



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



***Connecting people who care,  
with local causes that matter,  
to enhance community wellbeing.***



# **2019** **ANNUAL** **REPORT**



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Donate Today [nrcf.org.au/giving](https://nrcf.org.au/giving)

# ABOUT NRCF

**Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) connects people and communities to tackle social and environmental challenges in the Northern Rivers.**

NRCF has the largest footprint of any community foundation in Australia; from Tweed to Grafton, from the coast to Casino and Kyogle, and as far west as Woodenbong, we have around 300,000 people in our region and encompass seven local government areas.

We are a community-based independent foundation where donations are pooled and invested in ethical impact funds. Income from these funds supports our grant programs. This means we can provide a permanent source of funds to the community year after year. As you continue to donate, our investment fund grows, and so does the grant funding.

We also encourage donations for specific grant programs and capacity building initiatives that aim to have an impact now.

Our grants touch on issues such as people's right to health, employment, higher education, happiness and creative expression, and the challenges of living in a regional community.

**Broadly we operate across five areas:**

- **Youth**
- **Disability**
- **Health & Wellbeing**
- **Environment & Conservation**
- **Aged Services**

We encourage local individuals, families, businesses and foundations to make donations to help meet the needs of our community now, and in the future.

NRCF invites you to become involved. Please visit our website or contact our office for more information.

# NRCF TEAM 2019

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Callanan (Chair)  
Lynda Dean (Deputy Chair)  
Lisa Daw (Secretary)  
Ninian Gemmell (Treasurer)  
Luke Barker  
Mike Chaseling  
Rea Francis  
Johan Kortenhorst  
Nathan Luke  
David McGrath  
Rita McIlwraith

*Resigning Directors in 2019*

Maggie Brown  
Mike Chaseling

## STAFF

Emily Berry (Executive Officer)  
Juanita Keen (Finance & Administration)

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Cara Austen  
Seb Berry  
Adam Gibson  
Dione Green  
Jane Hanckel  
Allison Henry  
Marc Sofer  
Felicity Stening

*Resigning Associates in 2019*

Zenith Virago

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Julia Rochelli (Fundraising & Events)  
Damian Scodellaro (Fundraising & Events)  
Tricia Shantz (Grants)

## VOLUNTEERS

Jane Fuller (Fundraiser Event Manager)  
Susanna Carpi (Fundraiser Silent Auction Coordinator)

# FROM THE CHAIR

**Absolutely remarkable are the words I use to describe the phenomenal growth in impact that the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) is having in our region.**

Community foundations around the globe are established by the people for the people, and in our case, this is the broad and diverse Northern Rivers region of NSW. We have the largest footprint of any community foundation in Australia, and our success is a reflection of the hard work and commitment of everyone involved.

Many of you reading this know that I have been on the board since 2005, so I can confidently state that what began as an idea, has been nurtured and supported by many caring people, and has grown into a very strong Foundation with the aim of supporting long-term wellbeing in our community.

When we established the Foundation 16 years ago, our bank account was barren so I'm proud to report that we now have a perpetual community fund of just under \$2 million (and growing each day), which will continue to provide support to the Northern Rivers community for generations to come.

Each year the Foundation distributes its income via a number of small grants and once again we have exceeded all previous years with a total distribution of \$233,487 to our many worthy recipient groups throughout the Northern Rivers. A remarkable outcome that brings the total amount given in grants since 2005 to just under \$1.7 million.

Furthermore, at our annual fundraiser held at the Brunswick Picture House last September we raised \$151,000 from the audience, which I think is powerful testament to the high regard that the community has for the NRCF.

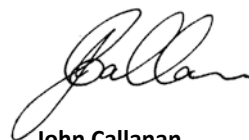
*Once again we have exceeded all previous years with a total distribution of \$233,487 to many worthy recipient groups throughout the Northern Rivers. A remarkable outcome that brings the total amount given in grants since 2005 to just under \$1.7 million.*

Before writing this report I looked back on last year's annual report and the goals and aims we set ourselves at board level and I am extremely proud of our achievement, not just the financial growth, but also the positive impacts upon the many areas that we targeted, the growth in our philanthropic advocacy and our geographical reach to all our borders south, east and west.

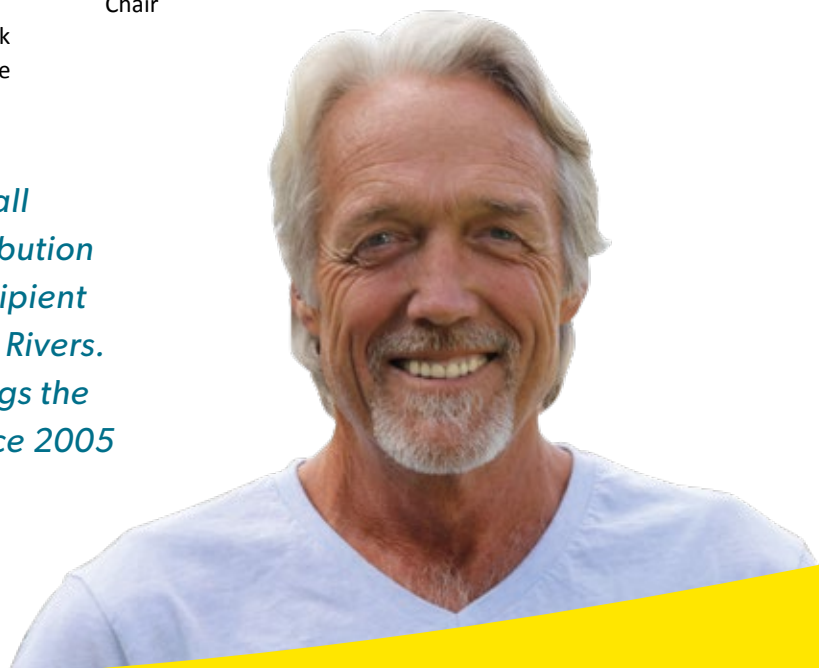
My ongoing goal for the Foundation is to continue to increase the number and value of our annual grants, as well as the total value of the NRCF fund. And I would especially like to share the Foundation's aspirations and goals with as many of you as possible and 'help you help others' in as many ways as possible.

Personally, I am regularly inspired by the people connected to the NRCF - from our very grateful grant recipients who give so much in helping others, our volunteers who share their time and expertise and our generous members and supporters who contribute in countless different ways.

To all of you, I honour your commitment, generosity and willingness to give. Without you the NRCF would not have achieved the success we have had over the years. I feel we are privileged to live in the Northern Rivers, and I believe it is our role to ensure everyone is afforded the opportunity to benefit from living in such a special geographical location amidst a unique and caring community.



