

PAM GUNN

MEMORIAL AXEDALE TRUST



The Pam Gunn Story

Pam was born into a household that became dislocated when her mother suffered mental health issues as a result of illness. She was fostered out and missed normal privileges of primary education such as uniforms and camps. In adult life she set out to ensure that children did not experience these shortcomings.

Pam passed away in 2007 at the young age of 44 after a long battle with breast cancer. Initiated by her family, and facilitated by Axedale Branch of Country Women's Association of Victoria, the Trust was established to honour her memory and to continue her work.

The Trust is a registered charity and its trustee is an incorporated body whose members wish to support development of the children of the local and surrounding area with a view to a better society generally. Members include representatives of: The Founders; Axedale Our Town Our Future; Axedale Golf Club; Axedale Tavern & Coffee House; Fosterville Gold Mine (Axedale); Axedale Primary School; Axedale Pre-School Inc; and a local teacher, an employee of DHS; a retired client adviser (stockbroker); Retired Army Officer, and a Retired Solicitor.

Early Intervention

Disadvantage suffered by young children is likely, if there is no remedial intervention, to affect how those children act as adults, in some cases developing into anti-social conduct. This early intervention is the vital essence of the philosophy of the Trust.

Support through Primary School

Disadvantaged children have been supported through Axedale Primary School by substantially increasing the services of the Student Wellbeing Worker as well as by selected acts of support.

Speech Therapy Programs

The Trust funds professional speech therapy programs in three Pre Schools in the Greater Bendigo Region. These programs have proved to be extremely valuable and we are investigating how these could be expanded over time. The Trust is also partnering with La Trobe University Bendigo on research into speech therapy and its impact on early intervention for disadvantaged children.

Opportunities to Become Involved

The Trust is establishing small working groups to progress our work. These groups will be a combination of standing and ad hoc teams normally consisting of 2-4 individuals. We are always on the lookout for new members or volunteers who would like to become involved either on an ongoing basis or for a limited time. No specific background or skill set is necessary although individuals with experience in charitable organisations working with disadvantaged children would be advantageous. Volunteers are able to participate on a part time basis and the Trust can facilitate meetings/discussions via video technology.

Tax deductible donations to the Trust

The Trust is an approved project of FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal). A Project Donation Account has been approved for the Trust enabling tax-deductible contributions to be paid into the FRRR Public Fund for the purpose of the Pam Gunn Memorial Axedale Trust Project. Donations not required to be tax deductible can be paid direct to the Trust.

We invite your consideration to either become involved in the work of the Trust or donate to this worthwhile innovative program.

For further information phone David Lubke (03) 0417 154 977 or email dlubke6@gmail.com

Many residents of Axedale had the good fortune to know Pam. Her story dramatically illustrates the basic aim of this fund. Broadly it points out the community need to support children who may be disadvantaged in any way – they are the citizens of tomorrow.