



June 2008 Newsletter

Dear Friend of the Mumbulla Foundation

Welcome to this update on the activities of the Foundation. We've included a summary of the 2007 grants, highlighting two of the projects funded. The Foundation also supports the community through scholarships for Wollongong University students and funding high school students to participate in Outward Bound courses.

And, as it's June, we've thoughtfully enclosed a Membership/Donation form, should you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation before the end of the financial year.

Kind regards

Geoff Brookes
President

2007 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Twenty grants totalling \$50,713 were given to local groups in February this year. Recipients included *Art in the Garage* (to provide improved facilities for artists with disabilities), *Bega Chamber Orchestra* (to buy a French horn), *Friends of the Libraries* (three 'Audio Navigators' for use by the blind), *Rocky Hall Pre-school* (IT training and support), *Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Merimbula* (training equipment) and *Little Yuin Aboriginal Pre-school* (for learning materials and consumables).

Bega Valley Disability Parent Support Group also received a grant. The group holds workshops, shares information and resources and offers support for parents whose children have a disability.

The grant has been used in two different ways. Parents meet monthly and, over lunch, discuss many aspects of living with a child who has a disability. These lunches provide a vital social outlet for the parents and allow for the exchange of ideas and suggestions on dealing with some of the problems that these special children present. The cost of these lunches has been subsidised by some of the grant money.

The rest of the grant was spent on resources to be added to the Group's library. The parents held a meeting where they were asked to select books and DVDs on aspects such as nutrition, autism and behaviour at school. These practical guides will be well used by Group members.

Cobargo Scout Group received a grant for an imaginative community project.

Those who attended the remembrance services in Cobargo this year were able to rest their weary legs thanks to the Cobargo Scout Group and the Mumbulla Foundation.



The Scouts used their grant to make seats that were placed in the grounds of the Cobargo War Memorial hall. They also worked on beautification of the gardens.

The idea for the seats was floated by one of the Scout patrol leaders, and taken up enthusiastically by the whole troop. Building of the seats began as soon as the group was notified of their success in receiving the grant. The seats, tested on Anzac Day, will remain in place for general use throughout the year.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, Mumbulla funded two \$800 scholarships for students attending the Bega campus of Wollongong University. The awards went to Angie Butler and Courtney Innes. Courtney hopes to become a primary school teacher, while Angie's interests lie in the environment. Both Angie and Courtney wrote to express their thanks to the Foundation. Here is Courtney's letter:

Dear Mumbulla Foundation,

I would like to sincerely thank you for awarding me with the Mumbulla Foundation Scholarship for 2008. I will be using the funds to purchase my reference books. Organisations such as yours in providing scholarships to students are a huge benefit in our society. It was a pleasure to meet with Geoff Brookes at the award ceremony and I would like to thank him very much for taking the time out of a busy schedule to present me with this award. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,

Courtney Innes

MUMBULLA FOUNDATION HELPS STUDENTS GO OUTWARD BOUND

Imagine being left alone in the bush for twenty-four hours, with minimal rations, a small tarpaulin and nothing else. This was the situation Caroline Buckley from Lumen Christi College, Jazzmin Campbell from Eden Marine High and Kieran Hay of Bega High found themselves in last January.



Kieran Hay treks above the Snowy River

The three girls completed an Outward Bound course and being left to fend for themselves was an integral part of their experience. This was all the result of taking up the challenge offered by the Mumbulla Foundation to the youth of the Bega Valley Shire.

The Mumbulla Foundation offered the three students the opportunity to explore all the thrills and experiences that an Outward Bound course has to offer. The Foundation substantially funded the costs incurred by the girls.

Twelve days of rafting down the Snowy River, abseiling and rock climbing, bush walking and camping were all in the itinerary. Their group comprised fourteen different and diverse personalities and the initial days were spent learning to accept others and to recognise the worth in everyone. Very early into the course the group not only ran short of water but one member fell ill. This resulted in a great team building experience. The whole group had to pull together, not only to get medical help for the sick girl, but to negotiate the rough terrain between their location and the nearest source of water. Their resources were tested to the limit when they reached the targeted creek only to find that it was dry. A thorough search of all backpacks revealed enough liquid to sustain them until rain fell that night, although none of the party recommends the juice from canned beans.

Towards the end of their time, the group leaders left all the decision making to the participants. They were given maps and co-ordinates of mandatory checkpoints, and were asked to plot their route towards civilization. With all the skills learnt during the previous days, the group was able to meet this challenge.

One of their last tests was the scaling of a giant rope ladder. The higher the ladder went, the further the rungs were apart. Not only was team work demanded but also a great deal of ingenuity was necessary.

On reflection, the girls were extremely proud of themselves for having endured and survived the tests they faced. All three said that they have emerged more confident and have a greater self reliance. They were all surprised by the things they achieved and are sure that they would not have attempted half of these challenges were it not for Outward Bound and the support of the Mumbulla Foundation. As one of the girls said, she looks the same on the outside, but on the inside is very much changed.