2011 ANNUAL REVIEW



Origin Foundation

2011 Highlights





1,000
CHILDREN HELPED

18
PROJECTS FUNDED

14

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED



5,515

HOURS VOLUNTEERED



$505,072

DONATED TO AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES BY ORIGIN EMPLOYEES, TOGETHER WITH THE FOUNDATION



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Photo courtesy of the CREATE Foundation.

Message from our Chairman



We have just completed the second year of our Origin Foundation, and I am pleased to report another year of good progress.

We have continued to focus our efforts in the area of education. Our Foundation team, ably led by Sean Barrett, provided us with a compelling model of "Engaged Philanthropy". We look for innovatory approaches from potential recipients, and the capability to scale up with our seed funding. We are also prepared to take a multi-year approach, to ensure sustainability. We look for opportunities to provide necessary skills, through our "Give Time" program. Together our objective is to grow relevant and sustainable organisations that can make a difference in education, and thus to the communities where we operate.

In 2011, against this strategy, we provided almost $5 million in grants to 14 organisations and 634 Origin staff volunteered over 5000 hours of their time, to our partners.

We also believe that Not for Profits have neglected (for understandable reasons) the training and development of their own staff. To this end we were able to fund in 2011 a series of scholarships, including a Fulbright Scholarship for leaders in the sector, which is believed to be the first of its kind in Australia.

Throughout the year we received applications from many wonderful and deserving causes. Our hardest job was to choose. Hopefully we did this with care and compassion, based on a disciplined process. Was the proposal genuinely innovative and scaleable? Did it have good management, and a sound financial footing? Were they prepared to be measured and awarded on key performance indicators? Would they make good partners? In this difficult process I have been privileged to serve with a very capable and committed Board, composed of Origin senior executives, and Non-Executive Directors, who gave of their time and knowledge graciously.

I know I speak for all of them, in acknowledging the progress our Foundation has made, thanking the company for its continued support, and vigorously committing us to another exciting year of more and better.



Gordon Cairns
Origin Foundation Chairman

Message from our Head of Foundation



In this review we summarise what we do, how we do it and who we partner with.

While the Board of Origin decided to create a philanthropic Foundation, perhaps unusually, it was the people of Origin who were asked to choose our focus. They wanted the focus to be education.

Education is a very broad area for effective philanthropy. Through research and consultation we have therefore settled on two guiding assumptions on how to achieve social change using education.

Assumption One: A wide range of social policy challenges can be addressed and positively impacted by providing better education pathways. Generally, 'pathways' refers to: Being ready for school; moving through schooling to gain a career-starting qualification; and lifelong learning (See Table 1).

As a consequence we have the ability to address systemic rather than symptomatic issues. For example, rather than aiding individuals who are homeless or unemployed we are facilitating the provision of education pathways for current and future generations so they avoid such outcomes. We are pursuing strategic philanthropy rather than charitable giving.

Assumption Two: The Not-for-Profit sector is vital to modern society and is becoming increasingly important in addressing multiple social issues (See Table 2). According to the Productivity Commission, the NFP sector is underperforming because of lack for investment in the training and development of its key personnel. In this instance we are looking at a systemic problem in a specific sector. We are investing in people development through Origin Foundation Scholarships for executives in the sector.

Our aspiration is that the ultimate impact of our philanthropy will be individuals empowered to achieve their economic and social potential. While there is inevitably a skew towards the disadvantaged, our philanthropy is touching those in pursuit of improvement no matter what their socio-economic status.

We will evolve this focus in the coming years based on evaluation of existing programs, participation in the discourse around education, and our scanning.

Many of the programs we support are ambitious and the results will not be obvious for some time. But we have also provided assistance to many individuals during the year. Highlights include: 500 school children have met and been helped in planning their future by 180 Origin mentors; 147 young people in rural and regional Australia are being helped with financial and other support to achieve their education and training goals; 330 youngsters in foster care are being prepared for life outside care; 1,300 families in the Asia/Pacific have received micro loans and training to work themselves out of poverty; 64 families and their pre-school children around Australia participated in a pilot to help prepare for school proper; and 843 Origin people were involved with Foundation giving and volunteering programs.

