

Foundation hits \$1.5m milestone helping community organisations

INTO Our Hands Community Foundation (IOH) has surpassed the significant milestone of awarding more than \$1.5 million in grants to support 246 community organisations across North East Victoria.

Executive officer Peter McCabe said the achievement underscores IOH's unwavering commitment to foster-

ing community recovery, strength, and resilience in the region.

"Reaching this milestone is a testament to the enduring spirit and dedication of our community," he said.

"We are immensely proud to have played a role in empowering local initiatives and supporting the vital work of organisations working tire-

lessly to improve the lives of North East Victorians."

Established in response to the ongoing needs of fire-affected communities, IOH was allocated \$1 million from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Funds.

Since its inception in 2012, the Wangaratta-based IOH has been dedicated to supporting community and non-

profit organisations in the local government areas of Alpine, Indigo, Mansfield and Wangaratta.

It's annual grant program has provided 246 grants, to the average value of \$6232.76, with 48 grants valued at more than \$10,000, and the largest grant provided being \$48,922.

Mr McCabe said these

grants have been instrumental in revitalising communities and empowering local initiatives.

"Through our annual grant program, we have witnessed the transformative impact of community-led initiatives firsthand," Mr McCabe said.

"Our commitment to North East Victoria remains steadfast as we continue to work

alongside volunteers, donors, and community leaders to establish locally led, community funds which work towards building a brighter future for North East Victoria."

To find out more about IOH or for information about establishing a Community Fund contact Mr McCabe 0466 252 866 or go to intourhandsfoundation.com.au

Angie's Angels helping young people facing adversity



UP FOR A LONG WALK: Co-founders of Angie's Angels - Lou Pomponio (left), Tony Molinaro (centre) and Julian Marotta - were clocking up the miles in Wangaratta on the weekend ahead of their 220km fundraising walk in Italy.

PHOTO: Nick Richards

ANGIE'S Angels, a Wangaratta-based sub-fund of Into Our Hands Community Foundation, is making a significant difference in the lives of young people facing adversity.

Established in March 2023, Angie's Angels recently assisted a family following a referral from the Borinya Wangaratta Community Partnership school.

Co-founder Lou Pomponio said the charity provided much-needed support during an extremely difficult time.

"We provided support to a family who was coping with the loss of their mother to cancer and subsequent challenges following the father's diagnosis of cancer shortly after," he said.

After a further referral from North East Health's Palliative Care unit, Angie's Angels was able to provide a family with financial assistance to purchase a child's school computer and books, ensuring the child was able to participate fully at school despite the health challenges the family was dealing with.

"Both of these were in line with our vision of supporting families dealing with significant family health challenges while enhancing educational opportunities for disadvantaged children," Mr Pomponio said.

Looking ahead, Angie's Angels is excited to host a fundraising event in May, partnering with local businesses to raise funds for their cause.

A fashion show will be held on Friday, May 17 at the Da Vinci Social Club in Laceby from 6pm to 11pm.

"The event will showcase clothing ranges from four local businesses, accompanied by live music, auctions and a raffle," Mr Pomponio said.

"Ticket are \$55 per person and the dress is semi-formal.

"Tickets can be purchased at Aroma's Café."

As well, Mr Pomponio and fellow co-founders Julian Marotta and Tony Molinaro are embarking on walking a section of the Camino Trail in Italy this June.

The trio has personally pledged to donate \$1 for each kilometre walked along the challenging 220km trail.

This inspiring journey further enhances their commitment to going the extra mile for the children they support.

To find out more about Angie's Angels or show your support by donating, go to <https://intourhandsfoundation.com.au/fund/angies-angels/>

All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

Residents, MP call for safety improvements on Beechworth-Wangaratta Road

VICTORIAN Minister for Roads and Roads Safety, Melissa Horne, has been asked to intervene to help address residents' safety concerns on the Beechworth-Wangaratta Road.

Wangaratta-based state MP for Ovens Valley, Tim McCurdy, highlighted local fears in Parliament last week, seeking Minister Horne's assistance to have

Regional Roads Victoria meet with local residents on-site to discuss improving safety of the road at Airey Lane.

"There have been many near misses at 1782 Beechworth-Wangaratta Road," he said, having recently met with concerned residents on-site.

"I really think we should be taking this section of the road seriously, and we need

to do some work on it.

"There needs to be turning lane as the road is too narrow, and the corner needs widening, or barriers put in place.

"It is a stretch of road on which locals tell me they have actually had to tow out vehicles; they have had to do lots of things that are just near misses that never get on the record.

"I really encourage the minister to invite RRV to meet with us at that location."

ROAD CONCERNS: Ovens Valley MP Tim McCurdy (left) recently met with concerned residents to discuss the dangerous stretch of Beechworth-Wangaratta Road, and they've called on RRV to improve safety.





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