

Compassion and bravery in trust

Harry Friday's legacy leads by example

By PAM ZIERK-MAHONEY

COMPASSION, bravery and a sense of community are all needed to run a successful philanthropic trust, according to Sarah Stegley.

Philanthropic trusts, how they work and getting the best value from them was the topic discussed recently at an evening hosted by the Harry and Claire Friday Foundation.

Long time advocate of trusts and foundations, Sarah Stegley, was the guest speaker at the evening held at The Deck on High.

Chris and Euan Friday, chairpersons of the Friday Foundation, first explained the reasoning behind their trust, set up in keeping with Harry Friday's wishes and to benefit particularly the Mansfield District Hospital (MDH).

Ms Stegley started her talk by saying that philanthropic trusts are a good way to give back to a community.

"Compassion plays a big part in any giving through a philanthropic trust," Ms Stegley said.

"Compassion should be about detail and the heart of good philanthropy.

"When you want to leave a legacy you need lots of compassion to do it well.

"You need knowledge and bravery to set up a good foundation.

"Philanthropy is a brave dollar, untied to religion, untied to politics," Ms Stegley said.

"Foundations should be about bringing social change through well thought out projects.

"Social change does not always happen in organised institutions, but



TALKING FUNDING: At the recent evening talking philanthropic foundations are (from left) Sarah Stegley, Christine Friday, Euan Friday and Mansfield District Hospital board member, Malcolm Blair.

can come from other smaller groups who need dollars to make changes happen."

Ms Stegley said clever examples of philanthropy are where people will put shoulders together, to work together and have a forward vision.

Involved in her own parents foundation – The Stegley Foundation – for almost 30 years she outlined to the small gathering what she had learnt from her experiences.

"One word of advice is when a request comes to the foundation find out all you can about the project," she said

Ms Stegley said Mansfield has had a long involvement with trusts – such as the Buckland Foundation, one of Australia's biggest philanthropic trusts, for which Buckland House and the Buckland Room was named after.

Among projects completed around Mansfield are the Bentley Garden at the hospital, Project Mansfield involving the environment, and the Mullum Trust for the Wetlands.

"Dame Elizabeth Murdoch, from the Murdoch Foundation donated \$50,000 towards the Performing Arts Centre, so it is not unusual to find

trusts and foundations supporting this community," Ms Stegley said.

Mr Friday spoke about donations to the Friday Foundation and how it will in the future, for a long time to come hopefully, help this community and MDH.

He encouraged accountants and solicitors in particular who had clients asking 'where they could park some money' to think of the Friday Foundation.

When set up in 2007 the Friday Foundation set a goal of \$2million by 2015.

It is almost half way.

News in brief

Women in Mansfield and district are getting connected

SUPPORTED by Mansfield Shire Council, four local business women recently attended a conference 'Connecting Rural Business Women' in Beechworth. The women – Julia Hollonds, Bronwen Wilson, Kaye Hall and Claire Wallace – are all well known in business in the district.

One lady – Kaye Hall of Maindample – was so inspired by the demonstration of what women can achieve she has established MAD (Mansfield and District) Women to connect women of all ages and to generate inspired futures.

MSC mayor, Tom Ingpen, explained that the conference was aimed at developing the skills of rural business women in the areas of leadership, business, agriculture, food and self.

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