**John Callanan**  
Chair

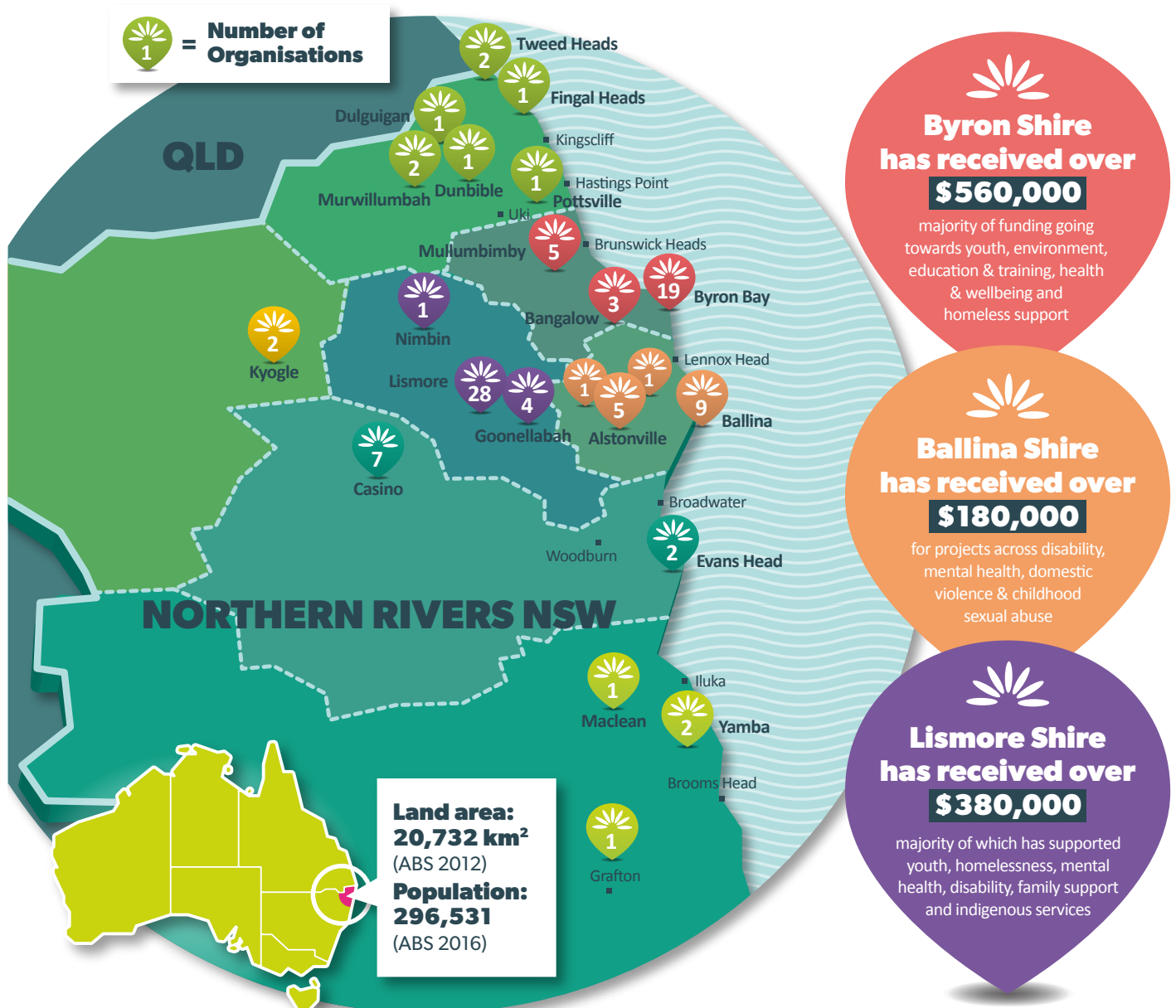


# OUR REACH

## NRCF GRANT RECIPIENTS

**SINCE 2005 NRCF HAS GRANTED **\$1,637,914** ACROSS 7 SHIRES OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS 274 PROJECTS ACROSS 99 ORGANISATIONS**

To: disability services, multicultural integration, community wellbeing, arts & culture, family support, youth programs, transport, homeless support, domestic violence & sexual abuse, aged services, health, indigenous services, education & training, wildlife conservation & the environment.



## 2005 – 2019 Organisations and Groups Supported by NRCF

Adult Community Education-Mullumbimby  
Alstonville Plateau Historical Society  
Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)  
Ballina District Community Services Ass.  
Bangalow Koalas  
BAYFM Community Radio  
Biala Special School  
Biala Support Services Inc  
Big Scrub Orchestra  
Blind Citizens Australia  
Brunswick Valley Historical Society  
Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation  
Byron Bay Youth House  
Byron Community Centre  
Byron Emergency Accommodation Project  
Byron Harmony Group  
Byron Underage Drinking & Drug Initiative (BUDDI)  
Byron Youth Service  
Byron Youth Theatre  
Casino Neighbourhood Centre

Casino Vision Impaired Local Client Support Group  
Centacare Ballina  
Centre Against Child Sexual Assault  
Community Connections  
Disability & Aged Information Service Inc. (DAISI)  
Fingal Head P&C  
Future Dreamers Girls Club  
Goonellabah Childrens Choir  
GROW NSW  
Gunawirra  
HART Services  
Headspace Lismore  
Heartfelt House  
House with No Steps  
Jumbunna Community Pre School  
Katia Project/Byron Bay Herb Nursery  
Kyogle Family Support Service  
Kyogle Together  
Lend-a-Hand Ministries - Casino Food Bank

Liberation Larder  
Lifeline Northern Rivers  
Lismore & District Womens Health Centre  
Lismore Interchange Respite  
Lismore Soup Kitchen  
Lismore Suicide Prevention Steering Committee  
Lord Taverners Northern NSW  
Lower Clarence Community Radio  
Mental Health Accommodation & Rehabilitation Service  
Mental Health Support Group  
Mid Richmond Education Fund  
Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre  
Mullumbimby Gateway Association  
Multicultural Meeting Place & Transport Scheme  
Munwillumbah Community Centre  
Munwillumbah Community Men's Shed  
Natural Death Centre  
Northern Rivers Community Gateway  
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre

