

# FOUNDATION BROKEN HILL

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A newsletter for stakeholders

Issue 20

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## Donations deductible & flexible

For many years our repeated submissions to successive governments have asked for donations to Foundation Broken Hill to be tax deductible.

We claimed listing the Foundation as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) would allow small businesses and local individuals to contribute to a local organisation working for the local community.

But we didn't quite 'fit the bill' because many of our projects have benefitted small business and the local economy in addition to local charities and regional events.

However, our credibility and community job-growth value has now been recognised with a 'Specific Listing in the Tax Law'. All donations—no matter how small—are now tax deductible and a strong focus for us in 2021 will be to prove those initial claims to be correct.

We're now seeking to encourage those smaller donations and have developed a number of options to make it easier to do.

Donations can be one-off; monthly; quarterly; or annually and can be made through cash, cheque or direct transfer on -line. (BSB 032-816 A/c 232783).

At this stage, we only have the DGR for five years, but intend to use the local response in any future submission for an extension.

Especially for individuals and small businesses, our previous lack of DGR status has made us a difficult choice over other organisations for a contribution.

We're pleased to now be more attractive in what is a highly competitive market and can be flexible to suit your needs.

For more information please contact our Executive Officer Gayle Ball on 80879985 or mobile 0429 695 399. ■

### Diary Dates:

- 13 March St Pat's Races
- 15 March Board Meeting in Broken Hill
- 15 March Industry Strategic Planning Forum
- 19-21 March Perfect Light Film Festival
- 13 April Zoom Board Meeting
- 25 October AGM/ monthly meeting in Broken Hill

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## Student grants work for Broken Hill too



Michelle Pearce, former Skillshare Manager Pam Clarke, Ellis Quinn, Samantha Cecchin (Pic Emily Ferguson, Barrier Truth)

Broken Hill stands to be the long-term beneficiary from this year's Foundation Broken Hill-Skillshare Education Grants.

All three of the successful applicants to be supported in their university studies this year have indicated they would like to return to Broken Hill to work in their specific fields at the completion of their studies.

The three tertiary students, pictured at left with former Skillshare Manager Pam Clarke, were selected from five finalists in a field of 24 high quality applicants.

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Donations work for Broken Hill in perpetuity

## Uni student grants (cont)

*Continued from page 1*

Michelle Pearce is in her final year of a Bachelor of Nursing, which she is completing externally through the University of South Australia. The mother of four works casually but will be required to do five months of unpaid placement this year—with one of those requiring travel and accommodation in a metropolitan area. She has been awarded a grant to help meet some of the costs.

Ellis Quinn is entering her third year of a double degree: a Bachelor of Education (Primary) and Bachelor of Arts (History) on campus at Flinders University in Adelaide. Ellis works part time in Broken Hill during the university breaks and has been awarded one of this year's grants to help with the cost of on-campus accommodation.

Samantha Cecchin is about to begin a double degree: a Bachelor of Criminology and Bachelor of Psychological Science at Deakin University, while working part-time in Broken Hill. Samantha will use her grant to assist with her office set up costs.

The high standard of all applications made the process challenging for the selection panel who could not successfully select only one applicant to receive the grant.

Those eventually chosen were inspiring in their determination to achieve their academic goals and were appreciative of the support.

The Foundation Broken Hill-Skillshare Education Grant was established in 2013 using income generated from funds gifted to the Foundation when Skillshare closed in 2012.

The long-standing connection with the former Skillshare organisation continues to benefit the local community and we hope the grants will ease some of the financial burden that comes with tertiary education.

We love the fact these students are keen to use their future learnings and qualifications for the benefit of the city and surrounds. Broken Hill's future is in good hands.

To date, almost \$43,000 has been awarded through this program. ■

## Well done St Pat's Race Club!

The Foundation this year supported the St Pat's Race Club to ensure the 2021 event went ahead by providing a grant to help with promoting the event both locally and interstate.

