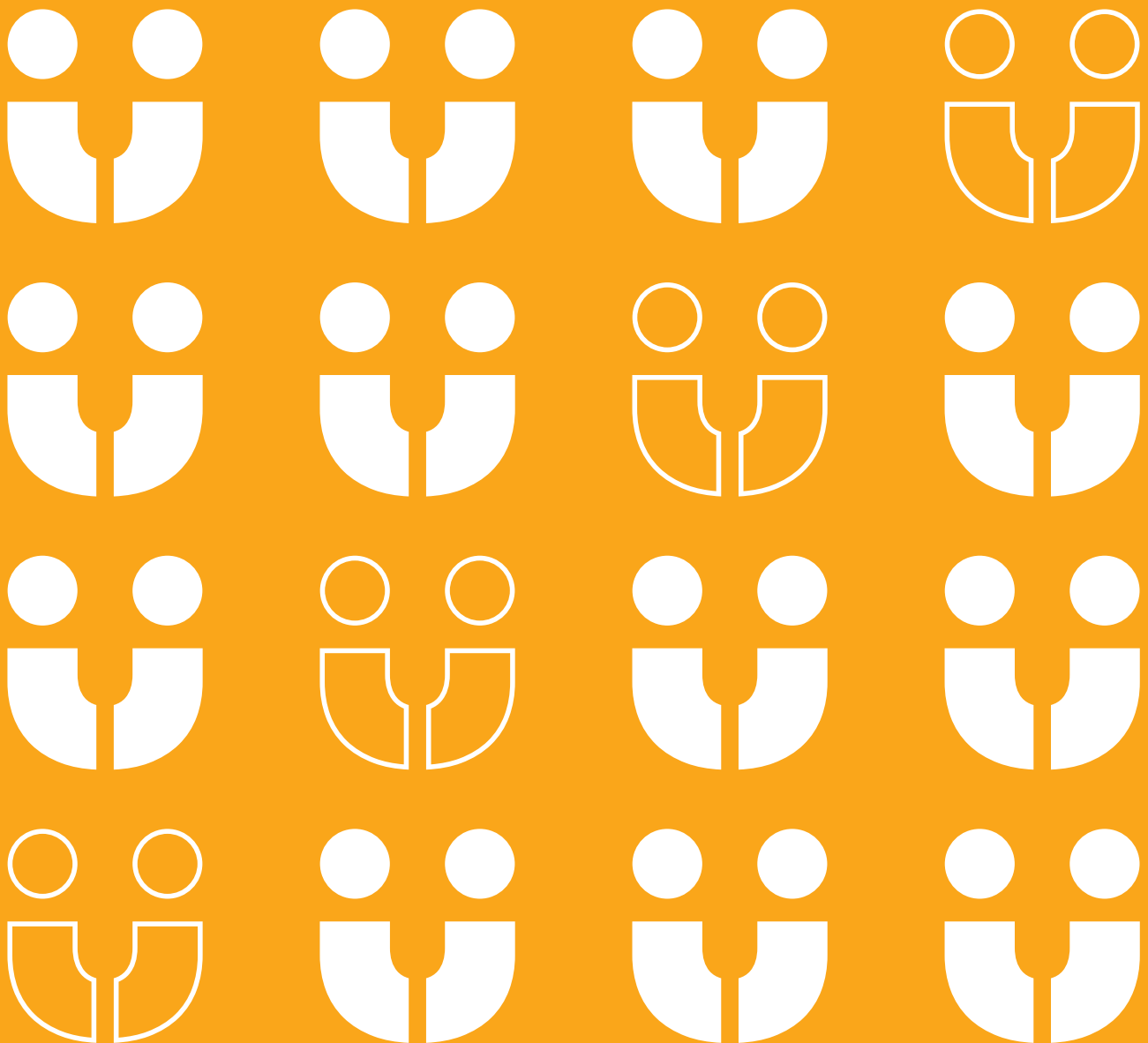


Annual Report

2023 - 2024



BORDER **TRiUST**

Your community foundation

Activating the power of giving for lasting impact
across our region.

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Acknowledgement of Country

Border Trust acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their enduring connections to land, waterways and community.

We pay our respects to elders past and present.

Welcome to Border Trust

Border Trust connects the generosity of donors with local not-for-profit organisations, funding life-changing initiatives, now and into the future. Our areas of impact include community equity, connection + wellbeing, community leadership, climate resilient communities, and disaster recovery resilience and readiness.

