



Participatory Granting 2024

Strengthening Communities for Generations to Come **Guidelines and Information**

Background

About Fire to Flourish

Fire to Flourish (F2F) is a program that enables communities to strengthen disaster resilience. It is trialling new ways to enable community-led resilience while addressing systemic disadvantage - we are developing and testing new tools and processes to support community action, creating a knowledge and evidence base to build disaster resilience - from the ground up. F2F is funded completely by philanthropic funds.

The core principles of the F2F program are to:

- Be community-led
- Be strengths-based and trauma-informed
- Foreground Aboriginal wisdom
- Address inequities and enhance inclusion
- Be holistic and impactful
- Learn, adapt, evolve

Our program does this through a process of locally-led planning and participatory grantmaking that puts decision making power into the hands of community.

To find out more:

<https://firetoflourish.monash>

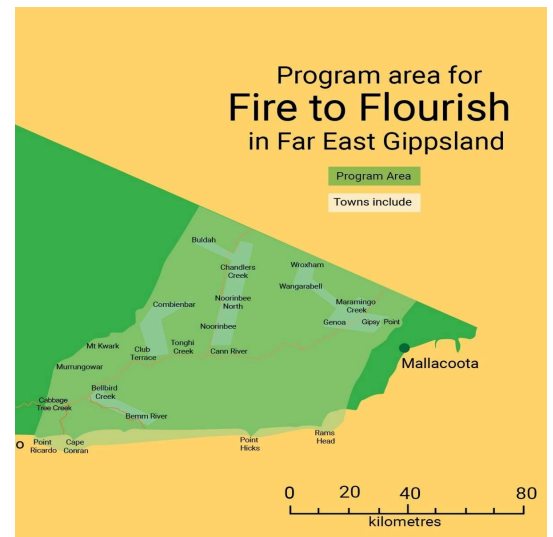
[2023 Impact Report](#) and [Lessons Report](#).

Fire to Flourish East Gippsland

Our Vision:

From the ashes and flooded plains, isolation and scarcity, a vibrant tapestry is woven by the people and land. Prosperity is built by our ideas and creativity to combat the challenges that arise within our home, community and environment, to connect our knowledge and resources for future generations to come.

The East Gippsland communities in the F2F footprint are **Gipsy Point, Genoa, Cann Valley, Cabbage Tree Creek and Bemm River**. A group of 12 Community Planners from these communities have been meeting regularly, supported by the local F2F team and Monash research team, to reflect on what disaster resilience means in their local context. As part of this process they have been talking with people in their communities to ‘ground truth’ and get feedback on their thinking and planning. They have also co-designed this participatory grant round and will play a key role in supporting applicants, assessing the grants and reflecting on the journey to provide local perspective to the broader F2F outcomes. We thank these Community Planners for their time, insight and commitment to strengthening disaster resilience in their communities.



How is the F2F Participatory Granting different?

Following our initial small grant round for Far East Gippsland in 2023, we heard feedback from community and the Community Planning team has designed a funding round in a way that responds to this feedback and is accessible and inclusive. This funding round is for the remaining funding amount of \$1.2m to support locally designed initiatives that strengthen disaster resilience.

The F2F participatory granting is different from traditional grant funding in four ways:

1. Community-led

The eligibility, criteria and resilience priorities have been developed by the local team of Community Planners. This process has included consultation with community and drawing on community context. The grant process has been designed to ensure that a wide range of locally based or connected organisations, small community groups and/or individuals can apply and benefit.

2. Application assessment: supportive and on merit

This funding program aligns with the F2F participatory funding principles, in that eligible project applications will be assessed on their merit, not assessed in comparison or in competition with other applications.

Projects will be assessed according to the eligibility criteria, F2F principles (in particular: be community-led, strengths-based, trauma-informed and address inequities and enhance inclusion) and the East Gippsland Disaster Resilience priorities (below).

If the Community Planners feel they need more information about a project from an applicant, the F2F staff will support you to provide more information. This may take place as an informal catch up with members of the planning team to hear more about your project. You will be supported to demonstrate how your project aligns with the assessment criteria.

