

A group of five young people (three men and two women) are walking across a grassy field. They are dressed in casual summer attire. The background features a large tree on the left and a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

# YOU Thrive

## VICTORIA

A legacy of Helen Macpherson Smith

# Annual Report 2019

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## THE RURAL FOUNDATION

A legacy of Helen Macpherson Smith



## PURPOSE

To strengthen rural communities and support young people to be leaders.

## VISION

Victoria's rural and regional communities will be thriving, with strong input from skilled, resilient and motivated young people.

## MISSION

We will collaborate with partners, donors, communities and alumni in delivering services to young rural Victorians that assist them to develop their personal, professional and leadership capacities.

# CHAIR'S REPORT



This year has been an eventful period in the life of The Rural Foundation Ltd in many substantive ways. The new business name, Youthrive Victoria, is the result of a decision by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust to provide increased autonomy to the Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation (MSRF) which the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust created a decade ago. The revised constitution and name change were agreed at the 2018 Annual General Meeting and implemented publicly in January 2019.

'Youthrive Victoria' was chosen to better reflect our purpose and focus with a contemporary title to match the proven and innovative ways we seek to strengthen rural communities through the support and development of their young people. The expertise to rename MSRF as Youthrive Victoria and launch the new entity was provided by branding agency Taylor & Grace and funded by a grant from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, with significant involvement by our broader team of Directors, staff and alumni.

Youthrive Victoria will always be a legacy of Helen Macpherson Smith and our close relationship with the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust will remain as we continue to support each other's aspirations to strengthen Victoria's regional and rural communities. The Trust continues to provide university scholarships and has provided other specific purpose grants for Youthrive Victoria.

At the conclusion of 2018 we celebrated a successful 10 years of operation with many

of the key achievements, moments and supporters' generosity captured in a book. The first decade has provided a significant legacy of success and a foundation for the future. Youthrive Victoria will continue to focus upon strengthening rural communities through the support and development of their young people. The specific programs to continue in the time ahead are scholarships to university and vocational training, mentoring, and leadership development.

The Hon. Rob Knowles AO was the inaugural Chairman of MSRF which under his guidance and leadership flourished over the first decade. Rob has left a considerable legacy through his ability to engage with all those involved to contribute their best efforts to achieve positive outcomes. We thank Rob for his tireless commitment to MSRF and the successful creation of Youthrive Victoria. Rob retired as Chair in November 2018.

Another founding Director, Winsome McCaughey AO, retired from the board in September 2018. We thank her for her dedication to the development of MSRF and her strong support of rural communities and young people.

Thanks also to Professor Kate Auty who resigned her directorship in February 2019 after over three years of significant contribution to Youthrive Victoria.

Youthrive Alumni are a growing force behind our success as they now lead and support our



mentoring and leadership programs whilst initiating new programs to support rural communities. These new programs include Dream Seeds workshops in primary schools which aim to build aspiration, resilience and connections to lead successful lives. Since its inception in excess of 1000 students have participated in a workshop in most regions of Victoria.

The Alumni group continue to strengthen their own entity which acts to support Youthrive Victoria programs whilst initiating new activities to develop themselves. To spend time with our alumni is a delight and assures all those who meet them that the future of Australia and our regional communities is in good hands.

Maryann Brown leads our success in harnessing the power of our young people and her small team to achieve amazing results. Maryann's energy, enthusiasm and professionalism to achieve our purpose is infectious and highly motivating for all those around her. Our thanks to her, the staff and the alumni who all make things happen.

The success of Youthrive Victoria is dependent upon the generosity of those who provide the financial support to deliver our programs. We are indebted to our continuing and new supporters. In 2019 university scholarships were provided by the H&L Hecht Trust, the Chris and Marli Tilley family and private donors. Rural Chances Vocational Scholarships continue to be significantly supported by the Joyca Trust and Kyamba Foundation. Mirboo North &

District Community Foundation has piloted our Wrap Around Care model. The Ross Trust has provided a three-year grant to build leadership capacity and mental health awareness in young rural people. Dream Seeds has received support from the Collier Charitable Fund and The Andrews Foundation to develop its website and online activities. The Community Leader Scholarship was introduced in late 2018 and funded by a generous grant from the Findex Community Fund. And finally, late in the year, we received news that our Young Rural Leaders program will be funded for three years by the H&L Hecht Trust.

I am honoured to follow in Rob Knowles' considerable footsteps to Chair Youthrive Victoria as we work to strengthen rural communities through the support and development of their young people. Thanks to my fellow Directors for their thoughtful guidance, and personal commitment of time, energy and support for all our people and what we do.

We have significant challenges in the time ahead, most notably how to scale our successful programs to meet the needs of a greater number of young people and their rural communities. I am confident we can do this with the ongoing support of our donors and the contribution of our alumni - a key to our future success on a larger scale.

**Bruce Anderson**  
Chair  
The Rural Foundation Ltd

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation becomes The Rural Foundation Ltd, trading as You thrive Victoria. The new name and brand were launched in January 2019, following an extensive rebranding process led by Taylor & Grace, and funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. The roll out of the brand was led by our skilled staff member Emma Jarvis, ably assisted by alumni Rohan Gerrard who developed the new website. The new brand is vibrant and engaging and the name has been adopted very positively.

2019 saw the awarding of twenty new scholarships. This included five university scholarships, funded by H&L Hecht Trust, Chris and Marli Tilley family and private donors. Fifteen Rural Chances Vocational Scholarships were funded by the Joyca Trust and Kyamba Foundation. We introduced the first Community Leader Scholarship funded by the Findex Community Foundation.

Generous support has been provided by private donors, trusts, sponsors and partners.