Together we are building a generous, connected, and thriving community.

Border Trust was established in 2004 as a community-based charitable organisation to serve the Albury Wodonga region. Initially, the cities and shires of Albury, Alpine, Corowa, Greater Hume, Indigo, Towong and Wodonga were established as the geographic boundaries of the Foundation. Tumbarumba Shire joined Border Trust in August 2010.

With the emergence of Into our Hands Community Foundation and the growth of Tumut Foundation, Border Trust's current region of support is Albury, Federation (previously known as Corowa), Greater Hume, Indigo, Towong and Wodonga. For the purposes of specific initiatives such as our Bushfire Relief Fund, we include Alpine and Snowy Valleys (previously Tumbarumba) LGAs on an exception basis.

We activate the power of giving for lasting impact across our region.

Our 2023-2024 Annual Report provides a snapshot of our efforts, collaborations and impact. We hope you enjoy reading the stories and recognise, as we do, the lasting legacy of our collective work.



Since 2004 Border Trust has distributed \$4.8m + into our local Border region



300+ generous donors



320+ life-changing programs



12,000+ Back-To-School Vouchers



Meet the Team



Kristy Campbell
Chair



Sue Gold
Executive Officer

Border Trust plays a crucial role in helping the border region to thrive, thanks to the collective effort of our generous donors, local not-for-profit organisations and a team committed to building a stronger community and a brighter future. Together, we identify and support charitable projects and programs addressing important local opportunities and needs, ensuring the border region continues to grow and prosper.



Tim Frazer
Deputy Chair



Mackenzie Putt
Treasurer



Thomas Coelli-Donaghy
Secretary



Deborah Culhane
Board Director



Ryan Hastie
Board Director



Juan Hernandez
Board Director



Caitlin Lawrence
Board Director



Susan Owens
Board Director



James Smith
Board Director



Glenys Atkins
Community Engagement & Impact



Michelle Hudson
Donor Engagement & Partnerships



Alexandra Jankowski
Events & Marketing Officer



Alana Nesire
Data & Administration

VitalSigns[®]

Discover the heartbeat of our community

Connecting the dots for community.

Border Trust is excited to launch this VitalSigns project and share our findings with our donors, supporters and community.

While this project helps us to understand elements of our region, we are aware that other data exists that is not yet publicly available.

Our next step is to engage further with community, local agencies and government to collect data and research and include this on our VitalSigns platform, so it is easily accessible.

Activating the power of giving for lasting impact across our region.

The VitalSigns project helps our understanding of local needs and informs where funding and support is directed.

This project provides benchmark data from which we can measure impact, not just across our 5 impact areas, but also across the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



39 Grants were distributed totalling \$801,923

- **Leadership \$35,900 (5%)**
- **Equity \$188,900 (23%)**
- **Connection + Wellbeing \$564,428 (70%)**
- **Climate Resilience \$12,695 (2%)**

(These include 16 Towong Community Bushfire Disaster Relief grants, which were distributed across the various impact areas.)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Our Focus

We work to promote and support a resourceful and generous community by encouraging and enabling philanthropy. We continue to build a permanent endowment for the long-term benefit of the local community.

gen·er·ous

Adj:

1. free in giving or sharing.
2. noble; open-handed.

loc·al

Adj:

existing in or belonging to the area where you live.

conn·ec·ted

Adj:

a link or relationship between multiple things.

What Border Trust does...



We believe those closest to the issues are closest to the solutions. We work with not-for-profits across the Border region to make a difference where it matters most.

Border Trust helps support implementation of local projects, including:

- Food for people and families in need
- Support for those experiencing homelessness
- Assistance for locals impacted by natural disasters
- Vital support, resources and assistance to those impacted by domestic violence
- Help for at-risk or disadvantaged children
- Creation of social connections that cross cultural, age and gender divides
- Developing the climate resiliency of our local economy and landscapes
- Help for those experiencing mental health and wellbeing challenges
- Community leadership development to drive positive change in response to local areas of need and opportunity.

Our Areas of Impact



Climate Resilient Communities

Communities are equipped to anticipate, prepare for, and manage the diverse impacts of a changing climate.

Projects funded include: All weather shelter for native garden nursery volunteers | Our Native Garden Seed Bank for a more sustainable future



Community Leadership

The development of regional leaders enhances the community's ability to tackle local challenges and opportunities.