At a time when many complain of a lack of social engagement it has been heartening to witness the enthusiasm of people within Origin to become involved, and a privilege to work with the dedicated people in the not-for-profit sector working on better futures for Australians.



Sean Barrett
Head of Origin Foundation

Table 1
Origin Foundation Logic Framework

ASSUMPTION	OUR INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	IMPACT
A wide range of social policy challenges can be addressed by providing better educational pathways	Engaged philanthropy utilising: • A Grant Program; • Give2, employee matched giving; • Give Time, skilled and unskilled employee volunteering	Pre-school early interventions	Better literacy and numeracy	School-ready children	Individuals empowered to achieve their economic and social potential
		Student engagement at school	New models of schooling that engage today's youth	Children prepared for the future and staying in school longer	
		Facilitate transition to work or study	Nurture a wider world view and ambition	Young people going on to work, study or vocational training	
		Lifelong learning	Scholarships	Exemplars of the pursuit of excellence. Modelling achievement	

Table 2
Origin Foundation Logic Framework

ASSUMPTION	OUR INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	IMPACT
The not-for-profit sector is vital to society but it can improve its performance with investment in training and development	Engaged philanthropy utilising: • A Grant Program; • Give2, employee matched giving; Give Time, skilled and unskilled employee volunteering	Support training and development	Scholarships	Proof of a causal link between training and development and individual and organisational performance	Increased funding for training and development leading to improved social impact

2011 PARTNER FORUM

Bringing our partners together

During 2011 we held our first Origin Foundation partner forum.

The two-day event, created at the request of our partners, was an opportunity for partners to hear and learn from each other. The agenda, chosen by partners, also included sessions run by experts on topics like brand, liaising with the media, social media, research and evaluation.

With so many of our partners working in the area of education, the event identified many synergies between organisations and programs. At least four organisations subsequently found areas in which to co-operate.

The forum was well received. Diane Bowles, Director of Marketing and Fundraising at Good Return said it was inspiring to hear from like-minded organisations and people.



Pictured above is Melinda Martin, Manager, National Programs and Services, Australian Business Arts Foundation.

Pictured right: Habitat for Humanity is a partner of the Origin Foundation. Pictured are Origin volunteers Shari Rankin and Cheryl Ward.

"The conference provided a fantastic opportunity to meet organisations that are doing great work, allowing us to network and look for opportunities to learn from and work together in the future. It was great for the Origin Foundation to organise the conference."

Amy Lyden, CEO of the Australian Scholarships Foundation said the event was a great opportunity to meet and learn from other Origin Foundation partners.

"Attending the Origin Foundation partner conference gave us the opportunity to more fully understand all of the Origin Foundation partners and what they do. I was also very impressed by the innovative way Origin engages with these organisations. It is a much deeper relationship than merely financial. It was inspiring to see this new kind of philanthropic engagement. The partner conference also gave ASF the opportunity to platform what we do and as a result some people in Origin Foundation partner organisations have benefited from ASF scholarships for development. It is lovely to be part of the "Origin Foundation family" of partner organisations and I look forward to more opportunities to work together."


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Together we can
make a difference.™
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Together we ca
make a difference.

Our Grant Program

In 2011 we established Grant Program partnerships with 14 organisations in support of various learning-based initiatives. These partnerships add further diversity to our portfolio of programs, helping us to reach a wide spectrum of the community through education.

Our Grant Program seeks partnerships that are evidence based, with ongoing evaluation and sustainability over the long term. We seek to partner with like-minded organisations whose programs have a focus on building community and individual capacity through education.

In 2011, our support helped the work of the following organisations:

Early childhood education intervention

Indi Kindi

Indi Kindi is an early childhood intervention pilot program for pre-school children living in remote Indigenous communities. Indi Kindi will deliver a program to very young children within their own homes and with their families, to better prepare them to begin school, and improve the chances of keeping them attending regularly.

The Smith Family

The Smith Family believes that one of the most effective means of breaking the cycle of disadvantage is to support children to get the most out of their education so that they can realise their potential. With funding from the Origin Foundation, The Smith Family is piloting Let's Count, an early years numeracy program. Let's Count provides simple and practical skills to support parents in developing their child's early numeracy skills.