We are delighted to have received support from The Ross Trust to develop the leadership program with a particular focus on providing Youth Mental Health First Aid training to all coaches and program presenters. This is a very important initiative and one that immediately had a positive impact on the quality of coaching.

It has been exciting to share in the development of the MSRF/You thrive Alumni. The Alumni Committee, led by Rebecca Postlethwaite, focused on building connections across Alumni year groups and regional Victoria. Our organisation thrives due to the practical support of talented alumni volunteers. In May 2019 we introduced a system for tracking volunteer hours and it has already provided a valuable insight into the diversity and extent of support provided.

The Dream Seeds program for Year 6 students continues to develop and was ably led by Harry Stannard and Jayne Fendyk. Many alumni trained and presented workshops and they are

all impressive role models. The Dream Seeds team were worthy recipients of the Regional Achievement Community Award and a People's Choice Award in 2018. Rohan Gerrard has been responsible for developing the Dream Seeds website.

Mentoring was provided for forty young people in 2019 and the program was reviewed and developed with a view to scaling. Nick Young, Jackie Cooper, Molly Copeland, Laura Bland and others have been working on a Branch Out mentoring model to support rural students in Year 11 and 12. We are seeking funding for this important project.

This year saw the development of important relationships with a number of organisations. The Deloitte Foundation provided eight staff to assist in developing our Virtual Youth Network. We have worked with Ormond College to build connections and support for rural students. The Mirboo North & District Community Foundation provided funding for the first Wrap Around Care

model where we provide support (mentoring, leadership development, alumni) and they provide the scholarship. This is an exciting model that we hope to replicate with other communities or individuals.

Our work with young people continues to generate unique insights into the challenges and rewards of living and learning in rural communities. We are proud of the achievements, the resilience and the tenacity of our alumni. We are keen to celebrate their stories and their communities with a broader audience.

My thanks to our committed and engaged Directors and our new Chair, Bruce Anderson. Thanks also to the small team of staff and many volunteer alumni and pro-bono supporters who make You thrive Victoria such a strong and unique organisation.

**Dr Maryann Brown**  
Executive Officer



# SUPPORTER RELATIONS REPORT



Our wonderful supporters are vitally important in creating a thriving future for Victoria's rural and regional communities, with strong input from skilled, resilient and motivated young people.

Support from the community has grown this year, with an increase in the number and value of grants, donations and partnerships. In turn, this has helped You thrive Victoria to support a record number of young rural people who are pursuing their aspirations to learn, lead and connect.

For the first ten years since being established by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, we were mainly reliant on a few sources of income. Our Strategic Plan (launched in 2018) aimed to diversify our support base and we are making great strides towards achieving this.

Our relationships with several philanthropic trusts have matured, resulting in repeat funding and invitations to apply for new grant funding. Successful grant outcomes have led to more scholarships and better supporting programs for young rural Victorians.

Grants and scholarships were contributed by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Tilley Family, Joyca Trust, Kyamba Foundation, Perpetual Trustees (H&L Hecht Trust), Equity Trustees (Edith M & William M Wilson Charity Trust), The Ross Trust, Collier Charitable Fund, The Andrews Foundation, PPT Financial (Glenyis McIver Trust), Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) and the University of Melbourne's Student Engagement Program.

Supporters, sponsors and donors who have contributed financially or provided pro bono services to help young rural people this year include RMCG, Deloitte Foundation, Findex Community Fund, Findex Stawell and Ormond College, as well as numerous community foundations and educational institutions.

The Mirboo North & District Community

Foundation has partnered with us in our innovative service to provide Wrap Around Care to school-leavers who have been awarded a scholarship by the community.

Partnerships are about much more than money. We could not sustain our operations without the generous donations of time and talent by our volunteers and professionals offering pro-bono services. Our key organisational partners are Narmbool - Sovereign Hill Museums Association, FRRR, Village Well and the Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship (ACRE).

In February we reached out to the Stawell community by hosting a forum with local leaders in education, business and government. Eighteen guests contributed ideas and shared feedback on local issues affecting education, youth employment and careers, and how You thrive Victoria's programs might help to meet those needs. Through the forum, we were introduced to local people who have since become supporters, making regular donations to the Scholarship Fund.

Our new website offers a variety of ways that people can support You thrive Victoria and help young rural Victorians to lead a great life. In addition to valuable gifts of time and talent, it is always appreciated when supporters are able to donate money. We specially thank our regular anonymous donors and we warmly welcome first-time donors.

Donors may choose between two tax-deductible options. You thrive Victoria has DGR1 status for our Scholarship Fund that supports university scholarships and Rural Chances vocational scholarships. We also partner with FRRR to offer a fundraising account with tax deductibility for our supporting programs that develop the capabilities of young rural people.

**Brett Dunlop**  
Supporter Relations Coordinator





# ALUMNI REPORT

The first elected Alumni Committee, consisting of Cassi de Lacy Vawdon, Chris Dempsey, Ben Gebert, Kate Maddern, Rebecca Postlethwaite and Tyler Trevaskis, led by Jake Bray-Butler, completed their term at the end of 2018. They oversaw the establishment of a formal Alumni group and the broadening of the membership base.

A highlight of 2018, the inaugural Alumni Ball was a great success and cemented the enthusiasm of the Alumni group. It was fascinating to witness how easily everyone connected due to the common experience of the Young Rural Leaders program. The Creswick Community Hall was an ideal venue and many alumni stayed locally.

The 2019 Committee consisting of Rebecca Postlethwaite, Chris Dempsey, Caitlin Allman, Jessie Newton, Sam McColl, Sophie Fontaine and Maddy Merzvinskis developed an ambitious set of goals with a strong focus on building social networks and leadership development events for the alumni.

