

Into Our Hands Community Foundation Annual Report

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

Chair's Message

Into Our Hands Community Foundation (IOHCF), in partnership with the community, strengthens community resilience, wellbeing, and participation in the North East through charitable giving. Our values – empowerment, transparency, courage, collaboration, responsiveness, inclusion and respect - inform how we operate. IOHCF is for community, by community, with community.

Throughout the 2025 financial year, IOHCF continued its core functions:

- Supporting place-based subfunds to make independent decisions, manage local assets and lead local philanthropy
- Providing charitable solutions for individuals, families and businesses to structure their giving strategically
- Supporting local nonprofits with entity architecture and charitable compliance
- Managing grantmaking and community programs through commercial partnerships
- Facilitating community philanthropy and advocating for future-focused investment in the North East

Key achievements included

- Hosting the Indi Philanthropy Forum which brought together regional community foundation peers and national funding bodies
- Successful delivery of the first Glenrowan Solar Farm grant round for IOHCF
- Completion and acquittal of the well-received GROW Volunteering Project which provided community volunteers with capacity-building skills

- Working with subfunds to facilitate grant rounds and donor-led philanthropy across the region
- Participation in the Community Foundations Australia Forum and VicGrid consultations, ensuring regional perspectives were represented in sector and policy conversations
- Strong investment returns across subfund portfolios

The 2025 financial year marked a transition period to improved organisational clarity, purpose and durability. In March 2025, the Board appointed Sylvie Huigen as Executive Officer. Sylvie brings strong experience in philanthropy, major giving, fundraising marketing, grantmaking, and project management. Her early work at IOHCF has already strengthened stakeholder relationships, improved grantmaking services and streamlined governance.

Looking forward, the focus will be on finalising and implementing the new strategic plan and business model to ensure sustainability and impact, strengthening subfund support, building on success in the renewables space, and expanding relationships with local and out-of-region stakeholders and philanthropic partners.

Thank you to Peter McCabe for his dedicated service as Executive Officer from October 2022 to August 2025. Particular thanks to Deputy Chair Fiona Nicholls for providing hands-on support and oversight during the bridging period between Executive Officers, and to Sue Beattie and Kylie Edmondson for maintaining operations during this time.

I thank my fellow Directors for their leadership, governance and commitment including Jodie Wells who resigned from the Board in June 2025 to pursue other activities.

I gratefully acknowledge the Executive Officer, staff, subfund advisory groups, volunteers, and partners for their hard work and support.

A special thanks to the donors and funders for their leadership and generosity.

To the communities of North East Victoria, thank you for your ongoing participation in building a stronger, more connected and prepared region through local philanthropy.

Matthew Joyce

Chair

Executive Officer's Message

Commencing with Into Our Hands Community Foundation in March 2025, my first months were spent listening. I met with subfund representatives, donors, Board Directors, volunteers, grant recipients, partners and sector peers to understand the organisation's history, position and potential. Across every conversation there was belief that IOHCF has delivered, and will continue to deliver, important, lasting impact across the North East. There is deep pride in what has been achieved and excitement and confidence in what lies ahead.

In FY25, IOHCF distributed 48 grants totalling \$182,624 to 42 charitable organisations across the region. Conservatively, that's approximately 2,400 people, or around 1 in 30 residents of the North East, who directly or indirectly benefitted from the generosity and thoughtfulness of their community through IOHCF.

In storytelling terms, that equates to hundreds of moments where someone's life was made a little, or a lot, better in FY25.

'I feel happier since starting Boys to the Bush. I didn't think I could do things like cooking or gardening, but now I know I can.'

-A young man who received individual mentoring support through Project 365 funding to Boys to the Bush.

At Yarrunga Primary School, a teacher described a student who resisted joining a First Nations dance workshop, but by the end was confidently helping to lead the session. The free workshop, run by Goulburn and North East Arts Alliance during Across the Arts Festival, was funded through Glenrowan Solar Farm.

The Hands On Trades and Careers Expo hosted 70 industry exhibitors, giving 1,561 school students an introductory step towards the world of work.

Glenrowan Solar Farm joined as a supporting funder. Tim Oliver, CEO of North East Tracks LLEN, shared that these experiences can lead to work

opportunities, apprenticeships and training 'which is life-changing for students and their families.'

