

Making a Difference

ISSUE ONE

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TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FUND NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF). The newsletter is intended to keep the Tasmanian community informed of TCF activities and events and highlight community projects around Tasmania that have been supported by the fund.

The TCF seeks to work with Tasmanians to make a difference. Projects supported contribute to the quality of life in Tasmania as well as assisting those in need. We hope you enjoy reading this information.

Gerald Loughran
Chairman

IN THIS Issue

■ PAGE TWO

How to apply for TCF funding.

■ PAGE THREE

Dreams come true with festival funding.

■ PAGE FOUR

TCF funding has enabled the purchase of two rowing sculls adapted for athletes with disabilities.



Tasmanian Community Fund

Making a difference



Big hArt project participants discuss their approach to the Radio Holiday venture.

Project helps keep a slice of history alive

BIG hART has been granted a \$71,160 TCF grant for its Radio Holiday venture, a community-based arts intervention support program for at-risk young people and remote communities.

The project enables composers and Australia's visual artists to work with young people to collect narratives from disappearing coastal shack communities.

Visual works and radio pieces have been aired on local and national radio, and also formed part of the 10 Days on the Island event.

These pieces, created with some of Tasmania's most marginalised young people, will be the focus of public forums to generate positive debate about urban planning and the future of small communities. The project involved 27 young people collecting stories from residents in traditional shack communities

such as Trial Harbour, Couta Rocks, Crayfish Creek, Tomahawk and Southport.

Shacks have held a special place in Tasmania's culture but these areas are at risk of changing forever and losing their history. The project's aim is to record the narratives of these regions and, at the same time, provide an opportunity for co-operation between young people on the North-West Coast and older people in urban and remote communities.

Other funding bodies, such as the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the Burnie City Council, also contributed to the project.

What's coming up?

The TCF is currently in the process of assessing applications under Grant Round 10. All applicants will be advised of the outcome by early June.

Grant Round 11 will open on 16 July and close 25 August. The round will be advertised in *The Mercury*, *The Examiner* and *The Advocate*, as well on the TCF website.

Guidelines and application forms will be available on the website, by emailing to admin@tascomfund.org, or by phoning 6233 2800.

We encourage potential applicants to start planning their project early. And remember – no late applications will be accepted.

The TCF has a special grant program looking at the promotion and conservation of Tasmania's cultural heritage. A panel with expertise in Tasmania's cultural heritage will assist the TCF Board in assessing the project.

Expressions of interest closed in March. Short-listed organisations will be requested to provide a more detailed submission in support of their project. The TCF will announce the successful projects in August.

TCF's funding principles

The TCF will consider applications for funding from not-for-profit organisations proposing to undertake community projects in Tasmania.

who we want to hear from

Generally preference is given to organisations that:

- Encourage community involvement.
- Demonstrate sound financial and project management practices.
- Look to provide long-term solutions to community problems rather than simply short-term relief.

projects that qualify

The TCF looks for projects that are genuinely responsive to the community's needs and:

- Have a significant and demonstrable benefit to the Tasmanian community or a significant section of the community.
- Have a sustainable and positive impact on the community.
- Are innovative and proactive in their approach and delivery.
- Represent value for money.
- Build and strengthen a particular community's capacity.
- Encourage substantial volunteer and community involvement with the project.
- Are self-sufficient at the end of the funding period.

our guiding principles

The principles that guide TCF's grant-making policies are:

- Building cohesive and stronger communities.
- Encouraging innovative solutions and new approaches to issues.
- Maximising the value of our grants and avoiding duplication.
- Meeting a demonstrable need.
- Promoting sustainable and long-term outcomes.
- Promoting community involvement and commitment.
- Encouraging community organisations to work together and form partnerships in the delivery of services.

projects and organisations that do not qualify

The TCF Board will **NOT** provide funding:

- To fund core government responsibilities.
- To previous recipients if they have outstanding reporting obligations.
- To a political party.
- To an organisation whose primary purpose is the provision of grants of financial assistance.
- For projects which produce a private benefit.
- Retrospectively.
- To conference organisers or attendees at conferences.
- In the form of a loan.