Engagement with school

Big Picture Education Australia and Te Kura New Zealand

Big Picture wants to make schools better for our young people. Their philosophy is grounded in educating 'one student at a time'. Big Picture is one of the Origin Foundation's founding partners and in 2011 our partnership expanded to New Zealand. Our funding will help Big Picture roll out their model in New Zealand via Te Kura, a distance learning school noted for its innovative approach to education.



Photo courtesy of the Beacon Foundation.

National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN)

NAPCAN's 'Circle' program looks to provide support to children and young people with the aim of building their resilience, developing healthy relationships and breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect. The Origin Foundation is funding research into the success of the 'Circle' programs in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney.

Stronger Smarter Institute

The Stronger Smarter Institute is committed to changing the tide of low expectations in Indigenous education. Their Stronger Smarter Leadership Program supports school and community leaders to pursue educational excellence, by challenging their assumptions and enhancing their capacity to drive schools transformation. Our Foundation is supporting further development of this program.

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience

AIME'S unique style of education-based mentoring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students is helping to improve Year 10 and Year 12 completion and university admission rates for all participating students. With our support AIME will scale their programs across more universities and further develop their online capability.

Transition from school to further study or work

Beacon Foundation

The Beacon Foundation has an established track record of helping inspire and motivate students to either stay in school and increase their educational achievements or make a successful transition to employment, further education or training. The Origin Foundation is supporting the development of Beacon's 'Origin Uncovered' and 'Mock Interview' programs, both of which help prepare young people for future employment.



Our Grant Program



Photo courtesy of Big Picture Education Australia.

Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEFA)

The Country Education Foundation assists rural and remote communities around the country to establish local Education Foundations. These local foundations raise funds to assist young people to transition from high school into further education, training or vocations. Our support will help CEFA expand their work across Australia.

CREATE Foundation

The CREATE Foundation represents the voices of all young Australians in foster care. Our support will help roll out CREATE Your Future, a new 'life skills' education program that will support these young people as they transition out of the care system.

Foundation for Young Australians (FYA)

The Foundation for Young Australians' Worlds of Work program is a national initiative that builds the skills and beliefs necessary for young people to make successful transitions into life beyond school. Through a series of workplace visits and facilitated workshops, students' perceptions of life in the workplace are improved. The Origin Foundation assisted in the scaling of the Worlds of Work program.

Good Return

The Good Return model links education and micro-finance in an innovative manner. Good Return specialises in microfinance, financial literacy and livelihood development programs. Their loans enable the poor to start or expand small businesses, increase their income, which provides further benefits to the individual borrower, their families and communities. The Origin Foundation will provide funds for Good Return to develop their infrastructure to enable growth and financial sustainability. Additionally, we will fund education and training in environmentally sustainable microfinance, income generation and promotion of renewable energy technologies.

Wise Foundation

The Wise Foundation is a pioneer in developing social enterprise. Funding from the Origin Foundation will support Wise to undertake a feasibility study for a new initiative to employ vulnerable women.

Youth off the Streets (YOTS)

Youth off the Streets has been providing services to assist homeless and disadvantaged youth since 1991. Their scholarship program supports young people who show the potential and a desire to further their talents. Support from the Origin Foundation will help YOTS to expand this program.

Lifelong learning

Australian Business Arts Foundation (ABAF)

The Australian Business Arts Foundation supports talented Australian artists to pursue their dreams by facilitating access to vital further education. The Origin Foundation is supporting ABAF by providing funding for scholarships - over the next three-years.

General Sir John Monash Foundation

The General Sir John Monash Foundation administers one of Australia's most prestigious scholarship programs. The Origin Foundation has committed to supporting two John Monash Scholarships in the fields of engineering, and sustainability.

Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy (LLEAP)

Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy is a research project being conducted by Tenderbridge, a division of the Australian Council for Educational Research.

The LLEAP initiative has the potential to improve philanthropic investment in education by providing funders and fundees with practical information on how to improve relationships and drive investments further.

Supporting the Not-for-Profit sector

Australian-American Fulbright Commission

The Fulbright Scholarship program allows mid-career professionals to undertake training or research in the U.S. In November 2011, Fulbright, in partnership with the Australian Scholarships Foundation and the Origin Foundation announced the first Australian Fulbright Scholarship for the not for profit sector. The Fulbright Scholarship in Not for Profit Leadership will enable emerging leaders to improve their academic skills and knowledge, exchange information with peers and join the prestigious alumni of Fulbright Scholars worldwide.