In acknowledging the grant, Vice-President Andrew Schmidt said the club had been "on a roller coaster

ride of emotions and second-guessing" (due to the impacts and restrictions of Covid-19) before resolving to proceed with the event.

Planning and budgeting included an expectation numbers would be low.

However, the committee was delighted when some targeted

marketing across all media brought the bookings in and the recent lifting of some restrictions has everyone set for a fabulous weekend.

The St Pat's race meeting has long been Broken Hill's iconic event and the Foundation is pleased to have played even a small part in it's sustainability by helping to attract interstate visitors despite the tricky border regulations. ■



Foundation Deputy Chair Chris Dougherty (replete with St Pat's top hat) at the launch of the new office

## A word from Gayle...

Well it has been almost 12 months since I began working as Executive Officer to the Foundation Broken Hill Board—and what a kaleidoscope it has been!

The diversity of work is amazing. I have interacted with a wide range of people—from high level executives in all levels of government and various industries, to local first-time entrepreneurs seeking Foundation help to open a new business.

Then there's the programs such as school vouchers for disadvantaged students and grants for older students to assist with tertiary studies.

Working with local community organisations who need help in hosting or expanding local events and festivities is rewarding—as is when a funded project makes the final payment in an interest-free loan, which recycles funding for other proposed projects.

All the Board Directors have been welcoming and supportive and I continue to be impressed at the amount of work they contribute voluntarily in the midst of busy lives.

I share their passion for Broken Hill and the region. ■



Gayle Ball, Executive Officer  
Foundation Broken Hill

## News in Brief...

### Industry consultation

- ◆ The Foundation is continuing to consult with industry leaders and government executives about several potential major projects tagged for the local region.
- ◆ Through the power of Zoom, we've been able to explore the potential and identify some of the impediments that can be overcome.

### Loan repayments

- ◆ Excellent to see some really good repayments coming in on some of our interest-free loan projects. We had offered a 'breather' in last year's tricky trading environment and, while not everyone felt the need to take us up on it, those that did have recommenced their repayments and some have added in catch-up funds.
- ◆ Not only does this provide more funds for new project support, it tells us many businesses are in recovery mode, which is good news for everyone

### Project survey about to get underway

- ◆ We are about to survey all our former business projects to get an understanding of how effective our support has been.
- ◆ Going back through the project list over 20 years has taken some time, but the questionnaire won't—we're really just interested in whether the business is still operating and whether it has expanded or increased employment.
- ◆ Responses will remain confidential but provide us with good data for submissions. ■

## Meet the Team: Willow

Young local lass Willow Pascoe is the newest member of the Foundation Broken Hill team, having commenced with us earlier this year as an Administration Trainee.

Her role is subsidised through the Australian Government Apprenticeship Support Network. Willow was one of six high quality applicants interviewed for the position and impressed the interview panel, not only with her performance during the interview, but also with her enthusiasm for the job, the opportunity for formal training and for Broken Hill.

After completing her HSC at Broken Hill High School in 2018, Willow went on to work in various local roles—including as a Bar Attendant and Milk Bar Supervisor, and also brought experience in a couple of part-time retail sales positions and office support while still at school. Willow's energetic approach to life is now adding top value to the Foundation and great support for our very busy Gayle.



New Foundation Trainee Willow Pascoe

Willow is enjoying the role, surprised at the diversity of tasks and enjoying how much she is learning—both in our office and in her course with the Australian College of Commerce and Management.

"I've had great support from Gayle, John as Chair and all the Board Directors. It's a pleasure to come to work," she says.

Welcome Willow! ■

## \$26,000 in school vouchers

Foundation Broken Hill has been awarded \$20,000 in \$50 School Vouchers from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and a further \$6,000 worth through a Matched Stream after small contributions from the Foundation and Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation.

We are pleased to still receive such a large allocation in difficult times—especially since the FRRR had a bigger focus this year on supporting bushfire affected areas.

There will be a total of 520 vouchers to distribute to disadvantaged school students in Broken Hill and the region, most of which will need to be spent at Kmart when it reopens following a rebranding from Target (initially a partner in the program).

