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A newsletter for stakeholders

Issue 17

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Congratulations John Lynch OAM

Foundation Broken Hill Director John Lynch was recently recognised in the 2020 Australia Day Awards with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

John's OAM principally was awarded in recognition of his 32 years service to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), beginning as an accountant at the Broken Hill base in 1986. Ultimately John spent nine years as Chief Financial Officer of RFDS Central Operations (serving SA & NT) and a further 18 years as Chief Executive Officer of RFDS Central Operations before his retirement in 2018.

John was integral to the launch of the Aero Medical Precinct for the State of South Australia at Adelaide Airport.

In April last year the RFDS recognised John's contribution by naming the world's



Foundation Director John Lynch OAM

first purpose built, aeromedical jet worth \$13 million the "JOHN FRANCIS LYNCH". The name is often visible in media coverage of the amazing RFDS.

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Outback Astronomy national finalist

One of Foundation Broken Hill's favourite tourism support projects has just been recognised as one of Australia's best tourism attractions.



A group of students at an earlier star gazing event. Photo copyright Outback Astronomy

Outback Astronomy has been announced as a Finalist in the 2019 Australian Tourism Awards to be presented in Canberra in March 2020.

The successful business has been attracting national and international visitors to Broken Hill since its inception in 2012 and has won more than ten awards over the years at local, regional and State level, including the 2019 NSW State Gold Award.

The Foundation's support has been in the form of interest-free loans (repaid promptly—and early) which has allowed the business to use its working capital for development and expansion.

Congratulations Outback Astronomy. Broken Hill is proud of you. ■

Diary Dates:

- 14 March St Pat's Races
- 16 March Board Meeting in Broken Hill
- 9-12 April Broken Hill Heritage Festival
- 14 April Teleconference Meeting
- 12 May Teleconference Meeting
- 12 October Annual General Meeting in Broken Hill

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Please remember the Foundation in your Will

Congratulations John (cont.)

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Throughout his career, John has maintained a high sense of community and, among other organisations, has been a strong supporter of Foundation Broken Hill. He first joined the Board in January 2002 when the organisation was in its formative years, was a much-valued contributor for almost eight years and returned in 2018 on retiring from the RFDS.

Born in Broken Hill and with over 30 years working in the not-for-profit sector, John currently lives in Adelaide with his wife Anita and travels back to Broken Hill frequently to attend Foundation Board meetings, West Football club events and many other social gatherings. Often he's the MC and never fails to delight an audience.

In retirement, as well as spending his time on Foundation Broken Hill activities, John is also a Director on

the Board of SA Local Health Network for Flinders and Upper North, and Chairman of the Country Fire Service Foundation Board.

John is well-remembered in Broken Hill for his sporting achievements—especially in football, cricket and basketball—and his support for organisations such as the St Pat's Committee and St Vincent de Paul.

However, John maintains commitment to career, sport or voluntary roles is not possible without support from family. He credits his wife Anita (also well-known in Broken Hill) for all he has been able to achieve.

John is the grandson of Paddy O'Neill (the uncrowned king of Broken Hill and the founding father of the Barrier Industrial Council), and is the son of Mick and Eileen Lynch who are Gold Friends of the Foundation through the generosity of their family. ■

A word from the Chair...

It may seem a little late to wish everyone a 'Happy New Year' but this is my first opportunity (in our first newsletter for 2020) and all at the Foundation want it to be a great year for you. We appreciate your ongoing interest and support.

Our most recent in-kind support has been committed by the Imperial Fine Accommodation venue. Hosts Craig and Cath were seeking a way to support the Foundation because they thought our work has a positive impact on Broken Hill and they wanted to help. Their offer of discounted rental when Directors come to Broken Hill for meetings is very much appreciated. We run a very tight administration budget— independent of the Capital Fund— so support such as this is very important to us.

Detail about how we operate is always included on the back page of this newsletter, but articles in this edition also show how we work with other organisations to support Broken Hill's future through diversity.

The tourism, film and art industries are all important employers—both directly and indirectly—and we will continue to provide support in these areas. Any contribution you can make, large or small, will be much appreciated. ■



**Vince Gauci, Chair
Foundation Broken Hill**

Tax deductibility is coming !

The April 2019 announcement that Foundation Broken Hill had been specifically listed in the Federal Government's mid-year budget for DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status has had us all excited—Board Directors and potential donors.

Unfortunately there has been some delay in sorting the finer detail, but we are assured new contributors will be able to claim tax deductions made before 30 June 2020.

After twenty years of lobbying every government, through every local member and every relevant department, the news of our tax deductibility listing was exhilarating and we are finding it difficult to now be patient. However, we are asking potential donors to be patient too.

