



Sapphire Coast Youth Development Fund Inc.



“Assisting talented youth of the Sapphire Coast reach their goals in the arts and sport”

Farewell 2020... Welcome 2021!

That was a year to remember... and a year we'd like to forget. As we enter the new year we reflect upon a year which has affected us all in one way or another. First the devastating effects of the New Year bushfires followed closely by the confusion and upheaval caused by Covid19 have impacted on every aspect of our lives.

Despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic and the virtual ending of sporting and other activities, the Youth Fund has continued to support young people across the Shire in a variety of ways - from helping to replace sporting equipment lost in the fires to providing individual grants to talented musicians and sporting youth.

It has now been nearly four years since the Fund was established. In that time we have given financial support to close on 250 young people across the Sapphire Coast and Bega Valley Shire. With the challenges imposed by the bush fires and covid19 we have also expanded the scope of our support. We are particularly looking to some of the smaller towns in the Shire to see how we can provide assistance in reconnecting communities and addressing issues like mental health through youth activities.

Some of the results of this initiative will be reflected in the coming months but as we all know this will be a long process.

We hope that things will return to a semblance of normality this year but also understand that the road ahead will be challenging for our young people, as well as our sponsors and supporters. This makes the role of the Youth Fund even more critical and we remain confident that we will be able to continue our work into the future.

In closing my thanks to our supporters both corporate and individual who during the most difficult of times have maintained their ongoing commitment to our goals.



Ron Finneran OAM
Chairman

Refreshing our Image

The FUND has a new name and logo! After four years of operation we will be expanding the scope of support for our youth. While the vast majority of funding grants will continue to be made in the areas of sports and the arts, our new name – The Sapphire Coast Youth Development Fund – provides the flexibility to widen our support to other areas of youth activity.

The bushfires and pandemic had a strong impetus on this change as young people were faced with a new set of circumstances and challenges in developing their talent.

At the same time we have created a new look logo which has a more contemporary and 'fresh' feel. We are sure all our supporters and grant recipients will welcome this change which remains entirely consistent with the Fund's constitution and our commitment to develop the talent of our youth in the Bega Valley Shire and Sapphire Coast.





Felicity Dowd

I am so grateful to the Sapphire Coast Youth Fund for supporting my travel to Sydney to take part in the Talent Development Project.

This program is a NSW Department of Education music course which provides a select number of students each year with the opportunity to receive mentorship from industry professionals and develop new skills to perfect their craft.

I was lucky enough to be selected as one of approximately forty students to enter phase one, and have subsequently been selected to move through to phase two. I am really looking forward to travelling to Sydney to attend another three workshops over the next few months.

Supporting bushfire relief

Following the devastating bushfires, the FUND made it a priority to provide support for youth in those communities particularly hard hit. One of the towns badly affected was **Quaama**. We made contact with the local public school and met with principal, Daniel Roe. He told us that one of the activities all students participated in was basketball... and the school's existing, fixed ring had been damaged. The FUND purchased a new, portable basketball system for the school.

"Thanks again for your support. It's generosity like this in tough times that helps keep the spirits high," said Daniel.

Bemboka was another town badly affected by the bush fires. We met with two community representatives who described how the fires had affected the young people in town. They told us that there was a need for increased activities and facilities for the local youth.

Following discussion, the FUND made a donation to the Bemboka Braves Soccer Club to upgrade their facilities and has also funded a volleyball net for the local pool.



Our future surfing champions

In keeping with our goal of developing young talent, the FUND provided support for professional coaching in one of the most popular sports on the Sapphire Coast... surfing.

Peta Lehoczky, President of Sapphire Coast Boardriders, said the funding has enabled the Sapphire Coast Boardriders to host some Ocean Awareness and Surfing Development days for the club's young members.

"We have engaged with a local surf instructor company Amped Surf to offer professional surf coaching for these events. The conditions were perfect for our first event and every participant caught some fantastic waves, increased their ocean safety knowledge and had a wonderful experience, all thanks to the generosity of the Youth Development Fund."

Luca to join the Sydney Conservatorium

Luca and Amelie Ziino are among the most talented young musicians in this area. In fact Luca was selected to attend the prestigious Sydney Music Conservatorium this year, along with another former FUND grant recipient – Emma Piccione.

The FUND has followed Luca's and Amelie's progress with interest over the past few years. Fortunately they were able to continue with some of their lessons during the pandemic. Their proud parents sent us an update.

"A big thank you to the Youth Development Fund for your support and funding of some invaluable piano and violin masterclasses for both Luca and Amelie.

Amelie was thrilled when she received an A+ (Honours) in her Violin Repertoire Exam.

John and Elizabeth Ziino



Arabella still making waves

Arabella Tarpey, one of the most talented surfers on the Sapphire Coast, travelled to Coffs Harbour after qualifying again for the highly competitive NSW State Surfing Titles. She was also selected to represent the Illawarra and South Coast region at the High School State Surfing Titles that also took place in Coffs Harbour.

Arabella was thrilled to be able to represent the Illawarra and South Coast and once again and it was an incredible experience for her. Arabella thanks the Youth Development Fund for their continued support and sponsorship which enabled her to attend both events.



Cooper's on top of the world

One of the FUND's many talented grant recipients, Cooper Woods, has been awarded a Tier 2 Scholarship within the Sport Australia Hall of Fame Scholarship & Mentoring Program.

Cooper is a freestyle mogul skier who competes on the World Cup stage and travels the globe chasing his dream. He is currently ranked 33rd in the world with the hopes of achieving top 20 this next winter season. Currently, Cooper is a part of the Olympic Shadow team for the next Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

Cooper grew up in Merimbula. He has also just started a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Wollongong. His long term goals involve winning Olympic gold, World Cup overall Champion, consistent top 5 performance at each World Cup and finishing his University degree.



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Contact us

If you have any recommendations on how we might improve our service or if you would like to nominate someone deserving of support, please don't hesitate to contact one of our committee members directly via the emails below:

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