The new Committee oversaw the running of two leadership events and at least five social events across the calendar year. They have hosted the inaugural Melbourne Scavenger Hunt, a state-wide road trip, and a pop-up dinner. They are preparing leadership events, social activities and the annual Alumni Ball for later in 2019.

The inaugural Scavenger Hunt saw six teams of excited and slightly competitive You thrive Victoria alumni racing around the city of Melbourne taking photos, completing activities

and seeing various landmarks and interesting locations. The aim of the event was to introduce significant areas of Melbourne to those who had recently moved to the city, as well as to connect alumni who had attended different leadership camps. Twenty-one alumni members from six different year groups participated in the scavenger hunt and met afterwards for a delicious dinner in the heart of Chinatown.

May saw You thrive alumni joining a month-long road trip ('MAY We See Your Town'), visiting Warragul, Avenel and other towns across Victoria and also visiting Adelaide. The dinner in Adelaide was the first ever interstate alumni social event, with 100% of Adelaide-based alumni in attendance. The road trip finished with an impressive gathering in Melbourne. This event saw alumni getting back to their local communities as well as exploring parts of the state that they hadn't been to before.

A pop-up dinner and social event in June corresponded with the Dream Seeds Far East Gippsland trip. Dream Seeds presenters and alumni enjoyed a classic pub meal in Bruthen.

All members of the Alumni Committee are sincerely thanked for their hard work and enthusiasm over the past year. Thanks too, to all who attended alumni events. The magic of the You thrive Victoria Alumni relies on engagement, and it has certainly shone through this year. The Alumni look forward to the future with enthusiasm.

**Rebecca Postlethwaite**  
Alumni President

# OUR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS



**KLODI WARD**  
Mansfield  
Nursing/Midwifery – Latrobe University, Bendigo

As a former Mansfield Secondary College student, Klodi demonstrated her leadership capacity and commitment to her local community. Klodi is currently pursuing her dream of becoming a midwife, and she is an active participant in the You thrive Victoria mentoring program. Klodi plans to return to her local community knowing that there is a shortage of rural health professionals.

**MARWA AHMED**  
Shepparton  
Biomedicine - Latrobe University, Bundoora

Marwa is passionate about her local community and has been dedicated to achieving her goal of a tertiary education. Marwa has volunteered for various local organisations, helping to plan and run fundraising events, while also being an advocate for young people to live active, healthy lives. Marwa was a passionate leader and female McGuire College Captain in 2018, excelling in her studies and contributing to various sporting teams. After graduating from Biomedicine, Marwa plans to return to her local community as a qualified health professional.

**ELISSA JESS**  
Glenorchy  
Arts/Health Sciences - Latrobe University, Bundoora

While studying at Stawell Secondary College, Elissa actively took on responsibility and leadership roles to



help her peers, her family and the wider community. She volunteered her time to help local groups such as the North Grampians Landcare Group and Stawell Women's Advocacy Group. Elissa is now pursuing her dream of becoming a health professional in her local community.

**JULIA CLUGSTON**  
Stawell  
Journalism - Swinburne University, Hawthorn

Julia has embraced every opportunity to be involved within her school and the Stawell community. She has commenced a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Journalism and Professional Writing and Editing. She is well on the way to achieving her goal to work in a rural newspaper or magazine, where she can share her passion for the environment and understanding of rural life. Julia is part of the Dream Seeds workshop presentation team.

**TAYYEBAH ALI**  
Shepparton  
Biomedicine – Monash University, Clayton

As a Shepparton High School student, Tayyebah took part in the BEACON ambassador program, which involved leadership training and planning and hosting public events with her peers to address youth issues. Tayyebah has also enjoyed participating in programs at Goulburn Valley Health working with hospital staff and patients. After graduating from Biomedicine, Tayyebah plans to return to her local community as a rural health professional and become a mentor and role model for other young people.

# OUR VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS



The Rural Chances Vocational Scholarships are now well established as a key element of the support we can provide to young rural Victorians. 2018 scholarship recipients were appreciative of the financial assistance and reported on a very positive year. In 2019 we were delighted to welcome new donors and to award scholarships to fifteen impressive applicants.

“ I am extremely grateful for the support I have received which has made my first year of work and living away from home so much easier. The \$5,000 scholarship removed all the financial stress. I was able to purchase the essential items needed to get set up to take on an apprenticeship and move out of home. It was a great help for not only me, but also my parents.

I wish to sincerely thank the donors for their generosity and for making such a positive difference to the beginning of my working life.

”

## RHORDON HOLT - 2018 Scholar

**Asha Tuohey**  
Axedale  
Veterinary Nursing

**Grace Simpson**  
Lismore  
Plumbing

**Jamielee Kurth**  
Port Albert  
Plumbing

**Britney Robinson**  
Whirily  
Commercial Cookery

**Kayde Taylor**  
Nhill  
Health Services

**Tahlia Beecroft**  
Foster  
Accounting & Bookkeeping

**Caitlyn Anderson**  
Heywood  
Photography

**Mathew Thompson**  
Charlton  
Plumbing

**Madeleine Kinghorn**  
Hamilton  
Health Practices

**Drew McClelland**  
Sea Lake  
Engineering / Fabrication

**Mikayla Barwick**  
Sea Lake  
Dental Assisting

**Katelin McDonald**  
Ararat  
Community Leader Scholar  
Funded by Findex Community Fund

**Emily Hill**  
Myrtleford  
Accounting

**Nathaniel Holmes-Brown**  
Charlton  
Building

**Emily Barnes**  
Tawonga  
Cookery

**Jake Flavel**  
Nhill  
Electrotechnology



# YOUNG RURAL LEADERS



# MENTORING



This year saw substantial development of the leadership offerings of You thrive Victoria. Since 2017, the Young Rural Leaders program has been led by members of our alumni, in a mix of paid and volunteer roles.