Projects funded include: Leadership Programs | Fischer Community Leadership | Sponsored participation in AVCLP



Community Connection & Wellbeing

A welcoming, connected and inclusive community provides the foundation for a vibrant region and positively impacts individual and community well-being.

Projects funded include: High Viz Vests for Volunteers | Volunteer Training | Cultural Activities for an Indigenous Football Round | Driving Lessons for Multicultural Women



Disaster Recovery, Resilience & Readiness

Our region's ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from natural disasters enhances the safety, health, and economic prosperity of Border communities.

Projects funded include: Revitalisation and growth of public garden space | Community Hall Renovations | Food security



Community Equity

By helping those who help others, access to necessities like food, shelter, education, work, and healthcare enables all to participate in and contribute to a thriving region.

Projects funded include: Crisis Cases for Emergency Foster Care | Swags for the Homeless | Food for a Community Outreach Program

Thank you Hume Bank

Hume Bank has supported Border Trust since 2005 as our premiere Foundation Builder, generously providing office and meeting spaces that relieve us of a significant financial burden. Their ongoing support extends to fundraising campaigns, including the annual Back to School Program, reflecting our shared commitment to the region's wellbeing.

In support of creating a safer community and helping to end domestic and family violence, Hume Bank launched its dedicated Safer Communities Fund in June 2024. The fund will contribute financial support directly to frontline family and domestic violence service providers across the region.

"We are making an initial contribution of \$50,000 [to the Safer Communities Fund] and will continue to add to this total over the coming years. Funds will be distributed via our partnership with Border Trust, with grants going directly to organisations in the region that deliver these vital services."

Stephen Capello, Hume Bank CEO.



Sue Gold (Border Trust EO) and Stephen Capello (Hume Bank CEO) celebrate the launch of the Safer Communities Fund at the Big Give 2024.

Thank you to our Foundation Builders



Adroit Insurance and Risk have a strong connection to several Community Foundations including Border Trust, with the Albury office enthusiastic and engaged participants in almost everything we do.

Their support extends to the annual Adroit Insurance and Risk Charity Golf Day, which kicked off in 2013 and has continued year on year (with a notable COVID exception), raising more than \$100,000 in that time.



Based in New York, international philanthropic organisation Global Giving, has established a relationship with Australian community foundations that support regions affected by the 2019/2020 bushfires. Through a mix of specific purpose grants and untagged donations, Global Giving's contributions are highly valued, not only in a financial sense, but also through a shared understanding of the positive impact that communities working together can have.



Border Trust has enjoyed a longstanding relationship with Lester and Son, another significant local business who support our Foundation Builder Program.

Recognising the value of a strong and connected community, Lester and Son's annual contribution commenced in 2012 and was carried on by the new owners in 2019.

FRRR Back to School Program

The national Back to School Gift Voucher Program, facilitated by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) is delivered locally by Border Trust with the support of Hume Bank and local donors.

At the start of the 2024 school year, 582 students across our region received a \$50 Target or Kmart voucher to enable families in need to purchase necessities including footwear, stationary, toiletries, uniforms and books. In addition to this, 150 students received a \$100 JB Hi Fi voucher to help them with the costs of technology.

After 19 years of supporting students and families through the Back to School Program,

FRRR have reluctantly announced the conclusion of the national program. It will be missed.

LGA	2024 Vouchers	Value
Albury	276	\$15,050
Federation	50	\$3,750
Greater Hume	71	\$4,800
Indigo	56	\$4,050
Towong	34	\$2,950
Wodonga	245	\$13,500
Total	582 (\$50 vouchers) 150 (\$100 Tech Vouchers)	\$29,100 \$15,000

Facilitated Nationally by:



Delivered Locally by:



Supported Locally by:



Featured Story: Upper Murray Innovation Foundation

\$26,000 Playles Hill Labyrinth Project

After the Black Summer fires, the Playles Hill Project Group came together with the goal of revitalising the neglected space in Corryong, transforming it into a park for the entire community.

Their latest project is the creation of a labyrinth, designed as a tool for health and well-being. With a single, winding path leading to the centre, the labyrinth invites visitors to walk slowly and mindfully, offering a space for contemplation, walking meditation and stress relief.

