



**THE  
JUNE CANAVAN  
FOUNDATION**

**June 2020 Newsletter**

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the June 2020 edition of the June Canavan Foundation newsletter. This edition will cover the following topics:

- Double Invitation – Walk along the Coastal Pathway and “Our Next 10 Years” Planning session
- Who we’ve donated to this year
- Our Papua New Guinea adventure
- COVID-19 – how our partners are adapting
- Spotlight on the Sunshine Coast – so many groups doing great things
- More girls at St Judes

**DOUBLE INVITATION**

**Members of June’s community are warmly invited to share in 2 events later this year:**

**A walk along the Sunshine Coast’s  
COASTAL PATHWAY**

**10 – 14 September 2020**

Join us for half a day or 5 days – or anywhere in between

**“Our Next 10 Years” Planning Workshop**

**Saturday 7 November 2020**

**Meeting Room – Canavan Gracie Recreation Park**

We’ve been going for 10 years and we have another 10 years to do. Come along to provide your input into the second half of our life

***Details of both of these events can be found later in this newsletter***

## WHO WE'VE DONATED TO THIS YEAR - \$318,654 to 19 organisations

Everything we do at the June Canavan Foundation is about keeping ***“June’s spirit living on as a catalyst for change”***. This is the vision for the Foundation. It provides us with a constant guide about how best to allocate donations. To fine-tune our decisions, we take a lot of guidance from our ***Giving Framework*** <http://www.junecanavanfoundation.org.au/grant-applications/giving-framework/> which outlines our commitment to four of June’s areas of interest - **health, sport, education and conservation**. We also have a geographical focus – the Wangaratta and North East Victoria region (where June grew up), the Sunshine Coast (where June worked) as well as East Africa and Papua New Guinea.

In two grant-making Board meetings this financial year we considered 27 applications for funding, 9 Board sponsored proposals and one request for matched fundraising, resulting in the following 19 organisations receiving funding from the June Canavan Foundation:

Organisation	Project/Geographical area	Amount
Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program	Scholarship Wangaratta area	\$6,000
Burnet Institute	Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Papua New Guinea	\$50,000
Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal	Bushfire recovery projects Victoria	\$10,000
Friends of Lacluta	Encouragement Awards and Scholarships Wangaratta and East Timor	\$10,250
The Funding Network	Regional event activation Wangaratta	\$15,000
International Needs Australia	Women at Risk Project Kenya	\$13,000
Into our Hands Foundation	Transfer of Wealth Project Wangaratta area	\$30,000
Library for All	Primary school text books Papua New Guinea	\$13,000
Midwife Vision Global	Training of midwives Tanzania	\$6,004
Project Vietnam	Housing and School building projects Sunshine Coast and Vietnam	\$11,000
Reef Check Australia	Sunshine Coast Ambassadors Project Sunshine Coast	\$15,000
Regent Honeyeater Project	Habitat restoration North East Victoria	\$15,000
The School of St Jude	Secondary School Girls Scholarships Tanzania	\$50,000
Start Some Good	Social Enterprise Funding Platform National	\$10,000

Organisation	Project/Geographical area	Amount
Sunshine Butterflies	Stand Up Paddleboards Sunshine Coast	\$2400
Tomorrow Today Foundation	Connect 9 project North East Victoria	\$13,000
The University of the Sunshine Coast	Regional and Para-sport scholarships, Sunshine Coast	\$27,000
Wildlife Warriors	Bushfire koala rescue Sunshine Coast	\$5000
Wantaim PNG	Toilets and Feminine Hygiene Papua New Guinea	\$17,000

You can read more about each of these organisations and the important difference they make to the communities they serve on the beneficiaries page of our website - <http://www.junecanavanfoundation.org.au/successful-grants/>

## OUR TRIP TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA - thrills, spills and serious moments

A remote airstrip on Manus Island was the meeting place for four June Canavan Foundation Board members – Kerry Meehan, Jo Saies, Maureen Cummings and Anne Gripper, to commence our 10 year anniversary tribute to June.

