

HELPING REWRITE THE FUTURE

2020/21 Annual Review



Two year old twins, Remy and Darby, who spent time in the John Hunter Children's Hospital NICU in 2018.

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT
**CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**

500
COMMUNITY
GRANTS

CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



Jennifer Leslie, Chair

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation's bold vision is to *help rewrite the future, now and for generations to come*. We help innovative grassroots charities make a meaningful difference to the lives of people facing disadvantage and create opportunities to thrive in regional communities by providing \$1.5 million in grants each year.

This year has delivered enormous challenges to our health and wellbeing, especially for those already marginalised. The charities we support have also faced challenges as a vicious combination of increased demand, impediment to services and lost income has threatened their ability to achieve their missions.

We are especially proud to have not only maintained our strategic grant-making program this year but to have also supported the capacity of charities to survive and face up to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond funding, we have worked closely with our partners to share the burden of risk management, develop ideas and collaborate in new ways.

In September we announced \$600,000 for 13 projects to support our existing partners innovate and shepherd the community through COVID-19. In May we announced \$930,000 for 14 new projects with a focus on building resilience and restoring social connections that underpin our healthy and vibrant regional communities. These grants included the announcement of the Charitable Foundation's landmark 500th grant since our inception in 2003.



Graham Batten, Executive Officer

This milestone highlights both 500 opportunities to make a difference and the combined impact of our sustained philanthropic strategy over 18 years.

This year was also a landmark year for our Board as we farewelled two long-term directors, Phil Neat and Mike Rabbitt, who have each made a unique and lasting impact on the Charitable Foundation. Phil's leadership as Chair and Mike's deep community connections have contributed immensely to improving the lives of people in need throughout regional NSW for almost two decades.

Our Board welcomed Margie Haseltine, Ashley Gordon and Natasha Beyersdorf who bring deep governance expertise and experience and a passion for supporting causes spanning disability, mentoring and improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Charitable Foundation Board and management acknowledge the support provided by Newcastle Permanent Building Society that enables the Foundation to maximise its philanthropic work. We extend special thanks to Newcastle Permanent's staff, who share our values and passion for supporting their local community.

The coming year appears to present challenges just as significant as the past but, taking inspiration from the dedication of our partners and the tenacious spirit of our community, we look forward to meeting adversity with innovation and new opportunities with enthusiasm to build a safe, healthy and resilient future together.

HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPACT 2020/21

\$1.53m

in total grants funded

ACROSS 27 GRANTS



\$564,251

HEALTH

10 projects



\$624,000
YOUNG PEOPLE

10 projects



\$340,600
SOCIAL WELLBEING

7 projects



\$600,000

for COVID-19 community
recovery projects



33
Medical Wings clinics

reaching 600 children in
regional & remote communities



26,000
interactive books

on COVID safety for pre-
schoolers in four languages



Our
500th
project

with PCYC NSW

48,000

Direct reach



Project
reach

122,000

Indirect reach

\$102,000

to protect victims of
domestic violence in
regional communities



\$162,000

for sporting, creative and
social opportunities for
people living with a disability



\$151,000

for new educational
opportunities for
disadvantaged students

\$330,000

supporting better
mental wellbeing for
regional communities



2021 CHAIRMAN'S MEDAL

Congratulations to our 2021 Chairman's Medal recipient, Suzanne Clark-Pitrolo for her outstanding contribution to the Kaden Centre.



500 COMMUNITY GRANTS SINCE 2003



Eighteen years after the inception of Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, we announced our 500th community grant in 2021. This milestone marks 500 opportunities to make tangible improvement to the lives of people facing disadvantage, marginalisation or isolation in regional NSW.

Our 500th grant also represents 500 opportunities to share our vision with a hard working charity or community organisation to reach a common goal. With the cumulative result of each partnership, our shared impact has grown, along with the experience and knowledge required to help rewrite the future, together. Our sustained grant-making has formed partnerships that have enabled us to solve problems, innovate, connect and collaborate on ways to make regional communities healthy, safe, resilient and vibrant.

These partnerships share learnings and networks built up over nearly two decades of experience. Applying a place-based approach harnesses local knowledge and facilitates participation by the people who will benefit from our work and the support of our partners. Our capacity to engage with stakeholders including the health and social sectors, people of all abilities and the First Nations people in the

communities we support has empowered solutions that not only address current disadvantage but contribute to systemic and sustainable change across our three focus areas of health, young people and social wellbeing.

Together with our charity partners and our communities we have given disadvantaged people opportunity; given young people the chance to reach their potential; built safe spaces that give security to people in crisis; broken down barriers for our most marginalised people and provided lasting connections that bring hope and give people the chance of fresh starts, bright futures and safe, healthy lives.

We celebrate this milestone with the charities, their staff and volunteers who have brought our projects to life and show genuine passion and care for helping people in need. We also acknowledge that many people remain in need of support to escape the cycle of disadvantage, to discover their potential or to make connections that open up new opportunities. That's why, as a sustainable philanthropic foundation, we'll continue pursuing our vision with passion and focus for another 500 grants, to help rewrite the future, now and for generations to come.

PARTNER STORIES

/ PCYC & NICview



Police Citizens Youth Clubs
(PCYC) NSW

One in four young people aged between 16 and 24 experience a mental illness, and 75% of mental health problems first appear before the age of 25. Research also shows that young people have experienced higher rates of psychological distress, job loss and disruption to their education than older Australians as a result of COVID-19.

Being at the coalface of troubled and disadvantaged teens is nothing new for the PCYC. Its mission as an organisation has always been to empower young people to reach their potential, but also to feel safe and have the chance to connect with others.