The views from the labyrinth are stunning, creating a serene place for healing and reflection. Though its primary purpose is to promote mental wellness, it also serves as a gathering space ideal for community events.

The Upper Murray Innovation Foundation received a grant through Round 5 of the Towong Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund for the Playles Hill Labyrinth Project.



Towong Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund

Since 2021 Border Trust has administered the Towong Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund which was established in response to the 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires that devastated our region.

Along with the Community Enterprise Foundation (covering the Alpine LGA) and the East Gippsland Community Foundation (covering East Gippsland), Border Trust was selected to partner with the Victorian Bushfire Appeal to support the long-term recovery of the Towong Shire.

As trustee of the Towong Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund, Border Trust will distribute \$2,850,945 through grant programs to support long term recovery initiatives.

Our thanks to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal for their trust in us to distribute these funds and to Bushfire Recovery Victoria (now Emergency Recovery Victoria) for providing operational capacity to administer the fund.

Grants Distributed: **46**

Amount Distributed to June 2024: **\$1,905,287**

Towong Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund

Grant Rounds 5 & 6, 2023/2024 - Total Distribution: \$548,496

Towong Round 5

Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare

Project: Food relief for Corryong and surrounding communities..... \$50,000.00

Border Trust Community Foundation for the Albury Wodonga Region

Project: Vital Signs..... \$26,000.00

Corryong and District Memorial Public Hall Inc.

Project: Opening Technology Eyes to the World.. \$23,000.00

Corryong Food Share Services

Project: Logistic Capability & Volunteer Amenities Upgrade..... \$50,000.00

Corryong Opportunity Shop Inc.

Project: Shop Revamp and Facelift - Stage 2..... \$23,790.00

Northeast Emergency Action Group Incorporated

Project: North East Emergency Expo..... \$9,000.00

Upper Murray Innovation Foundation

Project: Playles Hill Labyrinth..... \$26,000.00

Upper Murray Innovation Foundation

Project: Cudgewa School Park Revitalization..... \$15,000.00

Towong Round 6

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Inc.

Project: Annual Program Scholarship..... \$9,900.00

Corryong FoodShare Services

Project: Corryong Foodshare..... \$50,000.00

Corryong Football Netball Club Incorporated

Project: Corryong Recreation Reserve Walk In Fridge Freezer.. \$39,000.00

Corryong Historic Machinery Club

Project: Machinery Club Fence..... \$30,000.00

Drop In and Take Off Incorporated

Project: Wellbeing through Skateboarding Grade 6 Towong Shire Primary Schools..... \$50,000.00

Upper Murray Innovation Foundation

Project: Towong Soldiers Memorial Hall "Fit Out" Project..... \$47,806.00

Upper Murray Innovation Foundation

Project: Towong BBQ Area & Community Hub.... \$49,000.00

Youth Albury Wodonga

Project: "Rekindle" Family Forge Retreats..... \$50,000.00

Named Sub-Funds

A Border Trust Named Sub-Fund is a great way to involve family, friends, communities or whole organisations in a meaningful and fulfilling giving experience. You can recommend the charities and causes that you wish to support and see projects come to life.

Border Trust's Named Sub-Funds

- Adroit Insurance & Risk
- Michael and Sue Houlihan
- Katharine Sleeman
- Rand Silo
- The Scots School Albury
- John & Hal Hennessy
- City2City Run Walk
- ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with philanthropic partner, Handbury Foundation
- Fischer Community Leadership
- Back to School Program
- Give500 Annual & Perpetual
- Highlands
- Greater Hume
- Bobby Garratt Memorial

Named Sub Fund Distributions 2024

ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with Philanthropic Partner, Handbury Foundation. 2024 Distributions

\$2,000 A Better Life for Foster Kids: Crisis Cases for Emergency Foster Care

\$2,000 Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare: Foodshare Volunteers Safe & Seen

\$3,600 Albury Women's Shed Inc: 'Together We Can' Equipment Replacement

\$2,500 Country Hope: Hugs Program

\$2,000 Fight Cancer Foundation: New bedding for Hilltop Cancer Patients & Carers Accommodation Centre

\$2,000 Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups: Connected Landcare community in the Kiewa Valley

\$1,400 Make Me Mobile Charity Limited: Cans4Vans

\$2,000 Our Native Garden Nursery Inc: Undercover Propagation All Weather Shelter for Volunteers

