



A Community Foundation for
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian Disaster Recovery Grants 2023

Case study

South Australian Disaster Recovery Fund

Foundation SA established the South Australian Disaster Recovery Fund in early 2023 in direct response to the severe flood crisis in South Australia's Riverland and Murraylands.

Importantly, the fund provided a much-needed way for all South Australians to support our impacted regional communities following this devastating natural disaster.

All funds raised through the Disaster Recovery Fund support non-profit organisations working in impacted regions, by providing small grants to aid recovery and build resilience for the future.

Why Foundation SA took the lead

Foundation SA is ideally placed to support communities in recovery post disaster due to our fundraising capability, relationship with local philanthropists, efficient grant-making infrastructure and connection to community.

Four prominent South Australian philanthropic foundations — The Lang Foundation, The Wyatt Trust, Foundation SA and one anonymous foundation — as well as Foundation SA's sub-fund donors all contributed to the overall fundraising efforts.

Through a broad-reaching fundraising campaign, Foundation SA were able to mobilise tax-deductible donations from South Australians looking for a way to support those impacted by the floods.



Total funds distributed

\$87k

Combined with major gifts from the philanthropic sector, **Foundation SA raised \$87,000 to support regional flood-impacted communities** exactly when they needed it most.

In June 2023, with an independent assessment panel, we awarded nine grants and \$87,700 to community organisations following a competitive grant application process.

The process

February
2023

August
2023

February

With the impact of the floods and government support becoming clear, we commenced consultation with the State Recovery Coordinator who was tasked with briefing philanthropic funders.

March

To gain a deeper and clear understanding of community needs, we engaged with councils, community leaders and those on the ground in the impacted regions.

March – June

Focus on fundraising initiatives, successfully raising \$87,000 comprising gifts from four philanthropic foundations, three Foundation SA sub-funds and general public donations.

April

Applications for Disaster Recovery Grants opened and shared widely with the community.

July and August

13 grant applications were received with nine grants awarded across community and environmental categories.

Community Grants

Foundation SA established the **South Australian Disaster Recovery Fund** in early 2023 in direct response to the severe flood crisis in South Australia's Riverland and Murraylands.

All funds raised through the Disaster Recovery Fund supported non-profit organisations working in impacted regions, by providing small grants to aid recovery and build resilience for the future.

Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd was funded to deliver **My Money Basics Financial Literacy Program** – a series of workshops for flood impacted families and businesses in the Murray Bridge, Mannum and Berri region.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity were successful in their funding proposal for **Flood Clean-up and Gardens of Hope** – a volunteer program that supports households to restore gardens in the Mid-Murray, Murray Bridge and Alexandrina council areas.

Mid-Murray Support Service

The Mid-Murray Support Service was awarded a grant to restore the popular **Scrooge's Op Shop** – a community op-shop that not only supports sensible and affordable reuse for household items and goods but offers valued volunteering opportunities and social connections for the local Mannum community.



Our Town Berri

Our Town Berri successfully secured funding to deliver a series of **workshops to support recovery and help build resilience** for likely future flooding events across two key community sectors – senior students attending Riverland high schools and first responders and flood volunteers.

The program is being run by Our Town Berri in partnership with wellbeing coordinators across the four local high schools.

This grant will be used to build the capacity of our youth and community to face adversity with confidence. It will give us opportunity to come together and connect, to learn to be resilient with new strategies we can use in future challenges.

Julie Ahrens, Our Town Community Steward



Community Grants

Mannum Community College

Mental health is still very much a taboo topic in communities and as such, young people do not always seek the help they need in a timely manner, resulting in detrimental mental health outcomes.

The **Student and staff resilience and mental health and wellbeing project** is an educator facilitated online mental health and wellbeing program tailored to the needs and age of school students. It has been funded to not only address wellbeing but provide opportunities to develop and enhance skills and strategies to navigate challenges, adversity and disappointment, and build ability to cope with grief and loss.

Students will build their communication, decision making and problem solving skills within the context of a safe and supportive peer learning environment. The grant will also support training another staff member to deliver the program.



