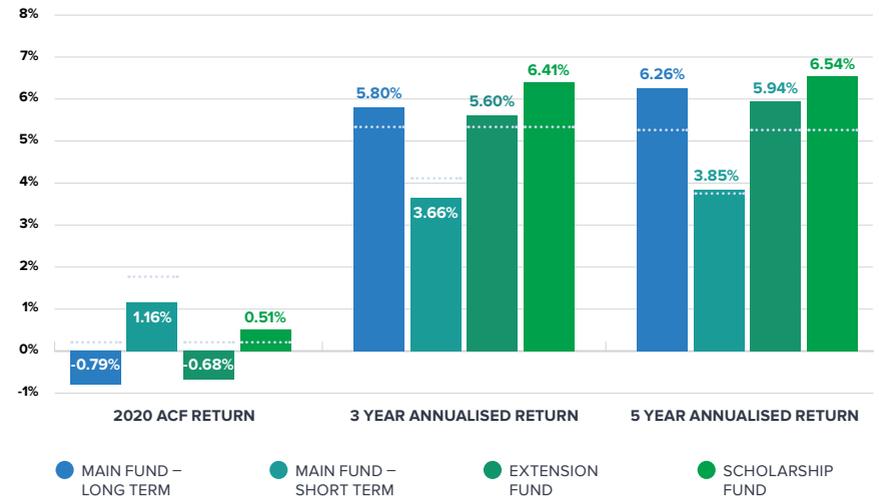
## OPERATIONS

Total operating costs were \$2.8 million.



## INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

High market volatility, largely driven by Covid-19 lockdowns and uncertainty surrounding the re-opening of the economy made it a challenging year for investment markets globally. **Despite this, the Funds have been consistent with, or outperformed, their benchmarks over a three and five-year period.**





## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### REVENUE

Donations	18,907,324
Investment	-1,294,256
Other revenue	503,259
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,116,327</b>

### OUTGOINGS

Granting	12,501,070
Operating costs	2,826,360
Other disbursements	113,472
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,440,902</b>

### BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING COSTS

Salary & staff-related costs	1,689,290
Administration & professional costs	1,137,070
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,826,360</b>

### CORPUS

	2020	2019
ACF Ltd	1,316,808	971,068
Main Fund	82,250,677	78,353,849
Extension	29,798,440	31,271,761
Scholarship	319,127	412,949
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,685,052</b>	<b>111,009,627</b>



Got a question about our financials or investments?  
**Contact Daniel Brugaletta, Chief Financial Officer.**  
 (03) 9412 0412 | [daniel@communityfoundation.org.au](mailto:daniel@communityfoundation.org.au)

## RESPONSIBLE INVESTING IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

### BRIGHTLIGHT



*Update from Tim Macready, Chief Investment Officer, Brightlight Advisory*

As we approach the end of what has been a very unusual 2020, it provides an opportunity to reflect on the changes that have been made across the investment portfolio. Since this time last year, Brightlight has focused on increasing the alignment of the investment portfolio with Australian Communities Foundation's values and preparing the portfolio to include targeted impact investments.

One of the ways that we measure progress is the percentage of assets that are invested by managers with a focus on benefiting stakeholders and incorporating active engagement strategies into their approach. In the last year, we have increased the percentage of the portfolio using these higher-sustainability focused approaches from 10 per cent to 26 per cent, while reducing the percentage of the portfolio using only basic screening strategies with low sustainability and engagement focus from 33 per cent to 12 per cent.

[READ THE FULL UPDATE →](#)

**AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION'S DECISION TO ALIGN ITS PORTFOLIO WITH ITS VALUES HAS CREATED NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE ACF STORY. WE HOPE TO INSPIRE MANY OTHERS TO TAKE A SIMILAR JOURNEY.**

# OUR PEOPLE

At Australian Communities Foundation, our people thrive within a culture of inclusivity and respect for one another.

This year, our team grew as we welcomed Olivia Clark-Moffat (Head of Engagement) and Jennifer Liu (Management Accountant). We also said farewell to Charlie Li (Management Accountant) and, after nearly two decades of service, Trudy Wyse.



## WALKING THE TALK: LAUNCHING THE ACF STAFF FUND

ACF team members Georgia Mathews and Jennifer Liu share their insights from our team's first experience of giving together.

[READ THE STORY →](#)

After 19 years in the engine room at Australian Communities Foundation, Trudy Wyse's legacy has been woven into the very fabric of our giving community and our work.

Amongst a long list of achievements, three things stand out about Trudy's time at Australian Communities Foundation: her commitment to collaboration; her long-term vision for structural reform through philanthropy; and her brazen and unshakeable dedication to truth-telling on our path towards justice for First Nations communities.

