



**"GIVING IS THE
SECRET OF A
HEALTHY
LIFE"**

Rockefeller

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Newsletter

May 2012

Edition 3

Message from the Chairperson, Val Lawrence



Welcome to the 2012 issue of our Annual Newsletter.

The Geelong Community Foundation continues to prosper and I am pleased to share this update.

We have had some changes on our board with the retirement of Geoff Neilson, John Bannister and Tim Santalucia. We have welcomed new board members John Miles and Dan Simmonds to our board as well as Leigh Wallace who joined the Foundation on September 1, 2011 as our part time Development Manager. Details of these changes are covered on page 3.

The Foundation's support base continues to grow. Last November our funds received a significant boost from \$75,000 raised at the Adroit Golf Day. Also late last year we were chosen as Darryn Lyons' "charity of choice" when he appeared in the UK's Celebrity Big Brother television show. From this the Foundation received \$80,000 into a new Darryn Lyons Fund and this has been added to this year with \$20,000 from his appearance and achieving second placing in Channel 9's Excess Baggage program. The Foundation also welcomed new Named Funds and the ten formed so far this year are listed on page 4.

On May 4, we awarded our first bursary of \$500 to a student in Year 10 at Oberon High School.

These funds came from the Ron Thompson Scholarship Fund. This fund was formed as a memorial to Ron Thompson by his family and friends. Ron died in a tragic road accident and had been a long term member of the Oberon teaching staff. It was very fitting that Rosemary Thompson, along with Andrew Lawson, attended a morning tea at Oberon High School where at a meeting of staff and supporters, the bursary funds were presented to a very worthy student.

Invitations for applications to our 2012 Grant Round were invited by press advertising in February and applications closed on March 23. We received 63 applications for a total of \$1.25 million and this year, as last year, we plan to distribute around \$500,000. This means that the Grants committee has been working hard to evaluate the grant applications and satisfy as many as our funding allows.

I look forward to being able to thank many of our Foundation's donors at our next Grant Announcement Reception on June 20 and meet with the representatives of the various agencies who will receive grants from the Foundation for their very valuable community work. .

In the meantime I want to thank all our existing and new Named Fund Donors along with all our volunteer supporters and Foundation Partners who give so generously of their time and expertise to advance the work of the Foundation.

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Grant Round 2012

Grant applications closed in March and a total of 63 were received, with requests totalling \$1.25 million.

The Allocations Committee has worked through each of these applications and presented their recommendations to the Board for approval. Approximately \$500,000 will be available for grants. Recipients will be announced at our Annual Grants Reception on 20 June 2012.



Grant Recipient Spotlight

Back to School Program

Since 2005, the Foundation has supported the Geelong & District Back to School program to assist families in need at the start of the new school year.

The program supplies \$50 vouchers that are used to purchase back to school items from Target. It is an initiative of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and the Sidney Myer Fund.

In 2011, 800 vouchers came from this initiative, which was also supported with \$10,000 from Glover Family funds. The Foundation purchased a further 600 vouchers to expand this program to a total value of

\$70,000.

This year 1,698 individuals from 1,169 families benefited from the Target vouchers, which helped them begin the 2012 school year at 40 different schools across the region.

Here is some wonderful feedback received from the School Principals about the impact of the program:

"One of our Grade One students was able to attend school for the first time in full school uniform and with shoes that fit."

"It's pleasing to support VCE students doing it tough and often paying for their own books."

"One family has 9 children. They were extremely happy to receive some "brand new" items as hand me downs are certainly an acceptable way of life for them."

"Students at sporting events have been able to have sneakers (rather than bare feet or school shoes). Some have gone on to participate in local sports and clubs."

"Thank you so much. My son's old shoes were falling apart – the sole of one was hanging off and the toe of the other had worn through. He was struggling to take part in playground games. I had no idea about how I was going to buy a new pair. Two days later he was running around showing off his new shoes with a huge smile on his face."



PLAY@Whittington - A Partnership in Action

Glastonbury's PLAY@Whittington is a school and home based early intervention initiative for young and isolated parents with children aged 0-3 years. The group based approach enables age appropriate, social networking and support for parents, and access to other community based resources.

The project is underpinned by a three way partnership between Glastonbury, Geelong Community Foundation and the Whittington Primary School.

The Foundation and Glastonbury have each contributed \$50,000 over two years to sustain the program. This is part of a major funding commitment by Glastonbury Community Services to the PLAY program for vulnerable children and families across the Barwon South West Region.

Recent research conducted by Deakin University with current program participants showed that on average, the children's developmental delay for gross motor, fine motor and social

skills had halved and the developmental delay in cognitive and self-help skills had reduced by one third. In addition the research found that the program had a positive influence on parent and child relationships and social connectedness had improved.



...Susie's & Roman's story...

Susie moved to Australia with her husband and 2 year old son Roman from Indonesia in 2011. Her husband is working on a project at CSIRO. They have no family or friends in Australia.