'I felt really hopeful moving in here, knowing the solar panels are already on the roof... Being on a low income, this hopefully means I won't have to choose between heating/cooling and food.'

-A tenant moving into a Beyond Housing social housing development equipped with solar panels funded by Glenrowan Solar Farm.

'We see moments of calm now that we simply couldn't achieve before. The sensory tools help children regulate their emotions and feel safe enough to engage.'

-Nick, Counsellor Advocate at Centre Against Violence, funded through the Garry Nash & Co Community Fund.

'The new washing machine has made a real difference. We can now clean our turnout gear quickly, safely and efficiently and share these facilities with other CFA stations.'

-Myrtleford Country Fire Authority, through a Grow Myrtleford+ grant.

With funding from Glenrowan Solar Farm, Warby Range Landcare trained 39 people to use COVRAM, a native vegetation monitoring tool, aiding regenerative bush management. One participant said, 'What I learned will be so helpful with managing our paddocks and bushland in Taminick.'

These testimonials reflect just a few of the very real, very human, and very immediate outcomes of grantmaking in FY25. Each project was carefully considered by panels of volunteer community members through each subfund advisory group. Thank you to every volunteer involved in grant assessment. It is a serious responsibility and a significant service.

This grantmaking was made possible because ordinary, generous locals have the imagination and optimism to believe the North East can be happier,

healthier, safer, more resilient and connected when communities are resourced to decide for themselves. Thank you to every person who has directed their workplace giving, written IOHCF into their will, supported a fundraising campaign, or made a major gift. Your trust and commitment are critical and deeply appreciated.

IOHCF is supported by a small but highly committed staff and Board team, ensuring that we continue strengthening our internal systems, financial and compliance processes, donor engagement pathways and operational capability, so we remain efficient, trusted and fit for future growth.

Looking to FY26, IOHCF will continue to provide the governance, legal, financial and compliance architecture that enables place-based and donor-led philanthropy. My role in the year ahead will be to connect people, strengthen systems, support responsible governance and grow trust in IOHCF as the philanthropic architecture for the region. We will focus on making grantmaking easier for applicants and assessors, strengthening our support for subfunds, improving how we capture and share impact, and clarifying how IOHCF positions itself in the region and beyond.

Much of the activity, momentum and impact of FY25 commenced before my arrival. I would like to acknowledge former Executive Officer Peter McCabe, and Chair Matt Joyce and Deputy Chair Fiona Nicholls for providing leadership and focus in the interim period. I also recognise Treasurer Bart Crawley for ensuring financial discipline and supporting staff capability during a significant transition phase. Thank you to Kylie Edmondson, Finance and Administration Officer, for her exceptional ongoing work and support.

It is a privilege to serve and to help build IOHCF to enable the North East.

Sylvie Huigen
Executive Officer

FY25 by numbers

48 grants

7 in Alpine Shire

41 in Rural City of Wangaratta

\$182,624 distributed to community causes

\$27,887 in Alpine Shire

\$154,737 in Rural City of Wangaratta

Subfunds

Alex's Fund – 1 grant - \$4,000

Garry Nash & Co – 23 grants - \$49,797

Glenrowan Solar Farm – 9 grants - \$50,000

Grow Myrtleford+ - 6 grants - \$24,887

Project 365 – 3 grants - \$31,940

IOHCF – 6 grants - \$22,000

Grantees

Appin Park Primary School

Beautiful You

Beyond Housing

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Bobbinawarrah Soldier Memorial Hall

Boys to the Bush

Carraragarmungee Primary School

Cathedral College

Centre Against Violence

Da Vinci Social Club

Glenrowan Pre School Centre

Goulburn and North East Arts Alliance

LINE Wangaratta

Lions Club of Wangaratta

MHA Care Limited
Milawa Primary School
Myrtleford Community Garden
Myrtleford Country Fire Association
Myrtleford Golf Club
Myrtleford P12 College
Myrtleford State Emergency Service
Myrtleford Toy Library
NE Tracks
North East Emergency Action
Open Door Neighbourhood House
Oxley Primary School
St John Ambulance Victoria
St Vincent de Paul Wangaratta
Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club
Wangaratta Festival of Jazz
Wangaratta Girl Guides
Wangaratta High School
Wangaratta Hockey Club
Wangaratta Landcare
Wangaratta Players
Wangaratta Primary School
Wangaratta Prostate Support Group
Wangaratta West Primary School
Warby Range Landcare
Whitfield District Primary School
Whorouly Primary School
Yarrunga Primary Schools