[READ MORE →](#)



# OUR TEAM



## MAREE SIDNEY

Chief Executive Officer

MBA (Social Impact), BSW, BA Hons

Maree has been Chief Executive Officer of Australian Communities Foundation since 2015. Maree also holds Non-Executive Director roles at Australian Community Philanthropy and Australian Progress. Prior to working at the Foundation, Maree spent twenty years working in the for-purpose sector including executive roles in family services, youth mental health, and drug and alcohol organisations. In her spare time, Maree is a passionate gardener and a Mum of three boys – 5, 12 and 14.

## PHILANTHROPY & IMPACT



### LOUISE KURAMOTO

Head of Philanthropy & Impact



### GEORGIA MATHEWS

Philanthropy & Engagement Manager



### ANDREA LINDORES

Impact & Insights Manager



### GABBY LAM

Grants Coordinator



### DAPHNE TAN

Grants Support Coordinator

## DEVELOPMENT & DONOR RELATIONS



### JULIE RAE

Head of Operations & Donor Services



### OLIVIA CLARK-MOFFAT

Head of Engagement



### RAZ BABIC

Donor Services Coordinator



### JACOB BABIC

Administration Support Officer

## COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING



### NICOLE RICHARDS

Head of Communications & Marketing



### REBECCA BRIDGES

Events & Marketing Coordinator



### DOM O'DONNELL

Communications & Marketing Coordinator



### CHRISTINE SELLE

Executive Assistant to the CEO and Office Manager

## FINANCE



### DANIEL BRUGALETTA

Chief Financial Officer



### JENNIFER LIU

Management Accountant



### JAMES MAGLOVSKI

Management Accountant



### TRUDY WYSE

Consultant

## ADMIN

## CONSULTING



# OUR BOARD



**ERIC BEECHER (CHAIR)**

Eric joined the Board as Chair in 2018, bringing with him a long career in media and journalism. Eric is the founder and chair of Private Media, publisher of news website Crikey, and chair of Solstice Media. In 2007, he received the Walkley Award for Journalistic Leadership. Eric is one of Australia's leading voices on the need for public interest journalism.



**PENNY BURKE**

With more than 30 years' experience in marketing, Penny is a customer and brand expert. She is the founder and Director of research and strategy consultancy, Essence Communications, and consults to all levels of governments and a range of private sector clients. She has held a number of board positions across sectors such as construction, retail, real estate, training, and medical research.



**SARAH HOSKING**

Sarah is a clinician and researcher having spent 25 years in academia, latterly as a professor in both ophthalmology and optometry in institutions in Australia, the UK and China. She is currently CEO of the National Breast Cancer Foundation and has held a number of executive and non-executive roles in health, research and education.



**ADAM MILGROM**

Adam is an active impact investor, having built a portfolio of investments across a wide range of industries and asset classes that align profit with purpose. He is Venture Partner of Giant Leap Fund, established by Impact Investment Group as the first Australian venture capital fund 100 per cent committed to investing in impact start-ups. Adam joined the Board in 2020.



**MICHAEL GILMORE**

Michael has 30 years of experience in the financial services industry across institutional and consumer markets in Australia, Asia and Europe. For the past 15 years Michael has worked in leadership roles, including at ANZ Private Bank and ipac securities limited. In his current role at TelstraSuper, Michael is the Head of Practice Operations for the Member Engagement & Advice division and a Responsible Manager of TelstraSuper Financial Planning.



**WHY I GIVE: 3 QUESTIONS WITH PENNY BURKE →**



**DAVID IMBER**

David is a corporate public affairs professional with over 20 years experience in the public, corporate and not-for-profit sectors. Starting his professional career in government, David has worked in policy and advocacy roles in the not-for-profit sector, including co-founding the Australians for Affordable Housing campaign. David also consults to corporate, government and NFP clients on communications and advocacy, and has volunteered in the field and in governance across a range of LGBTIQ+ and mainstream organisations. David retired from the Board in December 2019.



**WHY I GIVE: 3 QUESTIONS WITH ADAM MILGROM →**



# OUR COMMITTEES



### GEORGE KRITHIS

George is a financial adviser with over 35 years' experience in

the financial services industry. He is currently Principal at DFS Advisory Services, specialising in strategic advice for high-net-worth individuals, super funds and corporates.



### STEVE ROTHFIELD

Steve has worked as a hands-on volunteer on philanthropic

projects since his retirement from a long career in general management, management consultancy, IT and finance. Having worked with Indigenous leaders across more than 30 philanthropic projects, he is particularly interested in supporting community development to improve creative, sporting, economic and educational opportunities.