Northern Rivers Conservatorium  
Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers  
Northern Rivers Writers Centre  
Now Remembered Australians  
On-Track Community Programs (OTCP)  
Pathways Foundation  
Pottsville & District Men's Shed  
Realising Every Dream (RED Inc)  
Richmond Tweed Regional Library  
Riding for the Disabled-Ballina & Tweed Heads  
Screenworks  
SCU-Bowen Scholarship Program  
Shaping Outcomes Byron  
Shaping Outcomes Tweed  
Spaghetti Circus  
Spinal Cord Injuries Australia  
Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre  
Story Dogs  
St Vincent de Paul  
STEER Project

The Buttery  
The Deaf Society  
The Family Centre  
The Fatherhood Project  
The Humour Foundation (Clown Doctors)  
The Men & Family Centre  
The Resilient Youth Project  
The SHIFT Project  
The UNCLE Project  
Tweed Palliative Support  
UnitingCare Casino Transport Team  
Windara Communities  
Wires  
Women Up North Housing  
Yaegl Local Aboriginal Land Council  
Youth Connections  
Youth Voice Nimbin  
YWCA NSW

# OUR PROGRAMS

- **Capacity Building**
- **SCU Bowen Education Fund Scholarship**
- **Back to School Program**
- **Chairperson's Grant**
- **Community Grants**

## Capacity Building Grants Program

Through the Capacity Building program, the NRCF is focused on funding organisations that have clearly identified a need in the sector and can show a measured and planned approach to addressing this need over the long term. In 2019, the NRCF continued to support The Buttery's Family Counselling Program through the Capacity Building Grant.

The Buttery is a long-established charity based in Binna Burra. It helps teenagers and adults across the NSW Northern Rivers who have substance misuse, gambling and mental health issues. Demand for their services is great. Through various programs, people are supported at every stage of their recovery from treatment to aftercare and relapse prevention. In 2018-2019, The Buttery's dedicated team were able to support 2,441 people, double the number helped in the previous year.

The Family Counselling Program is a much-needed free service for local family members and loved ones of people dealing with addiction. It is a key program for The Buttery because it not only helps family members who are often in great distress over a loved-one's substance abuse, but also because it can encourage a person with substance abuse issues into treatment and support their recovery and non-relapse.

The NRCF Grant of \$71,250 enabled the Family Counselling Program to continue increasing its reach in order to strengthen the resilience of family members and effectively meet the needs of the community. More than 450 clients accessed one or more counselling sessions in 2019.

*The Buttery at Binna Burra*





Scholarship award giving ceremony at SCU; Jessica Cootes and her children



## SCU Bowen Education Fund Scholarship

The SCU Bowen Education Fund\* was established in 2009 by NRCF donors Peter and Julie Bowen and Southern Cross University. Income from this investment fund supports the Rising Stars Scholarship Program at SCU, which provides financial assistance to disadvantaged students. Applicants are asked to demonstrate a commitment to the region through their contribution to their school and broader community. In 2019, NRCF awarded two scholarships of \$2,500 each to Sharni Smith and Jessica Cootes.

### Sharni Smith has used the scholarship to pursue a Bachelor of Business degree.

*"The SCU Bowen Scholarship has assisted me in countless ways with my university education and I believe I would not have been able to perform to the best of my abilities without this scholarship. The scholarship has allowed me to purchase my university textbooks, buy a much needed laptop as well as travelling to university as I live over an hour away." - Sharni Smith*

### The Scholarship has enabled Jessica Cootes to follow her aspirations of completing a Bachelor of Nursing.

*"It is an honour to have been chosen as a NRCF Bowen Education Fund Scholarship recipient in 2019. I am a Bachelor of Nursing student at Southern Cross University. I am also a mother to four children aged 7, 5, 3 and 1. Making the decision to study with children is not an easy one and it comes with many challenges, including financial pressures such as the loss of income while studying and the cost of childcare. Being selected as a NRCF scholarship recipient has relieved some of that financial pressure and has allowed me more time to dedicate to my studies."*  
- Jessica Cootes

*\*The SCU Bowen Education Fund is part of NRCF's Named Funds program.*

*A Named Fund may be established in your own name, or your company's name, or, perhaps, in the name of a loved one or associate. These funds make a statement; they say something about values held, about influences felt, about relationships recognised. For more information about setting up your own Named Fund, please visit our website, or email [info@nrcf.org.au](mailto:info@nrcf.org.au).*

## Back to School Program

NRCF believes that education is a fundamental right and that a quality education should be accessible, irrespective of your personal circumstances, or where you live. However, many families in rural, regional and remote Australia struggle to provide the basics their children need at the start of the new school year.

The Back to School Program is targeted at rural and remote students who are in need of financial support as they return to the school year. In the Northern Rivers, the Program specifically supports 'Grandcarers' - grandparents who are primary carers of school aged children, by offering redeemable vouchers valued at \$50.00 for items such as books, stationery, school bags, shoes and clothing.

### BTS Program in 2019

In partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), NRCF continued our support of the Back to School Program (BTS) in 2019. Since the first BTS Program in the Northern Rivers began in 2006, NRCF and FRRR have distributed \$446,850 worth of redeemable vouchers to disadvantaged children in the region.

In 2019, 112 of the 188 schools across the Northern Rivers region were identified as needing assistance. DAISI (Disability and Aged Information Service Inc),

helped us administer the program and distribute Back to School vouchers to 760 students, supporting a total of 557 Grandcarers. In order to preserve the anonymity of the Grandcarers and their grandchild recipients, we relied on a partnership with the local schools to effectively and fairly allocate these vouchers.

This program helps to provide a basic need for students and their carers, while also acknowledging the important role of grandparents in supporting educational opportunities for their grandchild.

### Some words from the Grandcarers:

*I am very grateful for the vouchers which allow me to provide all that the children need by way of school supplies and uniform, fees. Thank you most sincerely.*

*The vouchers have been very valuable in keeping the boys in uniform for school and having the required basic equipment.*

*\$50.00 Target card, nice surprise as he had just come home with a broken backpack. So now I can replace it straight away.*

*Thank you very much a nice surprise the only help we have had. Will go towards school bag and shoes.*





*Amanda Dumesny with Victor Wooten, of Béla Fleck and the Flecktones; Little Kids Rock - Modern Band Summit*

## Chairperson's Grant

The Chairperson's Grant is a special Grant awarded to a project outside of the Community Grants round.

This year, Director of The Big Scrub Orchestra, Amanda Dumesny was awarded a NRCF Chairperson's Grant of \$6,000 to attend the Modern Band Summit in Colorado hosted by USA organisation Little Kids Rock. The Big Scrub Orchestra is a non-profit that provides music and environmental learning programs to young people in the Northern Rivers that they otherwise wouldn't be able to access.