We were fortunate to receive a three-year grant from The Ross Trust for significant development of the leadership program. The grant provides for a paid Leadership Intern to research and enhance leadership development and learning programs. The first initiatives are a Mental Health Awareness module and Mental Health First Aid training for leadership coaches and other presenters. The research component will contribute to our understanding of leadership and mental health for young rural people.

The July 2018 leadership program was managed by Jake Bray-Butler with Jessie Newton and Bec Postlethwaite as assistant managers, supported by a strong coaching team. Twenty-seven participants from across Victoria enjoyed the week. Highlights were developing the Indigenous food garden and a walk across the property to look at an Indigenous silcrete site and the developments at Tea Tree camp post the 2015 bushfire.

In September 2018, Maryann Brown and Tyler Trevaskis (alumni from Mildura and leadership coach, mentor and Dream Seeds facilitator) presented a paper at the Australian Regional Development Conference in Tweed Heads. The focus was an explanation of the Young Rural Leaders program and its development and delivery by young rural people for young rural people. There was positive feedback and interest from the audience.

Youth Mental Health First Aid training was provided for 31 of our alumni involved in

the leadership and Dream Seeds programs. Feedback was exceptionally positive, and participants have reported it was invaluable in their delivery of our programs, and life in general.

The January 2019 leadership program was led by Jessie Newton, with Brady Cronin as assistant manager. We were delighted to have our director Duncan Malcolm attend on the Sustainable Environment Day. There were 27 participants from across the state and the week ran very smoothly. The Sustainable Community day included a visit to the Ballarat Technical School and an Indigenous food supplier. There was a focus on building the number of people who attend the leadership program and some filming was done to help with promotion. We also explored some of the barriers to attending a residential program (peak employment time, apprehension, travel costs/distance).

Rebecca Postlethwaite was appointed the first Ross Trust funded Leadership Intern in February 2019. She oversaw the initial implementation of The Ross Trust grant, including the Youth Mental Health First Aid training and some research into the impact of the leadership program.

The Young Rural Leaders program is now solidly established and continues to be a great opportunity for young Victorians. Feedback from participants is consistently positive. They highly value the opportunity to connect with other young rural people and to learn about themselves, their communities and the environment.

The year ended on a very positive note with news that the H&L Hecht Trust has awarded a three-year grant to support the delivery of Young Rural Leaders programs.

An important program within our organisation, You thrive Mentoring provides support for young people as they transition to further study after school. Initially the focus was on supporting young people going on to university education. In 2018, with the introduction of Rural Chances Vocational Scholarships we introduced mentoring for people in training or apprenticeships. Brady Cronin undertook research into mentoring in the vocational area and found that it was much more challenging to engage mentors in this space. More research and community education will follow.

The 2018 Fran Awcock Mentoring Award was presented to Carl Larsen, an Associate with leading agricultural and environmental consultants, RMCG. Carl is a socio-environmental scientist with skills in planning, delivery and evaluation of agricultural and natural resource management programs, integrated water management, climate change and stakeholder engagement. A strong advocate of mentoring, Carl has been involved in our program for three years and was nominated by his 2018 mentee, Harry Stannard.

In 2019 there were 40 pairs in the You thrive Victoria Mentoring program and training was held at the Multi-Cultural Hub in Melbourne. We were pleased to welcome Rural Chances scholars who came from Wodonga and Bendigo to join us. Thanks go to all volunteer mentors who assist young rural people with transition to post-school learning and training, and to those mentors who help with career development.

The end of year mentoring celebration at the City of Melbourne Bowling Club provided an opportunity for alumni to meet and celebrate the year, and to celebrate the value of

mentoring. We sincerely thank all volunteer mentors for the time they give and the skills they share with mentees.

A group of alumni has formed a Mentoring Team. They are keen to see mentoring support provided before people leave school so they can have help navigating the complexity of options for post-school learning. This group has conducted research into current programs and challenges for school students and has worked on developing a model they believe will be effective. They are particularly aware of the challenges facing rural students, when "You can't be what you can't see." We extend our thanks to the Mentoring Team for the many volunteer hours put into developing the concept. Funding will be sought for a pilot program.



# DREAM SEEDS



The 2018-2019 year has seen Dream Seeds flourish and reach new heights as we continue to deliver our workshop to Year 5 and 6 students around rural and regional Victoria. We have accomplished many milestones over the last 12 months; strengthened by the recognition and support of several organisations.

In July 2018 the Dream Seeds program toured the Mallee region, delivering workshops for over 150 students from 7 different primary schools in Mildura, Manangatang and Ouyen. We are extremely grateful for the support of The University of Melbourne's Student Engagement Grant for making this trip possible. Dream Seeds also received excellent media attention from the Sunraysia Daily newspaper.

Towards the end of 2018 we were very honoured to be recipients of the South West TAFE & Deakin University 'South West Regional Achiever Award', and at the Victorian Regional Achievement and Community Awards we received the Parks Victoria 'People's Choice Award'. This is wonderful recognition of the incredible work of our volunteers and the impact we have on rural and regional students.

To round out 2018 we took our workshop to schools in South West Victoria. With a team of 7 presenters we visited schools in Portland, Narrawong, Bolwarra, Camperdown, Lake Bolac, Mortlake and Hawkesdale. The program ran over 4 days and reached more than 100 students, thanks to a generous grant from FRRR.

2019 has been another strong year for the Dream Seeds program with the introduction of a formal committee to share management of the program. This dedicated team of alumni plans to reach more students and schools and to focus on the sustainability and strengthening of our program. We have great ambitions for the future of Dream Seeds.

