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A newsletter for stakeholders

Issue 18

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Vale Gary Radford OAM

Very few people in Broken Hill—and those who now live ‘away’ from the city—would have been untouched by the death of Gary Radford OAM on 25 April 2020. Certainly almost every not-for-profit organisation in the region would have stood and remembered a time when Gary had gone out of his way to help them (often without even being asked).

Gary’s support for Broken Hill—and his generosity—is firmly written into local history. Generations to come will learn of his legacy. His support for local community leaders and contributions to charities, sporting groups, infrastructure, educational institutions and tourism businesses was pervasive to the point of being almost unanimous.



Foundation Gold Friend Gary Radford

For Foundation Broken Hill, Gary will forever be recognised as a *Gold Friend of the Foundation*. In fact, Gary and Kaye were one of our first *Gold Friends*, contributing \$25,000 to our Capital Fund in 2009— third after John and Barbara Ralph and Foundation Chair Vince and Leonie Gauci. Gary and Kaye’s contribution will be acknowledged in perpetuity. Never a better Broken Hillite. Rest in peace Gary. ■

Kim’s back...as a Board Director !

The Foundation Board is delighted former Foundation Manager Kimberley Fell has accepted a Director’s role with us.



New Foundation Director Kimberley Fell

Kimberley served the Foundation well in management for more than ten years before resigning in 2018 to devote more time to her family and business interests.

Our years working with Kim have shown her tremendous work ethic and great passion for the Broken Hill community. Her strengths and values will be very welcome as we push ahead through a challenging 2020.

Kimberley was a significant contributor to the Foundation’s development over the years and she has an intimate understanding of the board’s needs and the work we do, along with our policies and processes.

She is a perfect fit for us and her appointment will no doubt be of great benefit to Broken Hill. ■

Diary Dates:

- Most local events have been moved to 2021 given the restrictions around the Covid-19 virus
- Foundation meetings are currently being held weekly via the ZOOM app.
- At this stage our Annual General Meeting remains scheduled to be held in Broken Hill on 12 October 2020

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Donations work for Broken Hill in perpetuity

Our response to COVID-19

Open for business—but differently

The Foundation is continuing to operate, but from a non-public location. Our Blende St office will open by appointment only, with contact through 08 8087 9985, mobile 0429 695 399 or email manager@foundationbh.org.au

The Board has been meeting weekly via the ZOOM online application to keep abreast of local challenges and opportunities. Our Finance sub-committee has also been meeting weekly to monitor investments and confirm our strategy moving forward.

Client loan repayments

A first step was to contact our project clients to identify what impact the virus and associated contact restrictions was having on their business and then to offer a sabbatical in loan repayments to those currently funded to establish or expand in order to create new local employment opportunities.

Three unfortunately had to temporarily close as a result of Covid-19 and took the option to defer repaying their loans for at least three months, one needed to defer for longer because it couldn't start the project funded and another paid up its loan because it could no longer commit to doing the work planned. Another six felt they could continue for now, but all appreciated our flexibility.

Practical local support

At the end of March the Barrier Daily Truth (BDT) announced it would no longer be able to publish a local newspaper and attributed this to a dramatic fall in advertising due to restrictions under the Covid-19 response guidelines.

The Foundation committed funds from our Project Account to join others in supporting the BDT with advertising so it could at least reinstate a weekly publication.

Our 'double-dip' is to pay for local businesses to have free ads in the paper, particularly to promote changes resulting from restrictions.



The free ads have been gratefully accepted by 15 businesses to date, with more waiting for the next issue.



External funding bid

The Foundation continues, as always, to seek external funding for Broken Hill but is now focussed on accessing funds to come from the national response to economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

A word from the Chair...

Despite the 'busyness' of the last few months, it has been my great pleasure to take time to chat with Andrew Schmidt on ABC Radio and Mike Herd on 2BH Broken Hill about the Foundation.

We are always conscious of our need to increase awareness in the regional community about our objectives and the work we do to achieve our goals. Both Andrew and Mike were interested in the beginnings of the Foundation and our achievements over 20 years to help Broken Hill diversify the local economy to prepare for a life after mining.

These conversations have been held weekly and resulted in very positive feedback. Now it's time to pass the baton.

One of the unique aspects of the Foundation is the high calibre of its Directors, each with skills and expertise in various aspects of our community contribution, so now it's time for John Lynch to step up with his highly entertaining style, followed by Chris Dougherty and then Simon Molesworth.

The Foundation's segments are broadcast Friday mornings on 2BH and Saturday mornings on ABC. Tune in when you can, or contact the Foundation directly for any further information you might like.



Vince Gauci, Chair
Foundation Broken Hill

News in Brief...