"Our programs give young people more self-confidence, as well as leadership and collaboration skills, and increases their connection and engagement with peers, school and the community," said Amanda.

At the Summit, Amanda learnt new methods for teaching modern music genres, including rock, pop, blues, hip-hop and RnB for young people.

"The Modern Band Summit in the US was inspiring and mind-blowing... Little Kids Rock founder and CEO David Wish is an absolute fireball of energy and inspiration and they're achieving amazing results in the US," said Amanda.

"The Little Kids Rock programs are proving so successful that many school districts are implementing their modern band program as their curriculum model. Many of the music teachers and executive staff I spoke with said it was the best professional development they've ever been to."

## Community Grants Program

The Community Grants Program supports social, environmental and cultural projects across the Northern Rivers region of NSW, with a particular focus on support programs that address social

inequality and disadvantage as well as environmental conservation and preservation. It is our way of ensuring donors' funds fuel innovative and sustainable projects that have the greatest impact.

In 2019, Community Grants were distributed to 20 inspiring projects, totaling \$113,537. Grants ranged in value from \$2,211 to \$10,000 each.

# 2019 COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENTS

**BANGALOW KOALAS INC**, auspiced by Friends of the Koala  
**\$4,340** – Bangalow Koalas Community Wildlife Corridor  
Enhance, protect and conserve habitat for threatened species and ecological communities including vulnerable Koala and critically endangered Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia. The project connects koala habitat and rainforest remnants in a wildlife corridor.

**BUNJUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**  
**\$2,211** – Bunjum Changing Ways

New flooring for the Transition House for women fleeing violence. The Transition House provides short term access to a safe place to help women begin the journey to a life without violence.

**BYRON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**\$4,791** – Byron Bay Wet Weather Shelter Project

A refuge for displaced rough sleepers in Byron Bay in the event of an extreme weather event up to 18 nights per year. The provision of material needs of beds and bedding ensures safe, dry sleeping at their two gender-based venues.

**BYRON YOUTH SERVICE**

**\$5,990** – Tunnel Vision

A pilot, Young Men's First-Offenders Program targeting teen anti-social behaviour in Byron Shire's north. Byron Youth Service (BYS) partners with Byron Shire Police to reach out to young offenders and address youth crime. Police refer first-offenders to BYS for individual mentoring and ongoing early intervention.

**BYRON YOUTH THEATRE** auspiced by Byron Youth Service

**\$5,000** – Under Your Thumb

An original youth theatre production and workshop exploring the issues of abuse: physical and psychological.

**CASINO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

**\$3,680** – Oaks Centre art studio & workshop refurbishment

The community art studio/workshop is a milestone in a multifaceted, large community centre refurbishment project designed to create a resource for one of the most disadvantaged communities in the region. The project also provides training and work experience for young people as they contribute to the refurbishment of the community centre.

**GUNAWIRRA**

**\$6,814** – Supporting Coraki and Jarjum pre-school staff to address trauma in Aboriginal children - two-day seminar for the Coraki pre-school teachers identifying trauma in the classroom, treating trauma in the classroom and identifying vicarious trauma in themselves as teachers.

**HEARTFELT HOUSE**

**\$10,000** – Taking the First Steps – Group 42

Provides a group therapy program for female adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Designed to provide a pathway to recovery, Taking the First Steps supports and empowers the participant to realise their full potential as an individual, partner, parent and member of the community.

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP**

**\$8,000** – Emergency relief to support children of parents with a mental illness – by providing toys, school books, clothing and basic household essentials.

**MID RICHMOND NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

**\$7,746** – Food Safety training for 'Food Recovery' volunteers and Food Pantry basics. – Volunteers receive Safe Food handling training and on-site work experience in supporting the rescue and redistribution of food donations throughout the greater Northern Rivers region. Additional support is given to the kitchens to purchase basic food pantry staples.

**MULLUMBIMBY GATEWAY ASSOCIATION**

auspiced by Brunswick Historical Society

**\$5,518** Refurbishment of The Gateway Rotunda

– at the new information hub of the Mullumbimby Gateway. Arakwal artists led by Delta Kay decorate the posts of the Rotunda and new interpretive boards display early history of Mullumbimby and the cultural legends of our First Nation people.

**NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS**

**\$8,351** – A replacement flying fox aviary – for the release of hand raised orphaned flying fox pups and rehabilitated flying foxes, including grey headed flying foxes listed as vulnerable under state and federal legislation.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED – BALLINA**

**\$1,782** – New saddles for horse and rider

Two replacement saddles for two new horses that have just joined the RDA Ballina family. The saddles support trainers and disability riders and provide a pain-free experience for the horses.

**SHAPING OUTCOMES TWEED**

**\$4,413** – Parent Project

7-week course focusing on improving the wellbeing and knowledge of parents and carers supporting a child with disability or delay. Facilitated by a Key Worker Specialist and Counsellor, emphasis is placed on creating personal connections with other parents in a safe and nurturing environment.

**THE BUTTERY**

**\$5,650** Therapeutic Mixed Martial Arts for Indigenous Youth

at risk – specifically for 14-19 years olds with substance misuse and behavioural issues, the program uses Gestalt psychotherapy, the martial art Aikido, and goal setting techniques to give young people the opportunity for personal growth by engendering positive values and encouraging engagement with a group.

**THE HUMOUR FOUNDATION**

**\$6,732** – The Clown Doctors at Lismore Base Hospital

Addresses the psychosocial needs of hospitalised children in a unique way – by making them laugh in an environment that's normally associated with anxiety, sadness and pain.

**THE SHIFT PROJECT BYRON**

**\$3,637** – Shifting Gears: implement a client management platform to collect client data and measure client, program and community outcomes over time. This allows The SHIFT Project to grow and effectively support women experiencing homelessness.

**SPRUNG! INTEGRATED DANCE THEATRE**

**\$5,000** – Professional Development Program for Sprung!!

tutors and support workers – to increase disability support expertise in line with new national standards, and to develop a unique methodology for teaching clowning to persons with intellectual disability.

**TWEED PALLIATIVE SUPPORT AND WEDGETAIL RETREAT COMMUNITY HOSPICE**

**\$3,882** – Medical Equipment

Tweed Palliative Support Inc is the only provider of free medical equipment on loan to the community of the Tweed and surrounding areas. The funding provides for a king single hospital bed with specialty mattress to accommodate clients that require a larger bed and pressure care.

