



## **2017 IS YEAR OF INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION FOR FAIRLEY FOUNDATION**

The Sir Andrew and Lady Fairley Foundation has enjoyed a year full of activity and heightened engagement in the Greater Shepparton region, with its continued focus on working with local leaders to bring to life its vision for momentous social and cultural change.

The year has also seen a change of Executive Officer at the foundation, with Stephanie Exton moving on after three years in the position, to take on Executive Director of the newly created Mornington Peninsula Foundation.

Stephanie was instrumental in extending the Fairley Foundation's reach into the community, building new relationships and finding more local change agents through the small grants program. Major grants also supported the Foundation's mission for momentous social and cultural change and saw the growth of the Lighthouse Children's Program, now a major force in the community, the Heinze Music Program, now flourishing in more schools and the new SAM, soon to become a reality.

Stephanie managed this Foundation simultaneously with her position of EO with the George Hicks Foundation which took a place based approach in areas of disadvantage on the Mornington Peninsula. With the extraordinary growth of this work and on the back of extensive community consultation, in July 2017 GHF trustees formed the Mornington Peninsula Foundation and Stephanie was appointed Executive Director four days a week.

This place based work is bringing local ideas and solutions alive, encouraging collaboration and innovation, inspiring donors to work collectively and breaking down systemic barriers to enable greater participation and connection. A strong emphasis on finding out information through deep local connections and program evaluation is at the heart of this work. Stephanie maintains her long association with Igniting Change one day a week.

The appointment of Fairley Foundation's new Executive Officer, Cheryl Hammer, has also signalled a move for Fairley Foundation from Melbourne to Shepparton, to address its structure as a place based funder.

Cheryl is from Shepparton and has extensive experience in the region through her work most recently with the not-for-profit organisation, The Community Fund Goulburn Valley, as well as her community leadership roles and volunteer board positions.

"I am thrilled to be working with the Trustees of the Fairley Foundation to continue their focus on working with local leaders to both inspire action and help grow the seed that is planted via our local partnerships," Cheryl said.

“Our strategy is to support local change agents and community leaders to articulate on behalf of their communities. We are the catalyst for social change, but we are also steadfast on the need for local people to lead and implement the change that is needed.

“My role the past three years as Chief Executive Officer at The Community Fund Goulburn Valley has given me great insight into the Greater Shepparton community, its challenges, needs and resilience, and I look forward to using my local knowledge and huge network to forge strong partnerships with other donors and create positive impact where it is needed most,” Cheryl said.

Cheryl can be contacted at [cheryl@fairleyfoundation.org](mailto:cheryl@fairleyfoundation.org) or mobile 0481 315 684

Stephanie can be contacted at [stephanie@mpf.org.au](mailto:stephanie@mpf.org.au) or mobile 0403 029 443

WEBSITE: [www.fairleyfoundation.org](http://www.fairleyfoundation.org)