New business supporter

- ◆ One of Broken Hill's oldest businesses is about to become one of the Foundation's newest supporters, with Fred J Potter & Son taking on the update and revamp of our website.
- ◆ Potter's Managing Director Chris McInnes (an IT specialist) will do the initial work for us at no charge and leave the site user-friendly for Foundation staff and those exploring the pages.
- ◆ Thanks Fred J Potter, Chris and Kimberley.

Jubilee Oval support

- ◆ The Foundation is one of a group of sponsors, supporters and volunteers to provide a lifeline to the Jubilee Oval, in need of support following Covid-19 restrictions.
- ◆ Football usually provides 95% of the complex's income stream. Without that, the oval was facing a bleak future.
- ◆ The Foundation's \$10,000 grant will help maintain the oval in good condition, ready to respond when football is restored.

Could you receive this on email?

- ◆ Our newsletter is now being distributed to almost 300 people, with more than 130 of those a printed and posted version, significant for our admin costs.
- ◆ Is this you? Could we email you instead? Please let us know if you can help. Call us on 08 8087 9985 or 0429 695 399 or email manager@foundationbh.org.au
Thank you. ■

Meet our new EO Gayle Ball

The Foundation's new Executive Officer Gayle Ball took up her position with us in February and has met the challenges of her new role head-on.

Gayle has a strong background in local media—moving to the Foundation after six years as a journalist with local ABC Radio, two years as a freelance media advisor and ten years some time ago with the Barrier Daily Truth.

Gayle replaces former Executive Officer Prue Sulicich (who followed

Kimberly Fell in 2018) and Gayle says she has appreciated Prue's support in mastering the Foundation's financial systems.

Despite the currently challenging world with which we are all dealing, Gayle is enjoying working with the Foundation and looking forward to a productive year.

"I'm surprised at the diversity of tasks and so many opportunities to work cooperatively with other local organisations," Gayle says.

She's found the Board of Directors welcoming and helpful and is looking forward to increasing interaction with local businesses when social distancing guidelines are further relaxed.

Meanwhile Gayle says contact via telephone (80879985 or 0429 695 399) and email at manager@foundationbh.org.au appears to be working well, with the office open by appointment only for now. ■



Gayle (centre-back) with Directors (LtoR) John Lynch, Lindy Molesworth, Travis Nadge, Deputy Chair Chris Dougherty and Simon Molesworth

Alliance focuses on Covid-19

The Broken Hill Alliance initiated by the Foundation last year (to ensure collaboration among local leadership groups) has recently expanded and developed a specific focus on supporting businesses impacted by Covid-19.

With an estimated local job loss of 539 and associated revenue loss of more than \$400,000, the Alliance has been meeting weekly to identify opportunities to turn this around in the recovery period.

Initial Alliance members included the Foundation (with Foundation Director Karren Howe as Chair); City Council; RDA Far West; #25in25; and representatives from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The group has expanded to include BEC Business Advice; Broken Hill Landcare; and ABC Radio

Recent steps have included a survey of local businesses to identify specific impacts and support needs (135 participants) and working collaboratively to develop a one-stop-shop to access relevant, concise and accurate information about supports available from all levels of government and other organisations.

This is a comprehensive, but very user-friendly, webpage available on RDA's *Far West Proud* site at lovethefarwest.com.au/covid-19/.

This site clarifies business rights and/or obligations. ■

The iconic Bells Milk Bar is on the move !

There's no need for alarm—Australia's oldest remaining milk bar is staying right where it is at 160 Patton Street South Broken Hill.

However, current proprietor Jason King is about to embark on a business development plan to ensure the traditional milkshakes and unique fizzy spiders are available to tourist and residents right across the city.

Jason has acquired a 1960s Morris ice cream van that, with some quite dramatic restoration, will take Bells' iconic drinks to the masses on the north side of the city and add to the gala of local events patronised by tourists. He hopes to have the vehicle ready for action by summer.

Foundation Broken Hill is delighted to be able to assist Jason in this goal, by providing an interest-free loan to offset establishment costs.

Jason's previous ventures have set Bells up as an intact 1950s Milk Bar and created a milk bar museum to delight visitors. There are still some hurdles to overcome for the mobile side of the business, but the Board feels confident Jason's drive and enthusiasm will make it happen.

As per our usual project loans, Jason will have some breathing space before he commences loan



Bells Milk Bar in Patton Street marking its heritage

repayments and some flexibility as the project progresses. This allows recycled funds to support other businesses (or perhaps another expansion application from Jason down the track). ■

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 (by appointment only during social distancing) 9am to 3pm. Our website at www.foundationbh.org.au provides comprehensive information.