**WOMEN UP NORTH HOUSING**

**\$10,000** - LOVE BITES

A violence prevention program for young people in Years 9-11 designed to educate them about domestic violence & sexual assault, delivered in seven schools across the Northern Rivers: Nimbin, Woodenbong, Kyogle, Casino, Lismore, Kadina and Richmond River.

# OUR STORIES

## GUNAWIRRA

**IMPACT:** Health & Wellbeing; Youth; Education & Training

**TARGET:** Indigenous Youth/Educators

**NRCF GRANT:** \$6,814 – Supporting Coraki and Jarjum pre-school staff to address trauma in Aboriginal children

Many Aboriginal pre-school children in the Richmond Valley region experience severe disadvantage, sometimes living with neglect, abuse and trauma. This impacts on their physical and emotional wellbeing, interfering with the children's capacity to learn, to imagine and be curious.

Early childhood educators at Coraki and Jarjum pre-schools can experience high levels of distress and burn-out from trying to manage the severity of distress and trauma suffered by children in their care.

Gunawirra is an organisation focused on improving the life of Aboriginal families, their infants and children. With the support of NRCF, Gunawirra delivered two, two-day workshops for Coraki and Jarjum pre-school teachers, led by Gunawirra Art Therapists Julia Sideris and Catherine Keyzer. The workshops helped educators to identify and work with trauma in the classroom, and to identify relayed trauma in themselves as teachers. This was reinforced through fortnightly debriefs with staff, allowing room to discuss the impact of the challenges they face in the classroom, their own personal experiences and coping mechanisms.

Julia and Catherine shared their experience facilitating a workshop on 'Country' for Jarjum staff.

"We met Maurita (Director of Jarjum preschool) on the morning of the workshop and followed her to our meeting place which was on Country. We were in awe of the beauty of the land and moved by the preparations Jarjum staff and the National Park caretakers had made to welcome the teachers and us to Country. We decided in that moment that we couldn't bring the formal Trauma workshop we had prepared; it didn't feel right somehow to go ahead with it on this land - this place was too precious. We offered the teachers instead, an experience of working with clay, just as we work with the children in the playground when we visit the preschools."

"The teachers quietened as they worked with the clay, with some gentle yarning around their experiences of using the clay. A place was created to give voice to, and to think about each of the teacher's experiences. Teachers shared personal stories as well as sharing stories of the challenges they face working with the little Jarjums. Stories about the children were shared and time given to thinking about them together and approaches that could be taken. All the while, teachers kept working and playing with the clay – turning, pressing, shaping, making, building."

It was a very special and nurturing experience and more fitting than a formal workshop might have been, both for the teachers and other staff who participated and for the place on Country.

Participants in both Coraki and Jarjum workshops valued the practical strategies provided to help them take care of both themselves and the children in their care, and the validation of their important role in the classroom.

*These images capture the clay items made by teachers at the Jarjum workshop, which were placed on 'Country' and left there with permission of the local Aboriginal community. The clay items symbolise children that the educators work with and the challenges faced.*





*Volunteers sorting food donations ready for community members in Kyogle; Example of a food parcel made up in Nimbin; Pottsville volunteers in their community kitchen.*

## **MID RICHMOND NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

**IMPACT: Employment & Training**

**TARGET: Broader regional community**

**NRCF GRANT: \$7,746 – Food Safety training for 'Food Recovery' volunteers and pantry basics**

In order to improve food security for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities throughout the Northern Rivers, the Food Recovery program rescues edible food from local supermarkets, cafes and restaurants. Instead of ending up in landfill, rescued food is transformed into healthy, nutritious meals and food parcels, which are distributed to community members.

Food Recovery has been operating since July 2017 and to date, 106,701kg of food has been successfully rescued and redistributed throughout the greater Northern Rivers region. The Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre (MRNC) is the lead agency of this program on behalf of the Consortium of Neighbourhood Centres – Far North Coast (CONC).

To increase MRNC's capacity to rescue and redistribute food, funding from the NRCF provided 55 safe food handling training opportunities for community volunteers engaged in the Food Recovery program across the Northern Rivers. NRCF has also supported the kitchens through purchase of basic pantry staples and food preparation containers, and funding 26 police clearances of new volunteers to enable their participation in the program.

One new regional kitchen benefiting from the program was Pottsville. The Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre has now commenced weekly food preparation sessions, producing over 780 frozen meals since September 2019 through the Food Recovery project, as well as a sit-down meal to 62 guests at Christmas, which is set to become an annual event.

Community development and participation is at the core of the Food Recovery program, not only providing food parcels and community meals to those in need, but valuable social interaction. The qualifications and on-site work experience gained by community volunteers are also transferable to the hospitality and retail sector, supporting future employment opportunities.

Through giving a hand up, not hand out, the program actively engages vulnerable target groups in the delivery of this food security program so they can be part of the solution.

"It is truly a wonderful program – Food Recovery is helping so many people in a variety of ways: helping those experiencing food insecurity; helping with workplace training; and helping with social inclusion and community participation, with many new friendships that have been developed throughout the region," said Michelle Burns, CONC Regional Emergency Relief Coordinator.

"Everyone is working together in reducing food waste here in the Northern Rivers. We are so grateful to our funding bodies for supporting us on our journey towards a more sustainable future."

# THE HUMOUR FOUNDATION

**IMPACT:** Health & Wellbeing  
Mental Health

**TARGET:** Children & Youth

**NRCF GRANT:** \$6,732 – The Clown Doctors at Lismore Base Hospital

For a sick child in hospital, the experience can be very confronting. Surrounded by unfamiliar people, smells and medical equipment, subject to endless tests, prodding and painful treatment, all while missing family, friends and the comfort of home.

Sometimes, they just need a friend to play, laugh and smile with – or the magical healing powers of a Clown Doctor! Clown Doctors are highly trained, professional performers who spread ‘doses’ of fun and laughter throughout the hospital, working to uplift sick kids.

The Humour Foundation believes in the therapeutic benefits of humour in improving the health and wellbeing of vulnerable Australians and has been providing this service free at Lismore Base

Hospital since 2004. They have developed a strong relationship with the hospital, where the program is highly respected and recognised for its role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of patients, families and staff.

“Over that time the Clown Doctors have created literally thousands of smiles for injured and sick children across the paediatric wards, clinics, emergency, even the hallways and waiting rooms at Lismore Base Hospital,” said Katrina Richardson from the Humour Foundation. “It would not have been possible without the generous support of philanthropic organisations such as the NRCF.”