In August last year, we were in PNG to pay tribute to June’s life at a ceremony organised by the Australian High Commission, and also to show our support for and interest in the PNG-based organisations supported by June’s Foundation. It seems hard to believe that it was 10 years ago last August that June lost her life on a rugged mountainside overlooking the Kokoda Gap.

During our trip we became seafarers for a few days in and around the islands of Manus Province, we then hooked up with community health workers in Kokopo and we laid a wreath and sang a song to June in Port Moresby.



Jo and Anne with locals, Ruth and Apiu on the way to meet Kerry and Maureen at the airport

So – back to the airstrip in Manus..... Having arrived a day earlier, Jo and Anne travelled by boat to get to one end of the airstrip and walked to the other end to meet Kerry and Maureen whose journey from Australia had been disrupted by a plane malfunction out of Cairns.

We all piled into the boat and so began a three day window into the seafaring life of island people. Lynne Shori, the founder of Wantaim PNG was our host for this part of our trip. We travelled by local boat between Lorengau on the main island and to

outer islands Bandung and Rambutso, learning lots about dry composting toilets which were introducing a whole new level of basic sanitation into communities and old Singer sewing machines (the type powered by hand) which were being brought back to life to enable village sewing groups to make “Days for Girls” packs.

Despite being wet for most of the time (the seaspray accompanied us on all of our travel) we enjoyed the welcome provided by all the villagers with whom we shared meals, sleeping floorspace, songs and a specially constructed shower consisting of a water tank, ladling bucket and black plastic modesty screen. Thanks to Lynne, Ruth and Apiu for opening this window on a different way of life for us. We feel enormously privileged to have spent those three days with you and your island communities.



Welcome ceremony at the village of Kuluoh on Rambutso Island



JCF Board members and Dame Carol Kidu with the Kokopo-based Burnet Institute staff

Kokopo on the island of East New Britain was our next stop, where we were met by Paul Rathbone of the Burnet Institute and Dame Carol Kidu, a long time friend of the June Canavan Foundation and stalwart of helping PNG do things right. After meeting the inspiring local staff of the “Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB)” project, and hearing about their research and clinical work, we headed out with them to visit local health centres, hospitals and one of the mothers who was part of the

HMHB research study. They are certainly doing groundbreaking work in determining the major causes of mother and infant mortality in PNG and we thank Dr Stannard, Loreto and your amazing team of public health officers, nurses, midwives, lab technicians, IT people and drivers (oh the roads they have to navigate....) for another window into life in PNG.



Out on the road with the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies team



Family and friends remember those who lost their lives in the Kokoda Air Crash

Back in 2011, at the 2 year anniversary, the family members of the 13 people who lost their lives had each planted a small native shrub in a semi-circle. Over time the shrubs have grown together forming an almost joined up semi-circle in front of the plaque which pays tribute to June, Keith Gracie and their 11 flying companions.

Jo sang an opening and closing song with the help of her well-travelled ukulele, Kerry, Maureen, Anne and other guests spoke of those who had lost their lives and wreaths were laid. The service was simple but meaningful, and we thank the staff of the High Commission for organising it.



Anne and Kerry lay a wreath on behalf of June's family and friends

## COVID-19 – our partners adapt and take a leadership role

There's no doubt that many of the organisations supported by the June Canavan Foundation have been doing it tougher than normal during the last few months.

Philanthropy Australia released a statement in early April urging funders (large ones like the Myer Family Foundation and small ones like the JCF) to support their beneficiaries as they "pivoted" their efforts to support their communities with COVID-19 assistance.