Susie was referred to the Whittington (PLAY Program) playgroup by another Indonesian family working at CSIRO and has been attending each week. From their participation in the group Susie has established social links with other families in the local area,

participated in other free programs offered through Glastonbury such as Tiny Bubbles, Sing & Grow and National Playgroup Week celebrations.

Roman has commenced 3 year old kinder, attends Maternal Child Health service, Geelong Regional Library Storytime and the Barwon Health Dental service as a result of information provided at playgroup.

Being involved in the group has also supported both Susie and Roman with their English as a second language. Susie requests advice from the facilitators or other parents within the group regularly about services and programs for children, child development and health.

Both Susie and Roman have benefited greatly from the program with Susie expressing that the program has given her such great confidence for her new life in Australia.



Foundation News

Retiring Board Directors

Geoff Neilson has been involved with the Community Foundation since 1997 when he agreed to chair a steering group of 15 members to investigate the concept of a Community Foundation for Geelong. He had been asked to do this by Peter Morgan and Gail Rogers, Chairman and Chief Executive of United Way Geelong (now called Give Where You Live).

After a number of meetings, support from Hayden Raysmith, the then Chairman of the Melbourne Community Foundation and Mayor of Geelong, Ken Jarvis, a meeting was held at City Hall where around 30 people gave unanimous approval to launching the Geelong Community Foundation.

An initial Board of Directors was formed and the first Board Meeting was held on 15 December 1999. Geoff was elected Chairman, overseeing the launch of the Foundation in 2000.

Geoff continued as Chairman until 2005 and remained a very active board member and committee chairman until retiring in November 2011.

Day Neilson (now WHK) initially provided pro bono support and the company continues to be the Foundation's accountants.

As can be seen, Geoff has been instrumental in the formation and development of the Foundation. He was the catalyst for the late Ken Stott making the first very major gift of \$2 million which gave the Foundation a formidable start.

Geoff has been easing back from some of the many organisations he has continued to support since retiring from WHK some years ago. He will be greatly missed for his enthusiasm and wise counsel as a long serving board member and our founding Chairman.

John Bannister while with Price Higgins was the Foundation's first pro bono lawyer and he prepared all the documentation for the Trustee Company, Trust Deeds etc.

John joined the board in 2004 and retired with Geoff Neilson in November 2011. John has also moved to part time work as a lawyer at Harwood Andrews.

John has been a major supporter of the Foundation through his legal work and chaired the Grants Committee for a number of years.

He will stay involved with the Foundation in a volunteer capacity where he will work with the Grants committee. Some of this work will entail reviewing the results of various grants not only at the time the grants were first made but also the longer term outcomes from some of these projects for the people involved in the initial project or program.



Geoff Neilson



John Bannister



Dan Simmonds

New Board Directors

Dan Simmonds is the Managing Principal of Harwood Andrews Lawyers.

Dan is a committee member of the Deakin University School of Law Academic Advisory Board and a member of the University Vice Chancellor's Community Leaders Group. He is currently the Chairman of the Law Institute Victoria's Business Law Specialisation Committee, the Geelong Advertiser Geelong Business Excellence Awards and the Salvation Army Geelong

Region Area Advisory Committee.

Dan also holds positions on Kardinia Health Limited, the Committee for Geelong and the Geelong Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee.

John Miles recently retired from a distinguished career at Marcus Oldham College spanning 30 years. His roles included Company Secretary and Deputy Principal Business and Development for the College.

John studied accounting at the Gordon Institute and is a member of the Australian Society of Accountants and is a Certified Practising Accountant.

John was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship in 1997 and is on the Victorian Chapter Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Selection Committee. He is also a Trustee of the Geelong Advertiser Music Trust.



John Miles

New Staff Member

Leigh Wallace OAM joined the Geelong Community Foundation as Development Manager in September 2011.

Previously the Philanthropy Director of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation in

Melbourne, he holds the first Master of Social Science Degree (Philanthropy and Social Investment) from Swinburne University (2007) and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Leigh joins Executive Director Andrew Lawson at the Foundation.



Leigh Wallace

Welcome new named funds

Since the end of June 2011 we have had a number of new named funds established in the Geelong Community Foundation.

We thank the individuals, families and businesses listed for their generous support.

- M J & H J Fraser and J W Brownbill Family Fund
- Darryn Lyons Fund
- Medwin Family Fund
- Cohn Family Fund
- George Fund
- Denis and Denice Peacock Family Fund
- Whyte Just & Moore Fund
- APCO Fund
- Albert Renshaw Fund
- Lake Imaging Fund

The Foundation is proudly supported by

Adroit Insurance Group

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Goodway Print Group

Harwood Andrews Lawyers

Pace Secretarial

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Adroit Charity Golf Day

Proceeds to Geelong Community Foundation

Tuesday 20 November 2012

13th Beach Golf Links, Barwon Heads

A fantastic day of golf while supporting the Geelong Community Foundation!



Team Sponsorships Available

4 players per team

Event includes

18 Holes of Golf • Lunch & Drinks On Course • Team Photos
• Seafood Buffet Dinner • Raffles & Auctions

For more information contact Robyn Nisbet at Adroit on
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