NRCF has been supporting this program for a number of years through our Community Grants Program. In 2019, our contribution to the program provided 6 ‘Clown Rounds’ at Lismore Base Hospital, delivered by two professional Clown Doctor performers. These Rounds delivered over 700 invaluable interactions through a high-quality, tailored humour therapy and arts program that actively engages and supports the health and wellbeing of sick children, family members, carers, volunteers and hospital staff in the Lismore community.

*Dr Sniggles and Dr Fluff at Lismore Base Hospital. The NRCF Community Grant contributed to the cost of the Clown Doctor service, which The Humour Foundation provides free at the Hospital.*





Byron Bay Youth Centre

## BYRON YOUTH SERVICE

**IMPACT:** Youth Crime Prevention

**TARGET:** Children & Youth

**NRCF GRANT:** \$5,990 – Tunnel Vision

Byron Youth Service (BYS) has been the primary provider of youth services in the Byron Shire since 1987. BYS has a wonderful shared history with NRCF, who have provided over \$40,000 in funding for community youth projects since 2006.

In 2019, an NRCF Community Grant supported the launch of 'Tunnel Vision', a pilot Young Men's First-Offenders Program targeting teen anti-social behaviour in Byron Shire's north. BYS partnered with Byron Shire Police and local High Schools to deliver the program, reaching out to young men to reverse youth crime through individual mentoring and ongoing early intervention.

The objective of the Tunnel Vision program has been to give young men an opportunity to change. Experienced male youth workers have mentored young participants, helping them to explore ways to stay out of trouble. These youth workers have also consulted with young men to find out what activities would attract disengaged youth.

Twenty-three boys were referred to the program and fifteen of those young men are engaged in ongoing support. Five boys who were at risk of expulsion from school were re-engaged in education through intensive case management. An additional ten boys who had been involved in anti-social behaviour participated in a very effective 12 week in-school boys group, offering breakfast, fitness coaching, health and nutrition advice and 'circle work' where boys were guided by youth workers to check in on a range of topics impacting adolescent life.

The program has supported young men in having real conversations about school, life and where they see themselves in the future.

Some feedback from participants:

*A great way to start the week*

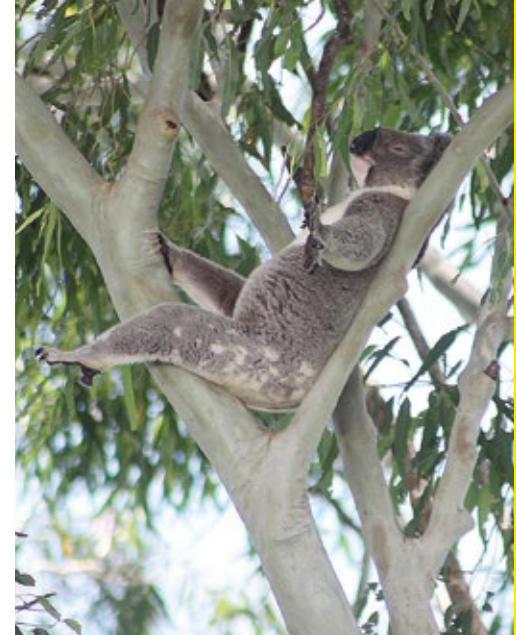
*Great to have a good breakfast*

*The group gets you up and going in the morning*

*It splits up the day and makes school more manageable*

*The group is settling and calms you down, and makes the week go better*

*It's fun and I get to be competitive*



*Bangalow Planting day at Binna Burra; A koala relaxing in Bangalow.*

## BANGALOW KOALAS

**IMPACT:** Environment & Conservation

**TARGET:** Broader Regional

**NRCF GRANT:** \$4,340 Bangalow Koalas Community Wildlife Corridor

Our koala population continues to lose their habitat, with fragmentation of habitat caused by development and land clearing. In order to support the sustainability of this vulnerable species in our region, Bangalow Koalas are connecting koala habitat and rainforest remnants through the planting of a wildlife corridor.

Through linking a number of properties across the Byron and Lismore Shires, the corridor provides koalas with a safe passage across open paddocks and ensure they avoid the threat of residential and developed areas.

In 2019, the NRCF funded planting of a new section of habitat and rainforest trees on a Binna Burra property which has a connection to existing koala trees and the presence of koalas. These properties will allow for 'stepping stones' for koalas moving westward to Nashua.

While the main beneficiaries of this project are our local koala and wildlife populations, the planting day held in February 2019 was also an important, hands on opportunity to engage the community. The project educated adults and children in how to nurture and grow trees that will in turn support and protect one of Australia's most iconic animals.

You can watch a video of the tree planting day on NRCF's website. [nrcf.org.au/bangalow-koalas](https://nrcf.org.au/bangalow-koalas)

## Don't forget our video series!

Watch more short videos on our grant recipients' projects on the NRCF website

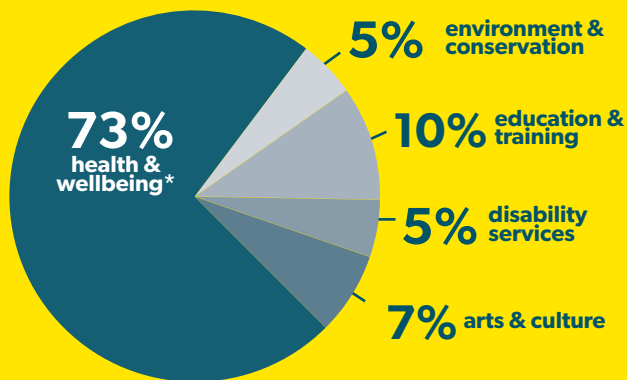
- **RDA Ballina & District** purchases two new saddles supporting trainers and disability riders, and providing a pain free experience for the horses. [nrcf.org.au/rda-ballina-district](https://nrcf.org.au/rda-ballina-district)
- **Sprung! Integrated Dance Theatre** enhance their Professional Development Program for Sprung! Tutors and disability support workers. [nrcf.org.au/sprung](https://nrcf.org.au/sprung)
- **Byron Community Centre** provide a refuge for displaced rough sleepers in Byron Bay. [nrcf.org.au/byron-community-centre](https://nrcf.org.au/byron-community-centre)
- **Mullumbimby Gateway** are giving their new information hub a facelift! [nrcf.org.au/mullumbimby-gateway](https://nrcf.org.au/mullumbimby-gateway)