Australian Scholarships Foundation (ASF)

The Australian Scholarships Foundation helps to improve the capacity of the not-for-profit sector by providing access to vital further education. Support from the Foundation will help ASF offer a series of Origin Foundation Scholarships for leaders within the sector, providing opportunities for these people to improve their skills by undertaking further study or training.

Centre for Social Impact (CSI)

The Centre for Social Impact at the University of NSW works to bring together the business, government, philanthropic and not for profit sectors in a collaborative effort to build community capacity and facilitate social innovation. With our support CSI will develop, test and implement a methodology to measure 'Social Return from Education and Training' programs for not-for-profit sector managers.



Photo courtesy of the Country Education Foundation of Australia.

The Smith Family

The Smith Family is a national charity helping young Australians in need to get the most out of their education, so they can create better futures for themselves. Their 'Let's Read' early years literacy program, has to date helped around 150,000 children become exposed to the joy of reading.

Now, with our support, The Smith Family is applying their success to a new pilot program called 'Let's Count'.

Let's Count is a research-based community program aimed at building the early numeracy skills of young children aged three to five years. Let's Count provides simple and practical skills to support parents in developing their child's early numeracy skills by noticing, exploring and talking about numeracy in their daily lives.

During 2011 Let's Count was piloted in five sites: Ipswich (Qld), Elizabeth (SA), Tamworth (NSW), Collingwood (Vic) and Chigwell (Tas). It is expected that Let's Count will reach more than 5,000 children by 2014.

The program aims to raise community awareness of the importance of building early numeracy skills in young children. It is during the early years, from birth to five years, that the building blocks for success in numeracy and schooling are established.

Feedback from the pilot program has been positive.



Photo courtesy of The Smith Family

"I immediately fell in love with the program," said Rosemary Jimenez, who ran the program in Richmond last year. "Seeing how easy it is to implement and the simple ways to find maths in everyday life made me think we've been wasting great opportunities to teach our children."

The Origin Foundation has agreed to support Let's Count during its pilot year, to further develop the program and materials.

Stronger Smarter Institute

The Stronger Smarter Institute is committed to changing the tide of low expectations in Indigenous education. Their Stronger Smarter philosophy is helping teachers and principals like Donna Bridge increase enthusiasm for student learning through dramatically improved school attendance and increased community involvement in education.

Donna Bridge, Principal, Kalgoorlie East Primary School (WA)

Many, many times during her five years as principal of Kalgoorlie East Primary School, Donna Bridge, thought: "That's it. I quit. It's all just too hard."

But she didn't throw in the towel and her school of 81 students in the West Australian Goldfields is now a leading example of just what can be achieved with perseverance and faith in the ability and determination of Indigenous children to meet high expectations and standards.

"When I arrived at the school in 2005, the place was absolutely chaotic.

"There was absolutely no consistency in teaching and discipline and as a result the kids were quite feral.

"In reality, we weren't a school, but rather a baby-sitting service for the kids who did come to school."

However, Donna says she came to the school with three abiding philosophies -

- Aboriginal children can learn
- A school is a reflection of the community in which it exists
- Quality teaching programs can and do make a real difference.

"I had a sense of what I needed to achieve with the children and changing the attitude of the student body was quite exhausting. I introduced the principles of restorative justice and made all students responsible for their own actions. Some conversations were had over and over again, but the children needed to see that I was serious about them and wanted them to learn. The message was constant, you are responsible for your actions, and if you only know one way of behaving, I will teach you a new way and give you a new bag of tools, and then I expect you to use them at school.

"Changing the attitudes of staff, parents and the community was much more challenging, but identifying my support networks and finding those who would help me over the hurdles kept me strong. They often helped me to think about things in a different way.

"I met with every single family in the school and asked them to support me as the decision maker. Most accepted that proposition and that was the start of a long process," Donna says.

"Ultimately, the community did back me and we seem to be coming out the other side."

"While our kids don't necessarily fit in at other schools, they certainly feel valued and proud here at East Kalgoorlie. Their pride is reflected in attendance figures. Attendance for some students has risen from less than 50% to 70% and that is a huge shift," Donna says

"Stronger Smarter helped me find my way again and focus on what I really believed about being Aboriginal and learning successfully at school. It helped give me the strength and sense of purpose to navigate a way through what seemed like impossible obstacles to become recognised as a Dare to Lead national school of excellence.