### CATH SMITH

Cath is founder and Principal of Changesmith Consulting, providing strategic

advice to organisations on how they can make a positive difference. She has over 30 years' experience in the not-for-profit space, including within the environment movement, the international development sector, and as CEO at the community sector peak body Victorian Council of Social Service. She is also a Trustee Director of industry super fund HESTA and President of the Collingwood College Council.



### EMMA WOOLLEY

Emma is a Partner at leading independent law firm Hall &

Wilcox, specialising in Wills, estates and succession planning. She has extensive experience in advising clients in estate planning and administration, trust establishment, trust estate disputes, and structuring for succession of ownership and control of private and family businesses. She is a member of the Law Institute of Victoria, the Inner Temple (Barristers' Inn of Court, London) and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

### FINANCE, RISK, AUDIT & IT COMMITTEE

- George Krithis (Chair)
- Sarah Hosking
- Steve Rothfield
- Steve Bradby (adviser)

### PHILANTHROPY & IMPACT COMMITTEE

- Cath Smith (Chair)
- Penny Burke
- Adam Milgrom
- Regina Hill (adviser)

### INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

- Michael Gilmore (Chair)
- Sue Dahn
- George Krithis
- Adam Milgrom
- Steve Rothfield
- Cath Smith

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- Sarah Hosking (Chair)
- Eric Beecher
- Penny Burke
- Emma Woolley

Thank you to outgoing Philanthropy & Impact Committee members Loretta Mannix-Fell and Peter van Duyn for their five years of service. We also thank Ryan Dummett for his eight years of service on the Finance, Risk, Audit & Investment Committee.



↑ Directors Michael Gilmore, Penny Burke, David Imber and Eric Beecher (L-R) at the Impact Fund 2019 Showcase.



# THANK YOU

## IN-KIND

Arnold Bloch Leibler  
 Bell Potter  
 Hall and Wilcox  
 Herbert Smith Freehills

## FUNDING PARTNERS

Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network  
 Australian Progress  
 Centre for Multicultural Youth  
 Documentary Australia Foundation  
 Ecstra  
 Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal  
 GiveOUT  
 Inner North Community Foundation  
 Paul Ramsay Foundation Regional Arts Victoria  
 Reichstein Foundation Streetsmart  
 The Funding Network

## PATRONS

Hayden Raysmith AM  
 Marion Webster OAM

## EXTERNAL ADVISERS (IMPACT FUND)

**Australian Environmental Kirsty Albion**, Centre for Australian Progress

**Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network**

**Matthew Deeble**, Social Ventures Australia

**Erin Dolan**, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

**John Harding**, Koondie Woonga-gat Toor-rong

**Wendy Hayhurst**, Community Housing Industry Association

**Regina Hill**, Effective Philanthropy

**Jane Hunt**, The Front Project

**Andrew Johnson**, Reichstein Foundation

**Peter Mares**, Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership

**Harriet McCallum**, Mannifera

**Roxanne Moore**, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service

**Millie Rooney**, Australia reMADE

**John Spierings**, formerly Reichstein Foundation

**Malinda Wink**, Mannifera

Australian Communities Foundation honours the inspiring legacies of the much-loved colleagues and friends we lost in 2019/20.



### VALE SUE BEECHER

Sue and her husband Eric (Chair, Australian Communities Foundation) established the Beecher Family Fund in 2012. A determined social justice campaigner, Sue pursued her passions for many causes, including First Nations justice, human rights, and asylum seeker and refugee issues. Sue's love of philanthropy was both inspiring and infectious and many people started their own giving journey as a result of meeting her.



### VALE CHRISTOPHER BAKER

Christopher made a significant contribution to research on giving in Australia, most recently as a Research Fellow at the Centre for Social Impact, Swinburne. Joining the Australian Communities Foundation in 2012, Christopher and his late wife, Kerri, opened the Equal Access Fund with a focus on improving literacy as a means of addressing systemic and intergenerational disadvantage.



### VALE LYNNE WANNAN

Lynne was a long term friend and supporter of community foundations. It was under her leadership as Director of the Office for the Community Sector that the sector received the matched granting incentive that seeded so many community foundations across Victoria. This single act – one of many in an amazing career – means that Victoria now has more community foundations than any other state in Australia. Lynne is survived by her husband and ACF Founder Hayden Raysmith.

Our Patrons, Marion Webster OAM and Hayden Raysmith AM, meet with members of our giving community.



**Australian Communities Foundation**

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