In June, our team visited Victoria's Far East Gippsland region and presented workshops in Bruthen and Orbost. The reception of our program in these areas was a powerful reminder of the impact our program can have, and excellent motivation to continue travelling to the far reaches of our state.

**Jayne Fendyk and Harry Stannard**  
Dream Seeds Coordinators

# DREAM SEEDS THE NEXT STEPS

In 2018 the Dream Seeds team began to think about what the future of Dream Seeds could look like and what could be done to create an even greater impact to reach more students in rural and regional Victoria. Through these discussions it was decided that Dream Seeds would benefit from the development of a new online platform to complement the Dream Seeds workshops, to extend the 90 minute workshop beyond the classroom and allow the Dream Seeds message to be reinforced for students, teachers and parents.

In late 2018, Dream Seeds was successful in a grant application with the Collier Charitable Fund who have generously provided funds for this vision of a unique online platform to become a reality. This has enabled the expansion of the program into a virtual landscape.

At the beginning of 2019, Rohan Gerrard was appointed as the Project Coordinator for the website project. The first stages of the project were meetings and workshops to determine the goals of the platform and how we could effectively bridge the gap between the physical workshop and the virtual platform.

We engaged schools and members of our Alumni in the process of determining the best content, functionality and design of the website. Once the plan was in place we engaged website developers to assist us in turning this dream into a reality.

Dream Seeds also received a grant from The Andrews Foundation, who are funding the development of some new games for the website. This will be a strong addition to the virtual applications of the program.

After consulting and working with a number of students, teachers and our incredible team of



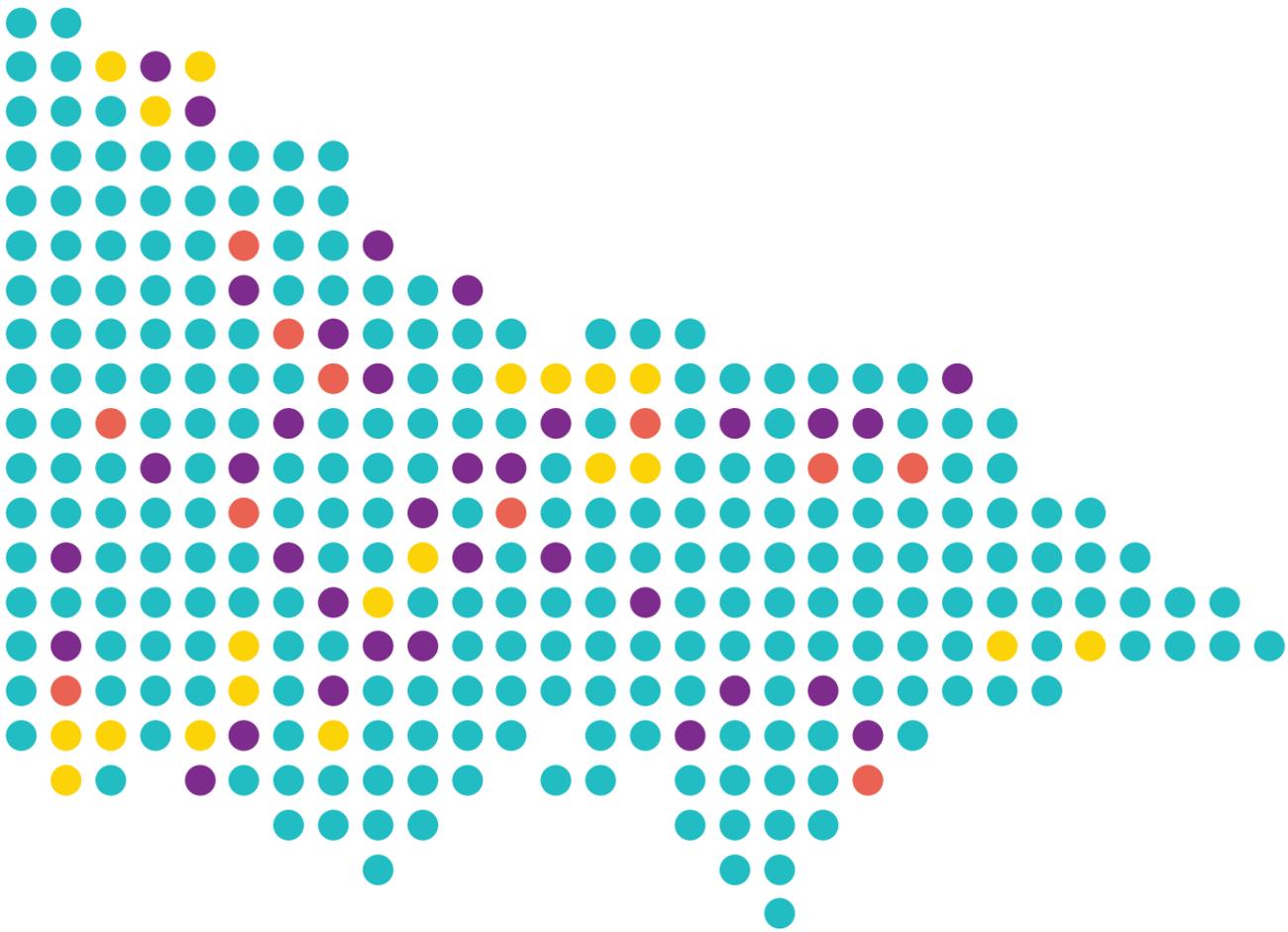
presenters we have reached an exciting stage in the project where development is now well under way and we are able to see our ideas becoming a reality. We are incredibly excited to see the students' responses to this new element in our program and cannot wait to launch our new online platform to students and schools in the early months of 2020.