Funded by a \$125,000 grant from the Charitable Foundation, its landmark 500th grant since 2003, PCYC is launching the Growth-mindset Resilience Intervention for Teenagers (GRIT) pilot program to help support the emerging mental health needs of teens across the Newcastle and Hunter regions.

"The GRIT program integrates specific mental resilience skills training, with nutrition education, and physical fitness," explained Dominic Teakle, CEO, PCYC NSW.

"The Charitable Foundation's support really gives the GRIT program a chance to reach more young people across our regions and support the mental health and resilience of young people in our communities. We can't do it all, but with help we can do as much as we can."



John Hunter Children's
Hospital Kids Club – NICview

Back in 2018, leaving behind not one, but two premature babies in the neonatal ward at John Hunter Children's Hospital was a wrench for first-time parents Erin and Brett, whose twins Darby and Remy were born at 31 weeks.

Although their babies have since grown into boisterous, adventurous two-year-olds, the couple will never forget the one thing that made the babies' early days bearable: the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit's (NICU) innovative webcam system, NICview.

Installed on every crib in the NICU, the camera allows parents to login from home and see their baby any time of the day or night using their smartphone.

Funded by a grant from the Charitable Foundation, NICview continues to be an important lifeline for many parents with a baby in the hospital's neonatal ward.

"I really believe the cameras play an integral role in helping mothers recover mentally in those first few weeks," Erin said.

"Leaving your babies behind is extremely distressing and goes against every protective, maternal instinct. When you can see your baby in real time and see that they're ok, it gives you a sense of relief when things feel overwhelming."

Since their challenging early start in hospital, Darby and Remy have come forward in leaps and bounds, meeting their milestones and tiring their parents out.

"Every little win, every milestone they meet is just a huge blessing to us, whether it's a new word or the ability to climb on the dining table," Erin said.

PARTNER STORIES

/ Wheelchair Sports & SHINE for Kids



Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT



Sport has always been a significant part of Aimee Fisher's life but, at just 16 years old, a fall at gymnastics training left her a paraplegic.

Determined to regain her independence, she powered through rehab in record time and returned home to focus on her main passion: sports.

Talking to a doctor in the ICU, Aimee was reminded that a spinal injury did not mean the end of her sporting opportunities.

"It first sparked my interest to look into the way sports I had previously engaged in could be adapted," Aimee said.

"To know it was something I could return to was motivating."

Just six weeks after her injury, Aimee sat in a racing chair supplied by Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT for the first time and said it gave her back a sense of normalcy she hadn't had since her accident.

"The specialised equipment required is expensive and personalised, making it difficult to try sports without having access to groups like Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT," Aimee said.

Three years on, Aimee has completed her HSC and is studying medical sonography, while training hard five days a week.

"I also want to qualify for the World Championships and for the next Paralympics in Paris in 2024."



SHINE for Kids



Children with an incarcerated parent are amongst the most marginalised in our community. COVID-19 has added another level of complexity by suspending in-person visits to correctional centres, at times for months on end.

SHINE for Kids is stepping in to help fill that void with Storytime at Wellington. The program uses the power of story-telling to re-connect children with their parent incarcerated at Macquarie or Wellington Correctional Centres. The parent creates a recording of themselves reading a book and also writes and decorates a story of their own. The books and recording are delivered to the child to read at home, supported by SHINE for Kids counsellors.

Dad in custody at Macquarie Correctional Centre, Matthew* said that it is hard to explain the impact of Storytime.

"I wrote a story about fishing for my son. It was the last thing we did together. My son now sleeps with the book under his pillow," Matthew said.

SHINE for Kids Manager, Julianne Sanders, said Storytime has enabled a parental connection to be maintained.

"The stories we hear of reading together with a recording or keeping a book close at night shows how important this connection with a parent is, regardless of circumstance," Julianne said.

SHINE for Kids programs aim to help avoid family fragmentation and intergenerational offending by providing positive opportunities and trauma-informed support to children.

**name changed for privacy*

BOARD AND GOVERNANCE



Board members left to right:
Jennifer Leslie (Chair)
Natasha Beyersdorf
Kurt Fearnley
Ashley Gordon
Jane Gray
Margie Haseltine
Bernadette Inglis
Phil Neat (retired)
Mike Rabbitt (retired)
Chad Watson

In 2003, Newcastle Permanent created the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation as a gift to the community. Newcastle Permanent Community Foundation Company Limited is the trustee of the Foundation and is represented by a Board of Directors, comprising representatives of the Newcastle Permanent Board and appointed Community Directors.

The Board meets at least four times each year and has responsibility to:

- set and monitor the Charitable Foundation's strategic direction
- guide its financial, risk and investment decisions
- ensure compliance with the Charitable Foundation's Trust Deed, guidelines and taxation and other legislation
- approve funding of charitable grants.

The Charitable Foundation is classified as a Private Ancillary Fund (PAF) and is regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC). The Charitable Foundation provides approximately \$1.5 million annually in grants to charitable community organisations across the Hunter, Central Coast, Central West, Mid North Coast, New England and Northern Rivers regions of NSW.

Newcastle Permanent Building Society has endowed \$30 million to the Charitable Foundation and provides ongoing operational support under an administrative services agreement. The Charitable Foundation has invested the funds from Newcastle Permanent to generate an income stream that is used to support important community projects and initiatives. These projects help to rewrite the future of people in need. Now. And for generations to come.

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.

WHO WE'VE HELPED THIS YEAR



charitablefoundation.com.au

facebook.com/charitablefoundation

linkedin.com/company/charitablefoundation

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT
**CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**