

Moorabool Wind Farm celebrates over \$1,000,000 in Community Grants since 2018

Media Release

15/02/2024



On Friday 8th December Moorabool Wind Farm hosted its first presentation meeting in Ballan where recipients of the 2023 Community Fund were recognised.

The Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund, established in 2018, is a key part of our commitment to strengthening our local communities. It contributes funds to local sporting clubs, community groups, schools and universities, arts initiatives, Landcare groups and other community needs.

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Since 2018, we have provided more than **\$1,000,000** in funding for over 50 community projects. The Fund is split into three streams namely, Community Grants, Scholarship Grants and Community Scholarships that support local students attending Federation University in Ballarat.

“Each year, this financial support for projects and students will provide lasting benefits to the local community. The aim of the community fund is to give back to the community to promote sustainability, strengthen community connections and encourage social well-being. We are very pleased to make these funds available to the local community each year. We look forward to seeing what initiatives people put forward for funding.” said Julie Dargan, Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Moorabool Wind Farm.

In this year’s round of Community Grants a pilot program was created where groups can apply for Sponsorship Packages. The three groups that were successful this year were:

1. Ballan Cricket Club: 1- year Partner Sponsorship
2. Gordon Football/Netball Club: 2-year Major Partner Sponsorship
3. Ballan Football and Netball Club: 3- year Platinum Sponsorship

The remaining funds were allocated to the following groups:

1. Moorabool Catchment Land Care group.

Facilitate four workshops run by Seeding Victoria outlining how to identify plants and collect, clean and store seed.

2. Ballan Scouts

Construction of a shed for additional storage capacity onsite enabling Ballan Scouts to provide other community groups with equipment storage.

3. St Pats Gordon, local primary school in Gordon.

Creating an active engagement space – an area where students and other school-based community groups can participate in structured and incidental physical activity, encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

4. Ballan Historical Society.

Part funds a suitable outbuilding in the Old Ballan Courthouse precinct to be used for archival purposes.

5. Ballan Arboretum Group.

A project (now completed) to beautify the slope within the Caledonian Park near the gazebo, including a new footpath, planting and mulching.

6. Ballan Community House.

This project is to support positive body image as well as mental health and wellbeing, for primary aged children over 5 years of age.

7. BAF: Ballan Autumn Festival

Creating an entertainment and dining precinct at the heart of the Ballan Autumn Festival. Work will include a more substantial trailer-style stage presenting music, speeches and events.

In 2023, the Scholarship Grants stream of the Fund distributed \$35,000 to six individuals studying:

- Second Year Nursing
- Certificate IV Building
- Year 9 Yuulong Program
- Post Graduate Photography Course
- Third Year Environmental engineering
- First year VCAL Electric Technology

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Recipients of the Scholarship Grants shared their appreciation of the support:

“I am so grateful for the opportunity that I’ve been given and excited to see what adventure this course takes me on next. Thank you for giving me the tools that I need to take my passion further.”

“We can’t thank the Moorabool Wind Farm enough for providing the funding for our daughter to attend a 10-week camp program in regional Victoria as part of her school’s student development pathway. Applying for the grant was much easier than we thought, and we were given lots of help and guidance along the way by Julie to ensure our application contained the necessary information.”

“Receiving the windfarm scholarship grant has opened so many doors for me in the pursuit of becoming the best tradesperson I can be.”

If you would like to know more about funding opportunities, please contact Julie Dargan at juliedargan@goldwindaustralia.com or call 0459 895 912.

To read more about Moorabool Wind Farm please visit our website: www.mooraboolwindfarm.com

Moorabool Wind Farm also offer invaluable aid to students through **Foundation Scholarships at Federation University Ballarat**.

Applications are now open and will close on 1st March 2024.

To find out more check out their website at www.federation.edu.au/current-students/assistance-support-and-services/scholarships/domestic-scholarships-and-grants. Be sure to scroll down to Moorabool Wind Farm TAFE scholarships, Apprenticeships and Higher Education.

Round 6 applications for the Community Grants will open on 6th May 2024 and will close on the 1st June 2024. Applications for funding are open to any not-for-profit or incorporated community-based organisations with projects located up to 10km from the wind farm. All applications will be assessed on their merits, based on their benefit to the community, perceived suitability, the background of the applicant, and proximity to Moorabool Wind Farm.