The Foundation has been in regular contact with appropriate people and will continue this approach for as



Our leased site at 242 Blende Street

long as it takes. We know there have been other pressing issues—a Federal Election, bushfires, floods, Coronavirus— but the taxation department is happy with our response to their requirements and Treasury has assured us the Government has approved our listing, with the legislation to be introduced to the Parliament 'as soon as practicable' so it shouldn't be too long now. ■

News in Brief...

#25in25 active

- ◆ The #25in25 subcommittee is currently (among other activities) developing a campaign to encourage local people to shop in Broken Hill businesses
- ◆ Work is underway to encourage local businesses to participate.

St Pat's shade

- ◆ The Foundation will again sponsor a free, shaded seated area for residents and visitors at this year's Race Meeting.
- ◆ It's our third year of support for St Pat's.

BH Heritage Festival

- ◆ Foundation Broken Hill will be a key supporter in this year's Heritage Festival.
- ◆ The Festival will run over the Easter weekend from 9 to 12 April and has the enticing title of 'Secrets and Scandals'. We look forward to it.

Bequest Fund

- ◆ Just a reminder about the Foundation Broken Hill Bequest Fund. This fund was developed to allow people who were not in a position to make a donation, but wanted to support the work of the Foundation, to leave an instruction in their Will.
- ◆ If you would like to know more about this fund, it can be provided confidentially, but knowing your intentions can assist our future planning.
- ◆ For more information about the Bequest Fund, please call us on 08 8087 9985 or email us at manager@foundationbh.org.au ■

Record applicants for grants

A record 26 applicants vied for this year's Foundation Broken Hill-Skillshare Education Grant, with the standard so high the \$5000 award was split in two.

A grant of \$4000 will enable 18-year-old Willyama High School student Shanae McMaster (formerly from Ivanhoe) to undertake a Bachelor of Social Work on-line, using her Austudy Allowance and part-time work to fund completion of the course. She intends to remain living in Broken Hill while she works on the degree and, on completion, hopes to work locally in her chosen field, with side work in the region's small townships when needed.



LtoR: Former Skillshare Manager Pam Clarke, Shanae McMaster, Stewart Williams and FBH EO Prue Sulcich

Shanae will use part of the grant to upgrade her old laptop to make the task feasible.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Stewart Williams (formerly from Menindee) has been awarded a \$1000 grant to help with the cost of textbooks to begin his Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) in Adelaide this year.

Stewart was Dux of Broken Hill High School in 2019 so his commitment to his studies is obvious. His tertiary study will lead directly into a field which has established career opportunities in clinical, domestic and hospital settings. Stewart is very keen to return to Broken Hill for any employment opportunities in

local pharmacies and at the local hospital.

The grant program was established in 2013 using income from funds gifted to the Foundation when Skillshare closed in 2012. To date, almost \$38,000 has been awarded through the program. ■

\$\$ attracted into Broken Hill

The Foundation's support for local start-up or expanding businesses can often be most useful to Broken Hill if it helps to attract money into the city.

A 2017 interest-free loan to Anthony Vella Spray Painting is a good example of success in this.

The initial loan helped Anthony in start-up phase by providing funding for a quality spray booth and free access to some relevant business development workshops.

Since then, Anthony has been kept busy enough to employ an apprentice—with commissions from Victoria (several from Mildura), New South Wales (Sydney) and Western Australia.

This Ford GT XY Phase III (below) is now complete and enfolded in bubble wrap ready to go back to its owner in Western Australia.



A Western Australian commission almost ready for its long interstate journey

The loan is very near the end of its repayment plan and we've had some great progress reports from Kim and Anthony along the way. ■

Further support for Regional Events Centre

Visitors to this year's St Pat's Races will notice a change in the Gary Radford Pavilion. The Foundation has funded about one-third of the cost of upgrading the flooring to polished concrete, with an interest-free loan that will be repaid within two years.

The Foundation was instrumental in the construction of the pavilion with a similar loan back in 2008/2009 (long since repaid) and has taken some pride in watching the Broken Hill Regional Events Centre Reserve move from strength to strength in the ensuing years.

The gazetted use of the Reserve to Public Recreation, Tourism Services and Facilities is attracting more than



BH Regional Events Centre Reserve

75,000 people each year, more than 4,000 vehicles have used 'primitive' campsites and the pavilion has accommodated more than 30 groups with an affordable 'different' style of accommodation attracting sporting and cultural groups to a sleeping bag dormitory.

Local contractor Yourway Coatings won the tender for the pavilion's flooring upgrade.



An example of Yourway's work

Yourway Coatings was also a Foundation project, with an establishment interest-free loan back in 2017 (now in its final stage of repayment). ■

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 on 08 80879985 or by email to manager@foundationbh.org.au. We would also welcome you to visit our offices at 242 Blende Street Broken Hill. The office is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm. Our website at www.foundationbh.org.au provides comprehensive information.