100 vouchers will be spent through a local small business stream (at Spicers Office Choice).

All vouchers must be spent on school supplies—either clothing, stationery or equipment.

This will be the 16<sup>th</sup> year the Foundation has participated in the FRRR school vouchers program, with the cumulative impact on the local economy now amounting to more than \$320,000.

Distribution this year will involve schools and service providers who forwarded the names of families in need (and Maari Ma of course) with the remainder through our office on presentation of health care/pension cards bearing students' names.

Still a big job ahead but always worth the effort. ■

# Promoting Broken Hill as a film and arts hub

Foundation Broken Hill has contributed to the Perfect Light Film Festival since inception and is now supporting the three-day 2021 festival weekend March 19—21.

Based on past successes, organisers (well-known Australian actor Steve Bastoni and producer Megan Pascoe) are expecting up to 1,500 people to participate in the festival including locals and regional or interstate visitors.

The opening session screens a feature length film and Q&A session with Directors/Producers followed by 15 short films the next day (some produced by local students and film buffs) competing for \$10,000 in prizemoney as judged by celebrity industry experts.

The festival includes visits to local schools and a workshop in filmmaking which allows local and national filmmakers to showcase their skills while engaging the local community in the arts.

The festival is a FREE event, supported by various sponsors because it provides genuine opportunities for networking and mentorship of up and coming filmmakers to expand the region's reputation in the film and arts world.

It specifically supports the local economy by using local contractors in set-up and pull-down, but the long term benefits are much broader than that.

Using past successes as a gauge,



## PERFECT LIGHT FILM FESTIVAL BROKEN HILL

the organisers expect participation to extend to national and international audiences, which augers well for Broken Hill's tourism industry.

The festival was initially scheduled for late 2020 but, in deference to Covid-19 restrictions, has now become part of our own "Mad March". ■

## Foundation Broken Hill: How it works...

Foundation Broken Hill facilitates employment opportunities and encourages social development in Broken Hill and the surrounding region. Its core function is to help Broken Hill create sustainable alternative businesses to replace mining industry jobs as the ore bodies are progressively exhausted.

The Foundation Board comprises a set of highly skilled people with diverse expertise, who give their time voluntarily for community benefit. We do this by:

- 1. Raising capital funds...** through fundraising campaigns which seek donations from current and former Broken Hill residents, local businesses, broader industry and governments,
- 2. Recognising contributions...** through a structured Friends of the Foundation pyramid at Platinum, Gold, Silver and Zinc levels, with opportunity for smaller once-only donations too,
- 3. Investing the capital...** to generate funds for approved projects, taking care to ensure our contributors' money is protected so that it works for Broken Hill in perpetuity,
- 4. Carefully assessing applications for funding support...** through a thorough process that includes documentation review, business planning assessments, face-to-face discussion and site visits where relevant,
- 5. Providing support...** in appropriate forms, which can include once-only small grants or larger interest-free loans repayable over a longer term with flexible sustainable payment plans and some 'breathing space' for new or emerging businesses, and
- 6. Monitoring and reviewing...** businesses who have received support to identify whether additional assistance is required, including mentoring.

Foundation Broken Hill has been operating in the local community for more than 20 years and is now sustainable in its own right. It needs support to grow the Capital Fund so it can increase more meaningful contributions to the community. ■

This newsletter is published by Foundation Broken Hill to inform stakeholders about activities of relevance to Broken Hill and the surrounding region. If you would like further information about articles included in the newsletter or ways in which you could support the Foundation, please contact our Executive Officer Gayle Ball on 08 80879985 or by email to [manager@foundationbh.org.au](mailto:manager@foundationbh.org.au). We would also welcome you to visit our offices at 164 Argent Street. The office is open Monday to Friday (by appointment only during social distancing) 9am to 3pm. Our website at [www.foundationbh.org.au](http://www.foundationbh.org.au) provides more information.