The Launceston Computer Group's Older Persons Electronic Network program increases seniors' awareness and familiarity with the internet in a comfortable environment among peers.



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The TCF will **NOT GENERALLY** provide funding:

- To sporting clubs for the upgrade or maintenance of facilities or equipment.
- For ongoing funding of administrative costs, project officers or support staff.
- To enable a study or inquiry to be undertaken unless funding has already been secured to implement the outcomes.
- To pay off debt.

how much funding has been provided?

Since its establishment, the TCF has provided more than \$17 million of funding for almost 500 projects.

In the most recent completed grant round in October 2004, just over \$2 million was allocated to 76 projects.

Grant Round 10, assessed in May this year, will enable the TCF to provide funding to many more worthwhile projects.

The TCF continues to ensure that funding is spread across the state, particularly into regional and rural areas.



Participants at the first Festival of Dreams weekend in 2004.

Dreams come true with grant to festival

Grant Round Nine saw the TCF give the Festival of Dreams \$148,800 over two years to develop the capacity of young Tasmanians and youth networks to:

- Provide ongoing support and evaluation of the projects created by young people at the first Festival of Dreams weekend.
- Hold annual Festival of Dreams two- or three-day workshops to create new projects.
- Develop and expand partnerships with government, local councils, community organisations and businesses in order to develop long-term sustainability of the project within two years.

The Festival of Dreams began in 2004 with a two-day forum where young Tasmanians aged from 13 to 25 shared their ideas, passions and dreams for their community and/or their lives.

The attendees worked together with mentors, community members and youth networks to transform their ideas into clear, achievable projects for their communities.

Funding was provided to continue the successful weekend for two more years, after which the project aims to be self-sustaining.

Launceston Computer Group – OPEN

THE Launceston Computer Group received \$10,180 from the TCF to upgrade computer and associated equipment for OPEN – the Older Persons Electronic Network program.

The OPEN program increases seniors' awareness and familiarity with the

internet in a comfortable environment among peers. The program also assists people with disabilities and those from culturally diverse backgrounds to become more familiar with new technology.

While younger users often take computer skills for granted, older generations can

be intimidated by unfamiliar technology. The program breaks down these barriers and sessions have attracted increasing numbers of attendees.

Volunteers are involved in every facet of the program and include technicians, trainers and committee members.

Community forums

In March, the TCF invited community organisations from the North-West Coast to a community forum in Burnie.

Attendees heard from the Chairman of the TCF about the type of projects the Board seeks to support, and TCF staff provided advice on the application procedure.

Previous grant recipients offered tips on applying for funding and managing a project.

Other forums are planned for Launceston, Hobart and other locations around the state. Keep your eye on our website and in the main newspapers for details.



David using the adaptive rowing sculls on the Derwent

Row, row, row your boat . . .

THE TCF granted DISROW \$9,869 to buy two adaptive rowing sculls for athletes with disabilities. DISROW's aim is to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy and achieve success in the sport of rowing. A number of rowing clubs across Tasmania support the program.

The sculls, with supportive pontoons to give

the craft stability and adjustable oars, were purchased in October 2004 and have been used for an Introduction to Rowing program in the south of the state.

Athletes in the program have improved their times, confidence and rowing ability, and five new rowers have joined following the purchase of the new equipment.

Dru Point dual access playground

THE TCF granted \$35,120 to the Dru Point Access Committee as partial funding for a dual access playground at Dru Point, Margate.

The committee had identified a real need in the community for a playground that could cater for people with a range of abilities. The playground will provide an innovative, exciting and challenging experience and facilitate equal inclusion, participation and integration of children and adults with a range of physical and intellectual disabilities with their able-bodied peers.

The playground will include specially designed swings for wheelchair access. Users of the

playground will be able to journey through a number of 'rooms' which will include a tactile room, a musical room with outdoor percussion instruments, an obstacle room, a slide room and a sandpit room.

A significant factor for the TCF in approving the grant was the support provided, both financially and in-kind, from a range of community groups and business organisations.

Following the TCF's grant, the State Government announced it would contribute \$230,000 to the project.

Kingborough Council will oversee the project.