3. Flexibility and support

The process for one of your ideas to result in an application is flexible and supportive. The local F2F team, supported by their colleagues at Monash University, are very much looking forward to building relationships, networks and collaboration as part of the participatory granting process - we look forward to talking with you! (see contact details at the end of these guidelines). For example:

- If your idea is in early stages and would benefit from support to be developed - support is available. For example, you have identified a community need but have no specific project

ideas, so you may require a series of facilitated workshops to clarify the needs - we can support this process

- You may have a larger scale project idea that can be funded in stages. The F2F teams can help you stage the project and get it 'application ready' to support the initial stage/s
- If you need help writing your application - we can help
- There may be multiple project ideas that need support to clarify which meet the funding criteria

4. A participatory approach to evaluation and acquittal

Fire to Flourish is committed to learning from you and your projects around what strengthens disaster resilience in your community. For this reason, we want to capture what your project achieves, the barriers or challenges you may experience and how you were creative in navigating these. F2F invites you to share your insights, outcomes, achievements and learnings in a number of participatory ways:

- **Learning Circles:** these are informal 'catch up' sessions with the F2F team/s and the key people involved in your project, at agreed upon intervals across your project journey in order to:
 - ❖ Hear the stories and celebrate the achievements and outcomes of your project
 - ❖ Hear about any challenges or barriers you may be experiencing - in case we can provide support
 - ❖ Provide feedback to the F2F team around the grant and project journey, so we can continue to learn alongside you about how to best support strong, connected, adaptable communities
 - ❖ These Learning Circles may include several projects, to support networking, sharing and collaboration
- **Flexible and supported acquittal processes:** An acquittal is important to ensure that we reflect on project outcomes and the spending of funds provided by the Fire to Flourish program. It is used to demonstrate the impact of the project, its strengths and any lessons learnt, and to show that that funds have been used for the purpose intended in the funding application. We encourage you to document and celebrate the 'story' of your project throughout and at its conclusion through a range of creative storytelling means such as photography and video. The F2F team can support you with the acquittal of your project.

Funding information

The total funding available is \$1.2m. We welcome small, medium and larger project ideas. It is expected that most projects will be **up to \$75k**, however, special consideration for significantly impactful projects **up to \$200k** will be given on a case by case basis. We also invite you to stage your project so that this funding might support a particular stage of a larger project. Please talk with the local F2F team to discuss your ideas - flexibility means we can co-design approaches that will accommodate projects that meet the criteria and address the locally identified priorities (below).

Key Timelines

- Grant round opens: Friday 26th July 2024
- Grant round communication and engagement: a chance for you to talk about your ideas with the F2F team; community information sessions: 5th to 23rd August 2024
- Support for the development of project applications: The F2F teams help you develop your project to meet the criteria and support the priorities outlined below; and help you get your applications in if needed: 22nd July to 5th September 2024
- **Grant round closes: Sunday 8th September 2024, at Midnight EST**
- Independent and Community Planning team assessment of applications: 11th to 20th September 2024
- Applicants notified of outcome by 4th October 2024

- Grant funds must be expended by **30th April 2025**
- Acquittals must all be completed by 30th June 2025

Eligibility Criteria

You are eligible to apply:

- Your project must support strengthening disaster resilience in **at least two** of the East Gippsland Disaster Resilience Priorities (below)
- Your approach should align with the F2F principles: Be community-led, strengths-based and trauma-informed; address inequities and enhance inclusion; be holistic and impactful; learn, adapt, evolve, and **where appropriate and relevant** foreground Aboriginal wisdom (not all projects will focus on foregrounding Aboriginal wisdom);
- You, your organisation, group, network or collective must be based in the East Gippsland Local Government Area, and your project will primarily strengthen disaster resilience in one or more of the target communities within the F2F East Gippsland footprint - **Gipsy Point, Genoa, Cann Valley, Cabbage Tree Creek and Bemm River**
- If you partner with an organisation that is not based in East Gippsland or the F2F communities, you will need to demonstrate how the project is community led
- Incorporated associations
- Non-incorporated community groups (auspiced by a group or organisation that is incorporated)
- You have an active Australian Business Number (ABN) or you are auspiced by a person or group who has
- Small groups and unincorporated entities are strongly encouraged to apply
- Grass-root groups are strongly encouraged to apply
- The following groups, organisations or people are strongly encouraged to apply
 - ❖ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
 - ❖ People with diverse abilities
 - ❖ People with lived experience of mental health issues
 - ❖ LGBTQIA+ people

** **Please note:** you must provide evidence that you have engaged and consulted with these people in your community in order to meet this criteria. This may include a record of engagement and/or letters of support*

- More than one application can be submitted from communities within East Gippsland F2F area - Gipsy Point, Genoa, Cann Valley, Cabbage Tree Creek and Bemm River
- More than one application can be submitted for different or linked project ideas

Not eligible

- Schools, Government agencies
- Projects that primarily benefit private business, a sole trader, or private interests who are primarily seeking revenue, income or profit
- Overseas travel and overseas requests (proposals for domestic travel costs need to demonstrate the benefits of travel to the project, organisation and community)
- Prizes, gifts, trophies or awards
- Political lobbying
- Wages and salaries and on-costs for ongoing staff
- Sitting fees, travel allowance or costs associated with membership of boards/councils
- Activities that may create an ongoing dependency on grant funding, such as funding that is required over multiple years
- Costs that are not directly associated with the delivery of the project