Almost on the same day we received a request from our friends at Wantaim PNG seeking our agreement to divert funding we had provided for their composting toilets and women's sexual health initiatives to fulfilling some very basic COVID-19 prevention activities. They decided that soap and COVID-19 safety posters were what was needed most urgently. We unanimously agreed to their request, and so, with the support of other donors, soap was sourced and delivered to villages, along with posters in local language Tok Pisin. If you want to see one of the best



Wantaim PNG

demonstrations of effective handwashing, a link to Wantaim PNG's Ruth Francis showing locals how to do it is attached to the email accompanying this newsletter.



Similarly, over in Tanzania, the School of St Jude decided to send a COVID-19 care pack home with every student. Sponsors and supporters responded, offering to pay an extra \$80 to provide a kit containing bleach, hand sanitiser, exercise books, soap, maize flour, rice and beans – these are much needed, staple items in a Tanzanian household. They'll also receive important information about COVID-19 and instructions on how a family can make a simple, inexpensive face mask at home, how to use the bleach and hand sanitiser safely and effectively.

Right at this moment in time, we have never been prouder to be long term supporters of the Burnet Institute. Unlike other organisations, they have not needed to “pivot” at all to be at the forefront of Australia's COVID-19 response. As their CEO, Brendan Crabb likes to say “infectious disease is our DNA”. Their researchers are hard at work on four vital elements of the global response:

1. A vaccine to prevent the disease
2. Therapeutic drugs to treat the disease
3. Better diagnostic tools to detect current or past exposure to the virus
4. Effective Public Health policy.



Until researchers crack the codes on the first three elements, public policy is the only tool we have at the moment. The Burnet Institute have been key advisors on this to the Chief Medical Officer and State Health Ministers. You can hear more about the Burnet Institute's leadership of Australia's contribution to the global response to COVID-19 at this webinar which was livestreamed on 16 May. <https://youtu.be/mMdpcVYOAmw>

**What is the June Canavan Foundation doing in response?** Given the year that we've had – bushfires, then floods, then COVID-19, we've decided that our first funding round for 2020-21 will be for the specific purpose of providing funds to organisations who are actively contributing to recovery efforts for bushfires, floods and COVID-19. To make funds available quickly we are bringing forward our funding decisions from October to early July.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON THE SUNSHINE COAST**

In the last edition of the JCF Newsletter we focused on our funding partners in North East Victoria. And the edition prior to that was focused on funding partners in Papua New Guinea. This edition is the time for our funded Sunshine Coast organisations to take the spotlight. We knew right from when we first set up the Foundation that the Sunshine Coast community was going to play a big part in what we do.

In our very first year of grants back in 2011, we tentatively dipped our toe into the grant-making water and made grants to 7 organisations. Four of them served the Sunshine Coast community:

- Harmony House at Maroochydore
- Cittimani Hospice at Buderim
- Wildlife Warriors at Australia Zoo
- Katie Rose Cottage at Doonan.

Over the next 8 years, we've added 8 more organisations to the Sunshine Coast mix:

- University of the Sunshine Coast
- Sunshine Coast Reef Ambassadors
- Sippy Creek Animal Refuge
- Sunnykids Inc
- Noosa and District Landcare Group
- Cystic Fibrosis, Queensland
- Childrens Therapy Centre
- Sunshine Butterflies

We've also provided funding to organisations based on the Sunshine Coast which provide services to the international community:

- Mercy Ships
- Project Vietnam
- Midwife Vision Global

Some of these organisations have received one-off funding for a specific project, (such as the Coxen Fig Parrot project organized by Noosa Landcare and the Siblings Camp organized by the Childrens Therapy Centre), while others such as Cittimani Hospice receive regular multi-year funding to assist with their day to day operations. As part of our emergency response funding category, we helped our friends at Wildlife Warriors with their wildlife rescue response to the November Sunshine Coast bushfires. If you would like to know more about these organisations, or do some fundraising for them on the Coastal Pathway walk, check out their websites listed above.

