

BATEMANS BAY YOUTH FOUNDATION Inc

ABN 33 987 185 076

Web: www.bbyf.org.au

Object

'A Foundation for the purpose of providing financial assistance to local youth to pursue personal development and advancement in an unlimited range of worthwhile fields of endeavour'

Brief History

The Foundation was established by the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay in 1994 and financing was provided by the Club, supplemented by donations obtained from sporting and service clubs in this area as well as from some individuals. Very limited funds were available, and in each of the first two years only one grant of \$2500 was provided.

The Foundation was governed by a trust deed and this continued for a number of years even though it was cumbersome and restrictive.

After several years the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club and the RSL Sub Branch joined with Rotary as sponsors and both organisations appointed representatives to the committee. The committee consists of 4 nominated by Rotary, 2 by the Soldiers Club and 1 by the RSL Sub Branch, - these representations were in line with the relative level of funds provided. The 4 nominated by Rotary includes the Executive Chairman, who has a casting vote, and the Secretary/Treasurer/Public Officer, who has no vote.

As a result of approaches made by the Foundation a relationship has been developed with educational and corporate institutions so that increased scholarships could be made available. The scholarships offered through this initiative are:-

- a) 2 from University of Canberra - \$1500 each
- b) 4 from Australian National University - \$3000 each
- c) 1 from University of Wollongong - \$1000 (Hanging Rock only)
- d) 2 from University of Wollongong - \$1500 each

Scholarships are "topped up" by the Foundation to \$3,000 each.

In all cases the Foundation is fully responsible for the selection of recipients.

These scholarships are in addition to those provided by the Foundation from its funds derived from other sponsors and donations. Other *major* donors are the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay, the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, and the RSL Sub-Branch. There are about twenty private donors, giving modest amounts.

Current Structure

The Foundation has been incorporated as an Incorporated Association in order to overcome the deficiencies in the previous arrangement. The members of this association are:-
President and 4 persons nominated by the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay,
President and 2 persons nominated by the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club

President and 1 person nominated by the RSL Sub Branch

This membership was established to meet the requirement that an association must have at least 10 members but the managing committee and therefore the operation of the Foundation has not changed, and the Rotary Club maintains a benign control.

Provision exists for other persons to be elected to membership where such persons would be of benefit to the Foundation. For instance, senior educationalists have been co-opted to give advice.

The persons nominated to membership do not have to be members of that organisation.

Selection of Awardees

Each year an Application Form and a statement of Criteria and Instructions for Applicants is prepared and distributed in September to schools and other suitable locations. Press advertisements are placed to advise of this and the Chairman visits schools to ensure awareness.

The Application Form requires detail of family finances, school results, aspirations, interests, and course and institution preferred for studies.

Any student whose normal residence is in the area defined by the Constitution, (North Durras in the north, Nelligen in the west, and the Moruya River in the south), and who is completing, whether from Year 12 or earlier, their secondary education at any school or college, is eligible to apply if it is their intention to undertake in the following year:-

- a) a course of study at a university or college of higher learning on a full time basis,
- b) a traineeship or apprenticeship involving attendance at TAFE or other college or where the student may be required to provide 'tools of trade' and/or special clothing,
- c) Any other form of personal development including, but not restricted to, music, art, sport, invention or research.

All applications are required by end November and each member of the Committee adjudicates those received. Applicants are advised in the Criteria document of the method of assessment, as used by committee members, which are:-

Financial need of applicant and family – 50% weighting

Perceived future potential of the applicant – 25% weighting

Relevant performance at school – 25% weighting

The scores from each adjudicator are averaged and selection teams of 2 are appointed to conduct interviews in early January. From this procedure the awards for the year are determined, the number being in accordance with finances available.

Performance

Since inception the Foundation has made grants to 158 students, valued at \$428,000. Current target is 10 students per year, but with more financial support this can be increased. The level of grant at \$3,000 will be annually reviewed.

For the 2015 Grants, 20 valid applications were received, from which 11 applicants best fitted the stringent criteria of the Foundation.

The non-university grants are determined on an individual basis according to needs, such as attendance at TAFE involving travel and accommodation, cost of tools etc and the amounts granted vary, with the average being about \$2000.

Grants Dinner

Grants are presented at a public dinner which serves as a good publicity occasion for the Foundation, and its donors; each awardee receives a certificate as well as the cheque. Donors who donate the value of a Grant, (\$3,000), present the Foundation cheque and that particular Grant is described as the "ABC Company" Grant. Grants are payable in two tranches, the first at the Grants Dinner, (\$2,500) the second after receiving reports on the completion of the first semester, (\$500).

Photos are taken of each awardee, and the current ones are framed and hung on the Batemans Bay Youth Foundation Honours Wall at the Soldiers Club. A Group Photo is also taken for inclusion in the Bay Post, together with a report on the Dinner and a 'Thank You' advertisement, naming our commercial and institutional sponsors.

Peter Wood

Chairman, Batemans Bay Youth Foundation Inc.

January 30th, 2015