"It taught me to always have a moral purpose to your leadership and you will always succeed in the end because you are doing things for the right reasons. I no longer want to quit, I love my job, my school and the kids, East Kalgoorlie is now a really great place to work."

The Origin Foundation is supporting further development of the Stronger Smarter Leadership program.

The Country Education Foundation of Australia

The Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEFA) believes that all young people deserve the opportunity to pursue their dreams - regardless of their personal circumstances, including where they live.

The unfortunate reality is that for young people in regional and rural Australia, these opportunities are often out of reach. In addition to the cost of course fees and text books, it can cost rural students $15,000 to $20,000 a year in living away from home and travel expenses to achieve their tertiary education goals. The enormity of these costs means many rural students are not able to pursue further study.

CEFA's 42 local Foundations in NSW, SA, QLD and the Northern Territory are helping to make reality the dreams of their local youth. These community-based foundations raise funds to provide grants to local students so that they are able to make a successful transition from high school into the next phase of their life.

Since CEFA's formation in 1993, 1,709 grants have been provided to rural youth, totalling $1,705,326. In 2011 alone CEFA provided 349 grants, with a combined value of more than $372,000.

One young person to benefit from CEFA's support is Jessica Weekes, from Yass in rural NSW. Jessica is pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor, having completed a Rural Health degree at James Cook University's Faculty of Medicine, Health and Molecular Sciences.

"I supported myself completely …. my text books cost me over $1,000 every year. My Community Scholarship from the Yass District Education Foundation paid for that, and a diagnostic set … it includes my otoscope, for looking into people's eyes, ears and mouth. It's something that you are just expected to get as a student but it is also something that is quite expensive," Jessica said.

"Everyone has potential and everyone has dreams, there are multiple reasons that people don't realise these dreams, and unfortunately money is a significant factor. The Yass District Education Foundation and CEFA played a significant role in assisting me with the costs of necessities of going to university.



Photo courtesy of the Country Education Foundation.

"A big part of getting the Community Scholarship is someone saying you are doing a good job, keep going…. We are proud of you and you are making a difference. You are also letting the family realise their dreams. My Mum and Dad never considered that going to university was even conceivable.

"In giving to me I also give back to the community, so in Yass anyone who wants to do Med or something like that, I will go and have a chat to them. …. I know I will reinvest money back into the Yass District Education Foundation once I am able to.

"It is also nice that it [the Community Scholarship] gives you a bit of recognition from your town, it's a good encouragement. It makes you really try and it makes sure that you succeed in what you are doing."

Our Foundation is supporting CEFA in two ways: Firstly, to expose rural youth to a wider range of opportunities; and secondly by providing financial support to all CEFA's 42 local Education Foundations to assist with their grant making.

General Sir John Monash Foundation

An Air Force Pilot and a botanist may not appear to have much in common, but in 2011 two such professionals were awarded the first Origin Foundation-funded John Monash Scholarships.

Flying Officer Chris Lowe was awarded the Origin Foundation John Monash Scholarship in Engineering, to study for a Masters in Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Originally from North-East Tasmania, Chris holds a Bachelor of Engineering with first-class honours and the University Medal from the University of New South Wales, which he attended through the Australian Defence Force Academy in the Chief of Defence Force Student Program. He has been a member of the Royal Australian Air Force since 2005, and was recently deployed to Kandahar in Afghanistan. Through the Australian Defence Force he has helped provide humanitarian relief following the Queensland floods, Cyclone Yasi, the Victorian bushfires, Padang earthquake and tsunami, Samoa tsunami, Pakistan floods and Haiti earthquake. He is an outstanding rower and footballer. At MIT, Chris will conduct research into Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

Kate Griffiths was awarded the Origin Foundation John Monash Scholarship in Sustainability, to study for a Masters of Science at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Kate completed a Bachelor of Philosophy (Science) with first-class honours and the University Medal from the Australian National University. She received numerous prizes during her academic career and has conducted research at the ANU, CSIRO, Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens and the University of Copenhagen. Kate has been active in promoting science as a Science Ambassador, a tutor of Indigenous students and in her current work with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. She is a Queen's Scout, runner and triathlete, and a top AFL umpire. At Edinburgh, Kate will study plant taxonomy and biodiversity, before returning to Australia to contribute to the conservation and management of Australia's vulnerable ecosystems.