## **MORE GIRLS AT ST JUDES**

As June was during her life, we continue to be inspired by Gemma Sisia and her absolute commitment to educating the future leaders of Tanzania at the School of St Jude, and in doing so providing families with a way out of poverty. For a couple of years now, we have been eagerly waiting for the next step in the St Jude's journey to occur. It happened on 10 January 2020 with the opening of a **girls only secondary campus**. Girls who have shown the grit to battle their way through the government primary education system will now be invited to apply for an annual round of secondary school scholarships.

**To celebrate and recognise our Sunshine Coast partners, we are offering**

**matched funding**  
*(up to \$5000)*

**for anyone participating in our**

**Coastal Pathway Walk**

**who chooses to raise money for any of the Sunshine Coast organisations mentioned in this article which have been supported by the June Canavan Foundation over the first 10 years**

*(details of the Coastal Pathway Walk are at the end of this newsletter)*

We were lucky to host Gemma with her travelling companions, recent graduate Judith and tour organiser, Maddie at our recent Board meeting on 14 March. (Very lucky in fact – everything started closing down the week after, forcing our St Judes visitors to cut their tour short and return to Tanzania) They shared stories about the first two months of the girls school and the effect it will have on the girls and their communities. We absolutely know that June would have liked this next chapter in the St Judes story, so we have decided that our annual \$50,000 donation for this year will be to support 17 of the girls who are successful in being selected for a St Judes secondary education. We understand that it is harder to attract sponsors for secondary students as many sponsors wish to follow their sponsored child right through their schooling.



Gemma and recent graduate Judith before heading down under in March

### OUR NEXT 10 YEARS – how can we optimise our impact?

We've learnt a lot over the first 10 years of the Foundation's life, but we strive to make an even bigger impact over the next 10 years. We will be considering how best to do this at a review and planning session on **Saturday 7 November**. The session will be held in the meeting room in the Canavan Gracie Recreation Park. It will be facilitated by an external philanthropic / social impact expert who will challenge our thinking and guide us towards a plan for the second half of our life. Over the second 10 year phase, we plan to distribute at least \$3m as our contribution to making the world a better place. We are keen to hear from anyone who would like to contribute. There are several ways you can do this:



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1. Ring and have a chat with Anne or any Board members who you know. You can find our Board members and a contact email on our website at <http://www.junecanavanfoundation.org.au/about-foundation/>
2. Come along to our planning session on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November on the Sunshine Coast. We'd like as many voices and perspectives at this session as possible.
3. Send any thoughts through by email to [contact@junecanavanfoundation.org.au](mailto:contact@junecanavanfoundation.org.au)

**\$3m**

That's it for this edition, apart from the invitation to Coastal Pathway Walk which is attached to the newsletter on the next page. If you have any suggestions or comments about the Foundation please let me know on 0409 813 260 or at [contact@junecanavanfoundation.org.au](mailto:contact@junecanavanfoundation.org.au).

Bye for now,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Gripper".

Anne Gripper



## INVITATION

### Walk along the Sunshine Coast's COASTAL PATHWAY 10-14 September 2020

*June's spirit living on as a catalyst for change*

Everyone in June's community is invited to join us in a walk (or cycle) along the 96km Coastal Pathway in September this year.

We plan to do it over 5 days, travelling about 20km per day, heading north and staying in hotels or motels along the way.

**You can come for 5 days or 5 hours - or any amount of time in between. We anticipate that people will be joining in and dropping off at various points along the way.**

**There is absolutely no requirement or expectation for participants to raise funds on the walk – we are just keen to get out and do something active with friends old and new**

However, if you would like to fundraise (maybe to keep you motivated), the June Canavan Foundation will provide matched funding (up to \$5000) for any funds raised for the Sunshine Coast organisations we have supported in the past. *(They are listed on page 7 of this newsletter)*

We will have a support vehicle, so you only need to carry water, a bit of money and anything else you need for the day.

For further information, please contact Anne Gripper at [annegripper@me.com](mailto:annegripper@me.com) or on 0409 813 260



**Coastal  
Pathway**