Thank you to all who have been a part of making this project possible. The generous support of our funders, schools, our alumni network, and our Dream Seeds team has made this project possible and has gone a long way to enriching the aspirations of young people across rural Victoria.

**Rohan Gerrard**  
Dream Seeds Website Coordinator

# OUR REACH

- |            |             |             |             |               |                |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Alfredton  | Cabarita    | Hawkesdale  | Maldon      | Nhill         | Stawell        |
| Ararat     | Camperdown  | Healesville | Manangatang | Nichols Point | Swan Hill      |
| Avenel     | Castlemaine | Heyfield    | Mansfield   | Ocean Grove   | Tawonga        |
| Axedale    | Caveat      | Heywood     | Mead        | Orbost        | Tongala        |
| Ballarat   | Charlton    | Horsham     | Mildura     | Ouyen         | Underbool      |
| Benalla    | Colignan    | Kialla      | Mortlake    | Port Albert   | Walmer         |
| Bendigo    | Donald      | Kilmore     | Mt Pleasant | Portland      | Warragul South |
| Bolwarra   | Durringle   | Kinglake    | Murchison   | Red Cliffs    | Warrnambool    |
| Boort      | Euroa       | Kyabram     | Myrtleford  | Sale          | Warrock        |
| Bordertown | Foster      | Lake Bolac  | Nangiloc    | Sandford      | Whirily        |
| Bruthen    | Glenorchy   | Lismore     | Narraport   | Sea Lake      | Woomelang      |
| Buln Buln  | Hamilton    | Lockington  | Narrawong   | Shepparton    | Yackandandah   |
| Buninyong  | Harrow      | Mackay      | Newham      | Smythes Creek |                |



- Dream Seeds Workshops
- University and Rural Chances vocational scholarships
- Leadership program participants

# OUR IMPACT

**346** Student participants

## DREAM SEEDS

Facilitators **33** Participating schools **18**

**5** University Scholarships  
**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**15** **1** Community Leader Scholarship  
Rural Chances Vocational Scholarships

**77** Participants from **45** Towns

## YOUNG RURAL LEADERS PROGRAM

**31** Trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid

**40** Transition and Career Pairs  
**MENTORING**

**11** Events  
**ALUMNI**

**194** Participants



# DIRECTORS



**Bruce Anderson**  
Chair  
Appointed Nov 2018  
Director  
Appointed Nov 2016

Bruce is a highly experienced business leader who has successfully combined his 20+ years in senior executive roles at ASX and global companies with a broad contribution within the community sector. He is a community builder having held a variety of roles in organisations to create a better world. Bruce is most passionate and experienced in supporting secondary school students successfully transition to university then work and develop their leadership capabilities. Bruce is currently Chairman of Ourschools Advisory Group, Chairman of Wesley Church UCA Congregation, and a Trustee of the Anglesea SLSC Foundation. Bruce is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and an alumnus of the Williamson Community Leadership Program.

**Hon. Robert I Knowles AO**  
Chairman  
July 2008 – Nov 2018

Rob Knowles is a farmer and company director. In addition to being Chairman of the Foundation, he is Chairman of the Mental Health Council of Australia, Chairman of the Board of the Royal Children's Hospital, President of the Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia, recently retired Chairman of the Ballarat Grammar Board and Board Member of the Brotherhood of St Laurence. He was a Member of the Victorian Parliament for 24 years and served as Minister for Health, Housing and Aged Care over a 7 year period.

**Winsome McCaughey AO**  
Director  
March 2008 – Sept 2018

Winsome McCaughey has a Bachelor of Arts (Melbourne) and is a Director of her family company, Seven Sisters Vineyard Pty Ltd which produces Baddaginnie Run wines and manages the BR Bio-corridors Network. Winsome served as a trustee of Helen Macpherson Smith Trust from 2010-2018. Winsome's previous roles include: Senior Strategic Advisor (Partnerships) University of Melbourne; founding Executive Director of the Australian Business Arts Foundation (AbaF), Chair and CEO of the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (now FSANZ), National CEO of Greening Australia Ltd, Executive Director of the Lance Reichstein Foundation, and founder and Executive Director of Community Child. She was a Councillor of the City of Melbourne, serving as Lord Mayor of Melbourne from 1988 to 1989.

**Duncan M Malcom AM**  
Director  
Appointed Feb 2009

Duncan Malcolm has over thirty-five years' experience as a Board Director. A former Chair of the Rural Water Corporation of Victoria, the Irrigation Association of Australia and the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, he has also been a member of the Victorian Coastal Council and was an East Gippsland Shire Commissioner at the time of Victorian Council amalgamations. Current roles include: Trustee of the Australian Landscape Trust; Deputy Chair of the Gippsland Primary Health Network; Immediate past Chair of the Gippsland Vehicle Collection and Chair of the Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd. Duncan is an Honorary Fellow of Monash University.

**Ross McPherson AM**  
Director  
Appointed Nov 2015

Ross McPherson is Executive Chairman of the McPherson Media Group, a fifth-generation family Newsmedia business which started with the Shepparton News in 1888; it now includes numerous newspapers, magazines, printing events and internet businesses. He joined the family business after practicing commercial law, having graduated from Melbourne and London Universities. Among numerous industry, local and philanthropic involvements, Ross chairs the Goulburn Valley Health Foundation, is a member of the Committee for Greater Shepparton, a past director of SPC Ardmona Ltd and Treasurer and past-president of the 8000-member International Newsmedia Association. He is a trustee of several charitable trusts and a member of the Melbourne University Council.