Foodbank SA

Foodbank SA links surplus food and groceries to people in need, providing more than 80% of the food relief requirements for the South Australian charity sector while tackling Australia's \$36.6 billion food waste problem.

The **Foodbank Meal Packs** project was funded to support people in flood impacted communities in the Riverland over the long recovery period and through the troubling cost of living crisis.

Through their Mobile Food Hub, Foodbank will distribute free and subsidised meal packs that consist of easy to prepare, nutritious meals to cook at home.

Each Meal Pack will feed a family of four and free up household budgets to spend on other essential items such as electricity and petrol.



Headspace Berri

Tackling the mental health impacts of the flood event among younger people, as a result of event cancellations, changing social interactions and pressures on existing services, Headspace Berri was funded to deliver evidence-based clinical skills and social connections group for young people and their families in the Riverland region, with a dedicated focus to support young people as current and future leaders within their community.

The project is designed to build skills and connections of Riverland young people with other members of the community, Headspace Berri mentors and service providers to foster a culture of collaboration, creativity and community building in response to the flooding of the River Murray.



Environmental Grants

The grants round also provided support for environmental initiatives that restore natural environments and make the most of the positive environmental outcomes the floods have presented.

Nature Foundation

Nature Foundation was awarded a grant to support their work to control feral fish at Watchalunga Nature Reserve through the implementation of a sustainable alien fish control strategy that encourages the recolonisation of threatened freshwater fishes.

The Watchalunga Nature Reserve is a 92 hectare property located on Ngarrindjeri land, in the Finnis River catchment owned and managed by the Nature Foundation.

The floods caused an increase in invasive fish, which disrupt the freshwater ecosystem. Controlling these invasive species will support the resident native fish community and encourage the recolonisation or reintroduction of key threatened freshwater fishes.

Kelly Arbon, Nature Foundation Science and Engagement Project Officer



Wetlands Habitats (Paiwalla)

Wetlands Habitats (Paiwalla) was formed to rehabilitate a retired Dairy Farm on the Murray River and return it to a wetland. Paiwalla wetland is now a refuge for birds, native fish, turtle and local plants as well as a site that contains items of significant cultural heritage such as middens, scar trees and grinding stones.

The floods inundated Paiwalla, with water entering the wetland over the levee bank in two major places, causing surface damage to the levee, also part of the walking trail around the wetland, at the low points.

The flood waters also destroyed a significant number of plantings that had been carried out over the last ten to 15 years since the restoration program began and exposed the wetland to be populated with European Carp (a pest).

The grant for Wetlands Habitats will support the group to repair the levee bank around the wetland and restore protections for this unique natural environment.



Broadening our reach and educating

During the disaster recovery campaign, we worked closely with local independent and award-winning news platform InDaily, who amplified our call to arms for all South Australians to make their own tax-deductible donation to support the recovery of their fellow South Aussies.

The philanthropic endeavour made it into the headlines, with a comprehensive article highlighting how a community foundation can bring together donors in times of natural disasters.

InDaily also saw the call to arms as an opportunity to demystify philanthropic giving and just how accessible it is to individuals, families and businesses.

“We have already raised more than \$70,000,” says Sophie, adding that the foundation is working with the state flood coordinator, Rotary groups throughout the Riverland and government to establish how this money is best distributed.

“We are trying to demonstrate that in times of natural disaster we can be the portal to make this happen.”

[Read the full article on InDaily.](#)



We're not going anywhere

While recovery from the 2023 floods may be well underway, our work will continue.

Foundation SA's Disaster Recovery Fund will be reactivated in response to future events and accept tax-deductible donations from the public, local business, philanthropic foundations and potentially State Government

Funds raised will support affected South Australian communities when they need it most.



Our implementation partners



Contact information

t. +61 8 8223 3597
e. hello@foundationsa.org.au
w. www.foundationsa.org.au



A Community Foundation for
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian Disaster Recovery Grants 2023

Case study



A Community Foundation for
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian Disaster Recovery Grants 2023

Case study



A Community Foundation for
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian Disaster Recovery Grants 2023

Case study