THANK YOU TO IOHCF DONORS

Alex's Fund

\$1,000+

Digby Race & Fleur Stelling
Dorothy Stelling

\$500+

Anne Stelling

\$100 and below

Anonymous (1)
Rick Atkins
John Bailey
Kristien DeDecker
Kasey Hanna
Tess Lucas
Stuart McIntosh
Joanne Millar
Georgina Race
Catherine Sarre
Timothy Toner
Eric Torey

Angie's Angels

\$1,000+

Anonymous (1)

\$100 and below

Patrick Murray
John Bailey

Garry Nash & Co. Community Fund

\$100,000+

Garry & Marion Nash

\$1,000+

Anonymous (2)
Rachael Trimble

\$500+

Justin Timms
Smarter Care Group

\$100 and below

Anonymous (2)
Keryn Arnold
Darren Bell
Wendy Busk
Skye Couch
Sara Corker
Nicole Essenhight
Clark Fletcher
Kane Grimshaw
Michelle Harrap
Ross Johnston
Jennine Kingston
Rhys Lyster
Phil McPherson
Cameron Meggs
Sarah Noble
Mardi Norman
Kayleen Robb
David Sutton
Kylie Samson
Christine Welsh
Isabel West
Michelle Winch

Give Wangaratta

\$20,000+

Anonymous (1)
Madge Brown Family Trust

\$5,000+

Wangaratta RSL

\$1,000+

Anonymous (1)

Ruth Kneebone

Clean Peak Energy

\$500+

John Bailey

Rural City of Wangaratta Workplace Giving

\$100 and below

Kenneth Clarke AO

Fitweld Engineering Pty Ltd

Katie Gibson

Pangerang Community Hub Inc.

Sarah Thompson

Grow Myrtleford+**\$1,000+**

Alpine Regional Horseman's Association

Alpine Shire Council

Anonymous (5)

Loretta Carroll

Helen Cavedon

Club Savoy Myrtleford

The Combined Services Club

Community Bright Bank

Lions Club of Myrtleford

Fiona Nicholls

\$500+

Anonymous (4)

Cory Brady

Hospital & Community Op Shop Myrtleford

Myrtleford Men's Shed

Myrtleford Rotary Club
Myrtleford Show
Standish Street Surgery

\$100 and below

Anonymous (1)
Roni Beauchamp
Marino Candusio
Club Savoy Myrtleford
Penny Dawkins
Bronwyn Dwyer
Tony & Josephine Ferraro
Margaret Fitridge
Gillian Gasser
Anita Hamilton
Sylvie Huigen
Win Mapley
Sally McDonald
Allan & Kaye McGuffie
Serena McGuffie
Bryan & Lis Meehan
Janine Milne
Myrtleford Chamber of Commerce
Myrtleford Cycle Centre
Myrtleford Golf Club
Saje's House and Pod
Sara Thorley Smith
Clive Walker OAM & Rae Walker

Project 365

\$1,000+

Templeton Advice Group

\$500+

North East Homemaker Centre

\$100 and below

Brent Lister

Into Our Hands Community Foundation

\$10,000+

Anonymous (1)

Madge Brown Family Trust

\$100 and below

Anonymous (3)

John Bailey

D C Briggs

D G Hartsman

Sylvie Huigen

Ross Johnston

Peter McCabe

Kylie Patrick

If you are inspired to contribute to Into Our Hands Community Foundation or direct your gift to a subfund please contact Sylvie Huigen, Executive Officer on 0466 252 866 or eo@intoourhands.com.au or go to www.intoourhandsfoundation.com.au and click the donate button.

Thank you to the IOHCF Board

Matt Joyce, Chair

Fiona Nicholls, Deputy Chair

John Bailey, Secretary

Bart Crawley, Treasurer

Anthony Griffiths

Emma Brown

Jodie Wells (resigned June 2025)