What can be funded? Ideas - not limited to:

- Purchasing consumables such as catering, equipment items and materials (excluding alcohol) for the purposes of the project or event
- Hire of equipment to be used for the period of the project or event
- Engagement of contractors, such as facilitators, trainers and teachers
- Purchase of minor equipment for event activities
- Administration for the project. Up to 10% of the requested funding amount can be used for this or as auspice fees where there is an auspicing arrangement
- Equipment and materials to support your organisation's sustainability and organisational effectiveness

East Gippsland Disaster Resilience Priorities

The specific disaster resilience priorities for this participatory grant round have been developed by a diverse group of local Community Planners. This team of 12 dedicated planners have consulted with their communities to 'ground truth' the following priorities. **Your project MUST support at least two of these priority areas:**

- **FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE** *knowledge and connection to Country is respected, applied and celebrated to strengthen resilience and support healing through culturally appropriate practices*
- **A STRONG AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY:** *Building and nurturing a strong community that is safe, kind, connected, curious, caring and inclusive, and where people know about what's important to the community. Strengthening connections and engagement in whole-of-community planning and processes through shared events, regular catch-ups etc*
- **LOOKING AFTER OUR HEALTH & WELLBEING:** *Access to services, groups, and initiatives that strengthen our health and wellbeing, for example: local mental and physical health services; childcare; wellbeing initiatives, including local learning, training and education opportunities; sports, arts, crafts, creative connection; developing community capacity*
- **CONNECTION WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND CARING FOR COUNTRY:** *Nurturing connection with and caring for a healthy environment*
- **PLACES AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** *Reliable, affordable telecommunications (internet) and power supplies (e.g. solar); community-owned and shared assets; local food security; community places to gather and connect; evacuation and relief centres; equipment sheds; emergency accommodation; eco-tourism infrastructure; Access: Better roads and public transport*
- **ECONOMIC WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE:** *Innovative ideas for local employment, education and training; sustainable and environmentally sensitive economic development, for example: community-owned assets; eco-tourism & microbusiness; community arts & craft micro-business; First Nations land management: teaching and employment, sharing culture and information; access to childcare*
- **DISASTER PLANNING, PREPARATION, RELIEF and RECOVERY:** *Our communities are as prepared as they can be and are adequately supported, resourced, informed and trained to be prepared and to lead their recovery, for example through: local level fuel management, preparedness, response and recovery planning; information and planning sessions and drills run by locals; localised warning networks and communication plans; local equipment, infrastructures and skills training; strengthened relationships with emergency / disaster management agencies*

Funding Conditions

Successful grants will need to adhere to the following funding conditions:

- **Insurance** - Appropriate insurance (such as Public Liability) must be in place for the life of all projects. If you don't have, or aren't sure if you have appropriate insurance for your project, please speak with the local F2F team as some new insurance costs can be incorporated into budget requests.
- **OHS and risk management** - please use the Risk Matrix provided (or your own similar document) to detail how you will identify and manage OHS and risks related to your project

The role of the Gippsland Community Foundation (GCF)

The GCF management and Board will be a key funding delivery partner for this granting round. GCF will receive and process the funding applications using their existing online application portal. They will perform the following roles:

- Support for the application and acquittal process
- Promotion and engagement of funding round in the Far East F2F communities
- Granting infrastructure to enable application submission, creation of grant agreements and acquittals
- Governance and delivery oversight

Application Assessment

Using the above funding criteria and priorities, the Community Planning group (with support from F2F teams and GCF staff) will use participatory granting and decision making tools to help them assess each application on their merit. An independent assessment will also take place to support a transparent approach to this process.

F2F teams are providing best practice advice and tools for the Community Planners to design a robust decision making and assessment framework. They will act as critical support to review applications, however, staff from F2F and the GCF will not play a role in the application assessment and decision making.

How to apply:

1. It is a condition of this participatory granting that all applicants talk to one of the F2F East Gippsland Community Team members before submitting an application. We see this as an opportunity to build relationships and support your application. We look forward to talking with you!

Fire to Flourish - East Gippsland Community Team contact details:

Sara Matthews, Community Lead **E:**sara.matthews@monash.edu **P:**0458 347 224

Eva Grunden, Community Facilitator **E:**eva.grunden@monash.edu **P:**0400 807 857

Bonnie Nebauer, Community Facilitator **E:**bonnie.nebauer@monash.edu **P:**0403 347 394

2. Lodge an online application through the Gippsland Community Foundation website by **Sunday 8th September, at Midnight EST**