**Professor Kate Auty**  
Director  
Nov 2015 – Feb 2019

Kate is the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. She is also a Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne. Her present positions include - Banksia Foundation P/L (Chair), Sustainable Business Australia P/L (co-opted director), Urban Climate Change Research Network (Director Australian Hub), Australian Research Council grant assessor (Engagement and Impact - Health and Life Sciences panel), Fenner School Advisory Board member ANU, Institute of Applied Ecology Advisory Board Member U Canberra, North East Victoria Community Energy Group, member. Other appointments have included - Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Victoria; magistrate and coroner in both Victoria and WA; Inaugural Koori Court magistrate, Victoria. She continues as a barrister attached to the non-practising list of the Victorian Bar. She is also a published author of texts on the law and Indigenous justice issues.

**Bernadette Lloyd**  
Director  
Appointed July 2017

Bernie Lloyd is the Chair of Bank First (formerly VTMB) and moved into corporate governance after 30 years in education in Victoria with the final 16 years in leadership positions. She understands the interdependence between schools and their communities and how high levels of trust enable productivity. She taught at her country high school for twenty years where she facilitated learning experiences for her students which gave them the capacity to enrich their own communities as well as preparing them for the world beyond their rural locale. Her leadership expertise resides in long-term strategic planning, building capacity in teams and sustaining and expanding growth in organisations. She facilitates Principal workshops in Victoria and Queensland with emphasis on school governance and ethical and performance cultures which sustain and empower.

**Peter Hunt**  
Company Secretary  
Appointed Nov 2016

Peter grew up in country NSW (Gunnedah) attending boarding school in Sydney. Peter has accounting qualifications and an MBA and has worked in the retail, aged-care and education sectors. In 1995 he took on the role of Business Manager at Ballarat Grammar until his retirement in August 2018, after completing 33 years running regional boarding schools. During his time at Grammar he was Company Secretary (School) and also Director/ Company Secretary (BGS Educational Services and the Grammar Foundation). He retains the latter roles in his 'retirement' and brings these passions and skills to Youthrive Victoria. He is a Fellow of Australian Institute of Accountants, Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Member of Australian Institute of Management (recently retired) and a JP (Vic).

# FINANCIAL REPORT

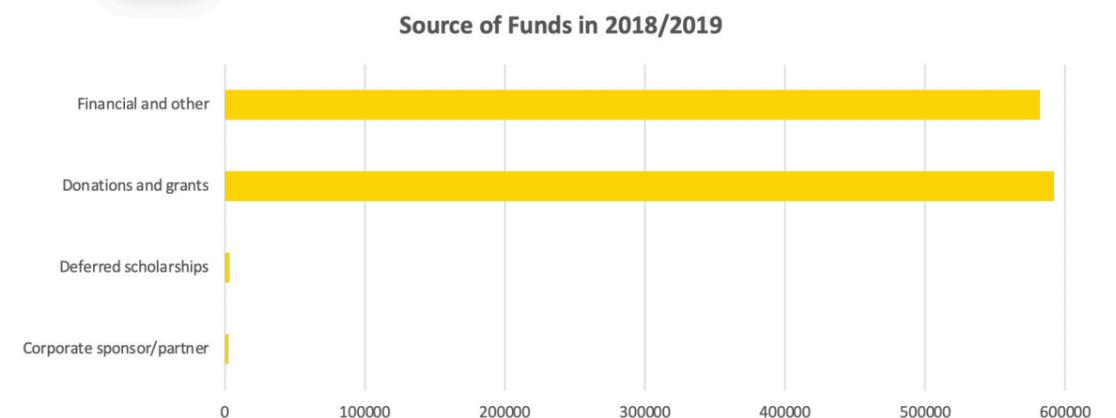
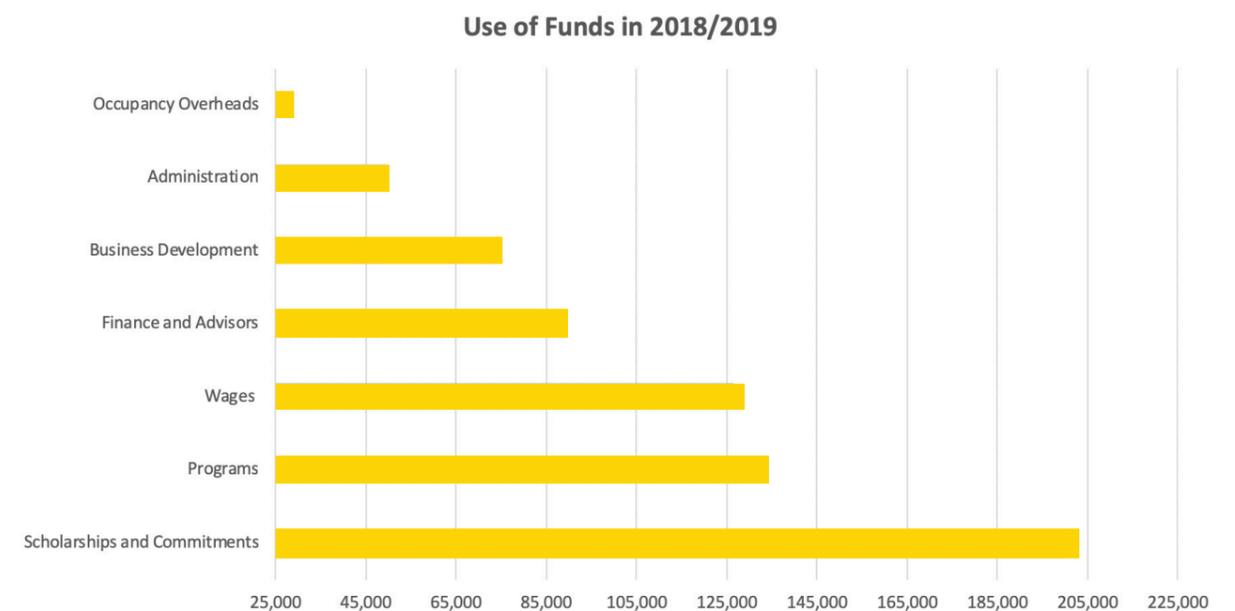
The Rural Foundation Ltd, at balance date, held net assets of \$7.557M with gross revenue of \$1.145M comprising 50.2% from donations and grants, and 49.4% from investments (interest, dividends and distributions).

