



Forward by the Hon. Alan Brown

I am honoured to be Patron of the newly established Into Our Hands Community Foundation.

This Foundation is unique and has come about as a result of significant community engagement to establish a method to address the medium to long-term needs of a region devastated by the 2009 Black Saturday fires now known as the Beechworth – Mudgegonga Fire Complex. A community foundation was chosen as a high priority as it could clearly assist in addressing such needs.

The name ‘Into Our Hands’ says it all. A trust fund of \$1 million has been established to help address these needs and importantly the Foundation will be administered and run by a highly competent Board comprised of very experienced local men and women. The Board acts in an honorary capacity and I am well aware that they have a strong passion and commitment to do what they can to assist their community. It is hard to beat having local people who know local issues and concerns working together to address them.

Each year the Foundation will distribute grants for projects that address local needs as a result of the fires, with the only limitation being the funds available.

This is where you can assist and I strongly encourage you to do so.

Please make contact with the Foundation if you feel you can help. Fundraising is a vital and necessary function for the Foundation to be effective and continue its tangible outcomes into the future. Please consider donating to assist this wonderful local cause. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible and every dollar helps.

The Foundation covers a region which spans three Shires. As the Foundation will do so much good work in the years ahead I am hopeful of the ongoing involvement of the Shires of Alpine, Indigo and Wangaratta and their continued support.

From my experience I have seen first-hand the wonderful outcomes which have been achieved with Councils and Community foundations working together to enhance and support their local communities. The Bass Coast Shire and the Cities of Yarra, Darebin and Moreland all support their local community Foundations and their support is invaluable.

The official launch of the Into Our Hands Community Foundation on Tuesday 12th March 2013 will be an auspicious day for the community. It will signal the official start of a local community galvanised into action to ensure its future is placed into their hands as far as the Community Foundation is concerned.

I wish the Foundation and all involved with it every success and extend my best wishes. I congratulate all involved who have worked so hard to see the Into Our hands Community Foundation become a reality.

Hon Alan Brown

Patron.