Hume Bank City2City Run Walk

\$153,807

Albury Wodonga Health: Women's Health Operative Improvements

Katherine Sleeman

\$5,000

Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau: Drive to Connect Program

Adroit Insurance and Risk

\$3,000 A Better Life for Foster Kids: Crisis Cases for Emergency Foster Care

\$2,500 Country Hope: Hugs Program

Michael and Sue Houlihan

\$5,000

The Carevan Foundation: Community Outreach Program

2024 Grant Recipients

A Better Life for Foster Kids Incorporated

Project: Crisis Cases for Emergency Foster Care

Amount: \$5,000

Co-Funded By: ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with philanthropic partner Handbury Foundation and Adroit Insurance & Risk

Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare

Project: FoodShare Volunteers - Safe & Seen

Amount: \$4,430

Co-Funded By: Border Trust and ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with philanthropic partner Handbury Foundation

Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau

Project: Drive to Connect 3

Amount: \$5,000

Funded By: Katharine Sleeman Named Sub Fund

Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau

Project: Multicultural Lunch Series 2024

Amount: \$5,000

Funded By: Kim's Table

Albury Women's Shed Inc

Project: "Together We Can" - Equipment Replacement

Amount: \$3,623

Funded By: ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with philanthropic partner Handbury Foundation

Arts Yackandandah

Project: Positive Ageing Digital Storytelling

Intergenerational Project

Amount: \$5,000

Funded By: Border Trust Community Grants

Beechworth Toy Library

Project: Toy Library Expansion

Amount: \$2,500

Funded By: Border Trust Community Grants

Corowa and District S.H.E. Shed Inc

Project: Expand and Enjoy

Amount: \$4,597

Funded By: Border Trust Community Grants

Country Hope

Project: Hugs

Amount: \$5,000

Co-Funded By: Adroit Insurance & Risk and ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with philanthropic partner Handbury Foundation

Fight Cancer Foundation - Hilltop Albury

Project: Essential Comfort - new bedding for Hilltop Accommodation Centre

Amount: \$2,000

Funded By: ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with philanthropic partner Handbury Foundation

Jindera Pioneer Museum

Project: Jindera Lantern Festival Laternenlaufen

Amount: \$2,000

Funded By: Border Trust Community Grants

Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups

Amount: Fostering a more connected Landcare community in the Kiewa Valley

Grant Total: \$3,905

Co-Funded By: ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with philanthropic partner Handbury Foundation and Border Trust

Make Me Mobile Charity Limited

Project: Cans 4 Vans

Amount: \$1,400

Funded By: ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with philanthropic partner Handbury Foundation

Our Native Garden Nursery Inc.

Project: Undercover Propagation - all weather shelter for volunteers

Amount: \$4,790

Co-Funded By: Border Trust and ACE Radio 2AY & Edge FM with philanthropic partner Handbury Foundation

St John Ambulance Australia (Vic) Inc Wodonga

Project: Volunteer recruitment and training program

Amount: \$2,500

Funded By: Border Trust Community Grants

Survivors of Suicide & Friends

Project: Winter Solstice 2024 event

Amount: \$4,875

Funded By: Border Trust Community Grants

The Carevan Foundation Ltd

Project: Community Outreach Program

Amount: \$5,000

Funded By: M&S Houlihan Named Sub Fund

Totally Renewable Beechworth

Project: Winter Warm-up for Tenants

Amount: \$3,000

Funded By: Border Trust Community Grants

Wahgunyah Football Club Inc

Project: Wahgunyah Football and Netball Indigenous Round

Amount: \$4,000

Funded By: Border Trust Community Grants



Collective giving for a stronger Border community.

Give500 is a starting point for like-minded individuals and groups to pool their donations and support life changing community programs across the Border region.

The campaign leverages the power of collective giving, combining many individual donations to make a significant local difference.

It's an easy way to make a big giving impact.

Year on year, and as the number of Give500 donors grows, the impact of the campaign grows too.

All donors are invited to our Pitch Night to hear from shortlisted applicants and to cast their vote for a winner and the two runner up projects. Each \$500 donation = one vote at the Pitch Night, held annually in November.



2021 Winner

Junction Support Services: Therapy Dog Program

Runner-ups

Survivors of Suicide and Friends: Solstice the Documentary

Aspect Riverina School: Resilience on the Spectrum Program



Border Trust thanks Albury Business Connect for their continued support of this life changing campaign and of us, Border Trust.