Expenditure for the year increased to \$696K reflecting increased scholarship payments and program delivery for young rural Victorians. One-off costs were incurred to update the

Constitution and implement the new brand, *Youthrive Victoria*.

The Rural Foundation Ltd thanks JBWere for their professional management of our investments to generate an increase in both cashflow and portfolio value. We also thank JPA Financial Services for their accounting services and PPT Audit for preparing the financial accounts and undertaking the annual audit.

Summary of Results	2018/2019	2017/2018
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	1,145,626	719,646
Less Expenditure	-696,827	-606,517
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>448,799</b>	<b>112,129</b>
<b>Assets and Liabilities</b>		
Current Assets	1,158,806	1,774,764
Non-Current Assets	6,646,728	5,531,613
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>7,805,534</b>	<b>7,306,377</b>
Current Liabilities	146,056	148,986
Non-Current Liabilities	101,908	80,811
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>247,964</b>	<b>229,797</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>7,557,570</b>	<b>7,076,580</b>
Retained Earnings	828,208	861,825
Capital endowment and settlement sum	5,000,000	5,000,000
Financial Assets Reserve	172,883	-63,713
Scholarships Reserve	1,556,479	1,278,468
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>7,557,570</b>	<b>7,076,580</b>



This concise financial report is derived from and consistent with the audited statutory financial statements of the Foundation.

# THANK YOU

“ We are very appreciative of the significant support provided by many individuals, trusts, organisations and volunteers from across Victoria. Thank you to the people who share our vision that Victoria’s rural and regional communities will be thriving with strong input from skilled, resilient and motivated young people. ”

## OUR FOUNDER

Youthrive Victoria is the new name for MSRF - an organisation founded in 2008 by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and endowed with a generous Establishment Grant and Scholarship Fund. We thank the Trust for their continuing support.



Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

## OUR SUPPORTERS

Private donors  
The Andrews Foundation  
Chris and Marli Tilley Family  
Collier Charitable Fund  
The Deloitte Foundation  
Dorothy Irene Ellis-Thomas Trust  
The Edith M and William M Wilson Charity Trust  
Equity Trustees  
Findex Community Fund  
Findex, Stawell  
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)

The Glenyis Mclver Charitable Trust  
H&L Hecht Trust  
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust  
Joyca Trust  
Kyamba Foundation  
Mirboo North & District Community Foundation  
Perpetual Trustees  
PPT Financial  
RMCG  
The Ross Trust  
Student Engagement, The University of Melbourne

## OUR PARTNERS

Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship (ACRE)  
Narmbool, Sovereign Hill Museums Association  
Ormond College, The University of Melbourne  
Village Well

**The Rural Foundation Ltd is a registered charity and actively seeks support for all its programs. Donations to the Scholarship Fund are tax-deductible. For more information visit [youthrivevictoria.org.au/donate](http://youthrivevictoria.org.au/donate)**

## ALUMNI COMMITTEE 2018

Jake Bray-Butler - President  
Cassi de Lacy Vawdon  
Chris Dempsey  
Ben Gebert  
Kate Maddern  
Rebecca Postlethwaite  
Tyler Trevaskis

## ALUMNI COMMITTEE 2019

Rebecca Postlethwaite - President  
Caitlin Allman  
Chris Dempsey  
Sophie Fontaine  
Maddy Merzvinskis  
Sam McColl  
Jessie Newton

## DREAM SEEDS COMMITTEE

Jayne Fendyk - Coordinator  
Harry Stannard - Coordinator  
Brady Cronin  
Louisa de Bruin  
Ellie Down  
Rohan Gerrard  
Kate Maddern  
Brock McFarlane  
Kitty Robinson

## SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN DREAM SEEDS WORKSHOPS

Bolwarra Primary  
Bruthen Primary  
Camperdown P-12  
Hawkesdale P-12  
Henderson College  
Lake Bolac P-12  
Manangatang P-12  
Mortlake P-12  
Mt Pleasant Primary  
Nangiloc Primary  
Narrawong Primary  
Nichols Point Primary  
Orbost Primary  
Orbost North Primary  
Ouyen P-12  
Portland South Primary  
The Lake Primary  
Underbool Primary

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAM COACHES

### JULY 2018

Jake Bray-Butler - Program Manager  
Jack Goddyn  
Hannah Humphries  
Susan Langborne  
Maddy Merzvinskis  
Jessie Newton  
Rebecca Postlethwaite  
Oliver Price  
Kitty Robinson  
Rory Spiers  
Tyler Trevaskis

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAM COACHES

### JANUARY 2019

Jessie Newton - Program Manager  
Brady Cronin  
Amanda Fontaine  
Hannah Humphries  
Phillip Konstandopoulos  
Susan Langborne  
Zachary Miesen  
Escher Russell  
Sanchita Sakar  
Rory Spiers  
Tyler Trevaskis

## MENTORS

Youthrive Victoria thanks all volunteer mentors who have participated this year. Our students are grateful for the support of their mentors. Mentoring really makes a difference and provides a unique opportunity for mentees to learn and develop while being supported as they transition through different stages of life, be that school to higher education, or as they embark on their careers.



**Auditors**  
PPT Audit

**The Rural Foundation Limited**  
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facebook.com/youthrivevictoria

# THE RURAL FOUNDATION

A legacy of Helen Macpherson Smith