# 2019 IN REVIEW

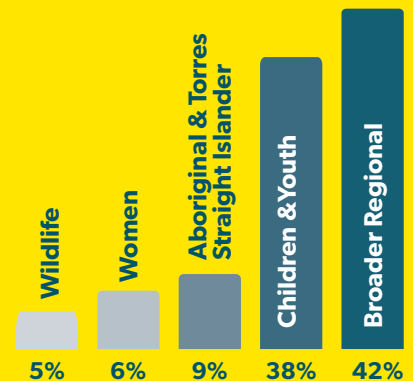
# \$233,487

TOTAL GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

## Areas of Impact



## Primary Target Groups



## Project or Capital?



## Total Value of Corpus

# \$1,958,008

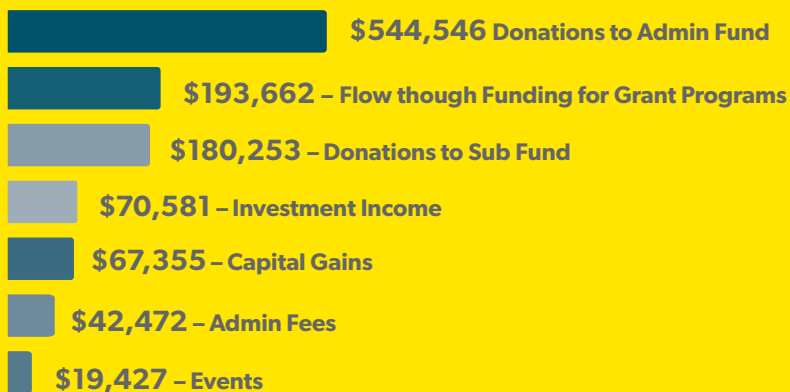
GIFT FUND 71% ADMIN FUND 29%

## Operational Efficiency

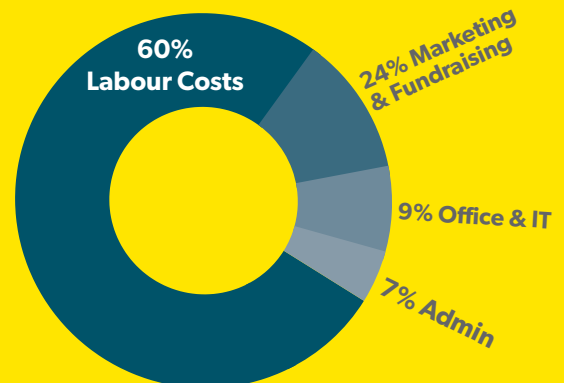
Admin expenditure as % of Corpus

# 7.9%

## Revenue



## Expenditure



## Milestones Reached



\*Health & Wellbeing includes the areas of mental health, substance abuse & addiction, family support, palliative care, homeless support, childhood sexual abuse, youth crime & violence prevention

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2019

### Northern Rivers Community Foundation - Abridged Financial Statement

	2019	2018
EQUITY FUNDS	\$	\$
Settlement Sum	60	60
Accumulated Funds	1,957,948	1,168,825
	<b>1,958,008</b>	<b>1,168,885</b>
Represented by		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,011,681.00	240,174
Receivables	244,036.00	11,848
Investments	990,609	973,511
	<b>2,246,326</b>	<b>1,225,533</b>
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Right of Use Assets	4,384	0
Total Non Current Assets	4,384	0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,250,710</b>	<b>1,225,533</b>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other Payables	278,853	52,602
Provisions	9,453	4,046
Lease Liability	4,396	0
Total Current Liabilities	292,702	56,648
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Long Term Provisions	0	0
Lease Liability	0	0
Total Non Current Liabilities	0	0
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>292,702</b>	<b>56,648</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,958,008</b>	<b>1,168,885</b>

### Northern Rivers Community Foundation - Abridged Financial Statement

<b>REVENUE</b>	\$	\$
Donations & Gifts Received	<b>1,093,224</b>	<b>309,241</b>
Investment Income	105,499	66,796
Other Income	104,499	57,145
Fair value gain on available-for-sale financial assets	122	11,939
Fair value gain (loss) on revaluations of available-for-sale financial assets	0	-65,123
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,303,344</b>	<b>379,998</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration, Fees and Costs	280,735	139,971
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>1,022,610</b>	<b>240,027</b>
<b>Grants and Disbursements</b>	<b>233,487</b>	<b>211,950</b>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	789,123	28,077
Accumulated funds at beginning of the year	<b>1,168,885</b>	<b>1,140,808</b>
Less distribution of Capital for Administration		
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>1,958,008</b>	<b>1,168,885</b>

# REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

## on the Abridged Financial Statements for Northern Rivers Community Foundation

### Opinion

The abridged financial statements, which comprise the abridged statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019 and the abridged income statement for the 18 months then ended, are derived from the audited financial report of Northern Rivers Community Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2019. In our opinion, the accompanying abridged financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with (or a fair summary of) the audited financial report, in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Taxation Administration Act 1953 - Public Ancillary Fund Guidelines 2011.

### Abridged Financial Statements

The abridged financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Taxation Administration Act 1953 - Public Ancillary Fund Guidelines 2011. Reading the abridged financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The abridged financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

### The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 3 March 2020.

### Management's Responsibility for the Abridged Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Taxation Administration Act 1953 - Public Ancillary Fund Guidelines 2011.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the abridged financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with (or are a fair summary of) the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

### MF Partners Chartered Accountants



Mark Charter – Registered Company Auditor

Address: Level 1 95 Tamar Street Ballina NSW 2478

Dated at Ballina this 3 March 2020

# A NEW NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE HOSPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

The Sub Fund was established by NRCF on 18th April 2019 to support the development of a new Wildlife Hospital for the Northern Rivers region. The following is a report from NRWH on activities in 2019.

## **Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital Ltd**

The Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital Ltd (NRWH) was established as a public company limited by guarantee on 21 January 2019. At the date of this report, the directors of NRWH are:

Ninian Gemmell (Accountant)

Tony Gilding (Businessman)

Susan Higginson (Solicitor)

Jane Watson

## **Activities completed during the year have included**

- Registration with Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) on 21 January 2019;
- Funding received from International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) for the business plan and necessary insurances;
- Establishment of the NRWH Infrastructure sub-fund with NRCF on 18 April 2019;
- The second public information evening and the first 'fundraising' event for the NRWH was held on 1 May 2019 at Seven Mile Brewery in Ballina attracting around 120 people and raising ~ \$60,000 to establish the NRWH Infrastructure sub-fund;
- Charitable status registration with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) backdated to 1 Feb 2019;
- Finalisation of the NRWH business plan;
- Additional set-up funding received from NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment;
- Finalisation and signing of a \$100,000 funding deed from NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the first milestone payment having been received;
- Building of a membership base to over 50, allowing for the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) application to be made through the Register of Environmental Organisations (REO).
- Establishment of a Public Fund management committee;
- Creation of a separate bank account for Public Fund purposes

## **Activities in progress as at 31 December 2019**

- Website development;
- Confirmation date for first AGM and discussion of Constitutional amendments;
- Result of DGR application with REO;
- Finalisation of a preferred permanent hospital site;
- Event planning for 2020

### Permanent Wildlife Hospital site

Many options have been considered, though NRW has concentrated investigations into crown land sites. Investigations have progressed to the extent that NRW will be able to announce a site in the coming months. NRW wishes to acknowledge the willing support from representatives from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), and the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

There has been a tremendous amount of goodwill generated over the last three months in particular.