Without their generous contributions we could not create such positive change in our community.



2022 Winner

PCYC: Kinder Gym Program

Runner-ups

Petaurus Education Group: Sisters who SHINE Program

The Body Confident Collective: Embrace Albury Wodonga



2023 Winner

The Carevan Foundation: Ruffy Swags Project

Runner-ups

Our Native Garden Nursery: Seeds on the Move: A Local Community Initiative

Tots2Teens Albury Wodonga: Classy Kids Program

Give500 Feature Story

The Carevan Foundation

Ruffy Swags Project

In 2023, the Carevan Foundation set out to address the rising issue of homelessness in our community.

With the support of the Give500 grant, the Ruffy Swags Project was able to create swags for those who are homeless or sleeping rough and struggling to find a bed each night. These swags are crafted by inmates at the Beechworth Correctional Facility, providing both a valuable resource for the homeless and skill-building opportunities for the inmates.

It's not finding homes for people, but it's finding beds for people.

"The Ruffy Swags Project is moving along with great success. Give500 has provided an opportunity for local community organisations, Carevan and Uniting Vic Tas, to come together in partnership, enabling us to try and relieve the stress associated with homelessness.

The program has allowed a sense of community connection while also providing the inmates a chance to learn new skills that will open more options when released.

Our homeless are being offered dignity and protection from the elements that surround their everyday struggles.

Already 90 swags have been made and 76 distributed."

Leanne Johnson
Carevan Foundation, Chief Executive Officer



Stories from our Community

Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau

Project: Drive2Connect

The Drive2Connect program is one beautiful example of a local project facilitating community connection. The program is delivered by the Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau & Multicultural Services and funded via Kate Sleeman's Named Sub Fund. The project supports refugee women newly settled on the Border with professional driving lessons so that they can get their drivers licence, achieving both independence and connection with local schools, workplaces and community networks.



Jindera Pioneer Museum

Project: Jindera Lantern Festival

The Jindera Pioneer Museum's first-ever Lantern Walk, supported by a \$2,000 Community Grant from Border Trust, lit up the night.

With beautifully crafted lanterns made in workshops held before the event and a musical troupe to lead the way, the night was filled with music, singing, and an incredible sense of community.

The Lantern Walk, a very traditional European event, offers a unique experience that perfectly aligns with the museum's purpose and sense of community. It's a celebration of Jindera's German heritage and pioneering spirit, providing a link to the pioneering past you won't find anywhere else.



Stories from our Community

As a proud member of Community Foundations Australia and Philanthropy Australia, Border Trust benefits from strong leadership and governance support. The valuable networking, collaboration and learning activities offered throughout the year enable Border Trust to make informed decisions and grow our support of life-changing initiatives that create a thriving and inclusive region.



Community Foundations Australia Network Gathering 2024 hosted by Community Foundations Australia with Border Trust.

Fischer Community Leadership



Border Trust is proud to auspice the Fischer Community Leadership Committee (FCL), a community group committed to enabling grassroots leadership development within the community. The Fischer Community Leadership Program is an immersive and interactive program that offers participants essential leadership skills such as communication, decision making, effective meeting procedures, inclusion, social media for community groups, successful grant writing and community project management.

"The Fischer Community Leadership Program, named in honor of the late Tim Fischer AC, has proven to be a transformative initiative for regional communities in Greater Hume and Federation Councils.

Since its launch as a pilot in 2022, the program has effectively empowered grassroots leadership, and in 2024, it was delivered across three locations, supporting 35 graduates.

With 100% of participants reporting satisfaction, it is clear that we are successfully building individual and collective capacity within our communities. Participants have gained valuable skills and insights from local leaders while also strengthening their networks and confidence to advocate for their community.

We are grateful for the support of the New South Wales Government Stronger Country Communities Fund, Federation Council, Greater Hume Council, and Border Trust, which have made this impactful program possible."

Madeline Hines - Executive Officer, Alpine Valleys Community Leadership



Thank you to our Sponsors and Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution and ongoing generosity of the following organisations who support our operational capacity.

HANDBURY
FOUNDATION

1494 2AY

EDGE FM



ATURA

Albury

camerahouse

LIGHTNING IP



FRRR

Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal





BORDERTRUST

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Trustee ABN 34 111 519 012 | DGR Trust ABN 11 064 494 169

Trustee for Towong Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund ABN 64 221 473 179