The bushfires in NSW in the latter part of 2019, galvanised a great deal of support so much so that NSW DPC is pushing the NRW cause with the Federal Department of Environment under Minister Sussan Ley. Those discussions are continuing and are promising.

### NRWH Infrastructure Sub-Fund

Established in April 2019, the Infrastructure sub-fund allows donors to NRW to receive a tax deduction for donations made. At the time NRW receives its own DGR status, donors will have a choice. Some points to note:

- NRCF is a public ancillary fund. The NRCF Board ultimately decides what happens to donations made to NRCF and to the NRW Infrastructure sub-fund.
- Under the terms of the MOU establishing the NRW Infrastructure sub-fund, should the NRW project not proceed as envisaged, then the NRCF Board may resolve to transfer funds accumulated within the NRW Infrastructure sub-fund to the Animal Welfare and Wildlife Conservation sub-fund.

### Other Developments:

NRWH is aware of another proposal to build a wildlife hospital in the Byron region . NRW supports in principle any project that will likely result in a better outcome for wildlife in the region.

NRWH believes that its business model as a public company limited by guarantee, accountable to its members, a registered charity, and on the Register of Environmental Organisations as a tax-deductable gift recipient is the best way to achieve a lasting community-based wildlife facility in the region. All discussions with the NSW government have confirmed this view.

Ninian Gemmell

NRWH Chairperson

Declaration: Ninian Gemmell is also a director and Treasurer of NRCF.

*Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital information night; Ninian Gemmell, director and treasurer NRCF.*



# SUB FUND REGISTER

## THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2019

### BALANCE SHEET at 30.12.19

SUBFUNDS	2019	2018
<b>Gift Fund, comprising:</b>		
General Giving Sub Fund	\$544,871	\$498,862
Christopher & Lynda Dean Fund	\$207,232	\$197,079
Tony Narracott Memorial Youth Fund	\$121,683	\$111,045
Environment Fund	\$151,391	\$134,766
SCU-Bowen Education Fund	\$72,017	\$66,203
Byron Shire Fund	\$21,269	\$20,227
Lismore Shire Fund	\$13,766	\$13,092
Ballina Shire Fund	\$48,682	\$45,822
Animal Welfare & Wildlife Conservation Fund	\$54,056	\$49,805
Tweed Shire Fund	\$35,532	\$1,902
Pike Morrison Family Fund	\$10,298	\$9,438
McGrath Northern Rivers Fund	\$21,115	\$7,000
Sustainable Food & Agriculture Fund	\$11,854	\$-
NR Wildlife Hospital Infrastructure Fund	\$66,215	\$-
Gavin Greenoak Fund	\$11,098	\$-
	<b>\$1,391,080</b>	<b>\$1,155,241</b>
<b>Administration Fund</b>	<b>\$566,928</b>	<b>\$115,672</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,958,008</b>	<b>\$1,270,913</b>

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE at 30.12.19

GIFT FUND	2019
<b>Income</b>	
Donations received	\$180,253
Flow through funding	\$193,622
Income from investments	\$70,568
	<b>\$444,443</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Administration fees	\$42,472
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$401,970</b>
Grants paid and provided	-\$233,487
Net increase decrease in the value of Investments	\$67,356
<b>Surplus / Deficit for the Year</b>	<b>\$235,839</b>
Balance Gift Fund at the beginning of the year	\$1,155,241
<b>Balance Gift Fund at the end of the year</b>	<b>\$1,391,080</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION FUND</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Administration fees	\$42,472
Donations received	\$544,547
Event and other income	\$19,427
	<b>\$606,446</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Operational expenses	\$155,190
<b>Surplus / Deficit for the Year</b>	<b>\$451,256</b>
Balance Administration Fund at the beginning of the year	\$115,672
<b>Balance Administration Fund at the end of the year</b>	<b>\$566,928</b>

# THANK YOU

NRCF would like to acknowledge the support of all our donors, partners and volunteers who have generously contributed to NRCF throughout the year.

**THANK YOU. We couldn't do it without you.**



Stone & Wood



Yulgilbar Foundation



Portland House



Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)



Half Full Communications



Right Eye Creative



Fox Creek Wines



Elston



The Farm Byron Bay



Herbert Smith Freehills



The Health Lodge



MF Partners



North Coast Events



Harvest Newrybar



Byron Bay Services Club



Byron Bay Coffee Company

## NEW FUNDING PARTNER FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM



In 2019, the NRCF announced a record number of recipients for our 2020 Community Grant Program, with the support of our newest funding partner, the James Frizelle Charitable Foundation.

James sold his automotive business in 2017 and set up a private Foundation to give back to the community which had provided him so much success over the years. The Foundation supports those who through no fault of their own are vulnerable or have slipped through the cracks within the communities of Northern Rivers and the Gold Coast.



# BECOME INVOLVED

We are always on the look out for motivated people who are passionate about giving back to our community. You could have a special skill or capability, or you just feel you want to help.

**DONATE:** [nrcf.org.au/giving](https://nrcf.org.au/giving)

**VISIT:** [nrcf.org.au/get-involved](https://nrcf.org.au/get-involved)

**PHONE:** 0499 862 886

**EMAIL:** [info@nrcf.org.au](mailto:info@nrcf.org.au)



**Northern Rivers Community Foundation**

PO Box 1426 | Ballina NSW 2478

T: 0499 862 886 | E: [info@nrcf.org.au](mailto:info@nrcf.org.au)

[www.nrcf.org.au](https://www.nrcf.org.au)

ABN 62 853 581 899

(The Trustee for the Northern Rivers Community Foundation)

find us  [northernriverscommunityfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/northernriverscommunityfoundation)  [thenrcf](https://www.instagram.com/thenrcf)