John Monash Scholarships are one of Australia's most prestigious academic scholarships. Scholarships are offered to candidates who demonstrate leadership capabilities, academic excellence, community involvement and contribute to the future of Australia.

The Origin Foundation has committed to supporting two John Monash Scholarships in the fields of engineering, and sustainability.

We believe the John Monash Scholarships are compelling because they are awarded to people who demonstrate a commitment to society. Most of the scholars come back and work in Australia, so their talents flow back into the community.



Pictured is Flying Officer Chris Lowe, of the Royal Australian Air Force. Photo courtesy of the Commonwealth of Australia.

ENGAGING WITH ORIGIN EMPLOYEES

Our volunteers



Pictured are Origin volunteers Shyan Lau, Grace Wu and Kate O'Neill at The Big Issue in Melbourne.

The skills and time of Origin volunteers continue to be some of the most important contributions we offer our partners and the community.

Origin employees donated 5,515 hours during 2011, through the Foundation's Give Time program. They gave their time to our six specific volunteering partners and those organisations we support through our Grant Program.

During 2011, the program was revamped and skilled volunteering introduced. Skilled volunteering is an essential component of our engaged philanthropy model. It puts us in a position to offer our partners professional support that they would not normally be able to afford in areas like logistics, carbon credits research and digital marketing. It's also an engaging professional development opportunity for Origin employees, adding to their knowledge and experience and providing networking opportunities.

A mid-year internal campaign to encourage Origin employees to harness the power of their skills led to the creation of a database of more than 100 employees seeking to take on a professional volunteer project. We will continue to match these volunteers with pro-bono projects over the next year.

Although skilled volunteering is a new focus for the Foundation, our commitment to unskilled projects remains and these initiatives continue to be popular among Origin employees. In 2011 Origin people volunteered their time to support a variety of worthwhile activities including, habitat restoration activities with Conservation Volunteers Australia and building homes with Habitat for Humanity.

Volunteering to help young people has long been an area of unmet interest for many employees. Over the last year several new programs run in partnership with the Beacon Foundation and Foundation for Young Australians, have begun to fill this gap. Two of these programs, FYA's 'Worlds of Work' and Beacon's 'Origin Uncovered' have seen young people welcomed into Origin offices as part of structured sessions to help students broaden their horizons and consider their future career paths. Another 'Mock Interview' initiative, by the Beacon Foundation has involved Origin employees in practice job interviews with Year 10 students.

The Foundation consistently receives positive feedback about these programs from both Origin employees and students participants:

"You might not think it but you had a gigantic impact on all of us, especially me. I thought that people who worked in offices were unhappy people…But you're not. It has opened my eyes." Meryam

Origin volunteer delivers market insights to The Smith Family

Origin's Market Research Manager, Katrina Cox has been managing research programs at Origin for almost eight years. Her work helps Origin to better understand its customer base and market trends.

Now Katrina is applying her skills to a new challenge, helping The Smith Family as a Research Assistant. As part of the role Katrina produces a monthly environmental scan and report for The Smith Family, summarising new research and policy developments.

The research work allows The Smith Family to better understand these developments as they relate to their programs and areas of interest – like education.



Pictured is Katrina Cox, Origin's Market Research Manager

"The Smith Family benefits greatly from the expertise of volunteers from the corporate sector who contribute their time and skills to help us achieve our goal of unlocking opportunities for disadvantaged young Australians," said Matthew Salier, National Volunteers Manager.

Katrina says she's enjoyed the opportunity to apply her skills to another sector. "I really appreciate being able to work with The Smith Family. It has added another dimension to the work that I do at Origin. A lot of the research I have been reviewing has been interesting to me personally, particularly information on education and parenting which is relevant to me as a mother. Additionally, I have also come across information that is relevant to the Origin business, so it has had a secondary benefit to my day-to-day work at Origin."

"The work itself has not been difficult – the main challenge has been finding the time. The Smith Family has been quite flexible, accommodating time extensions on the odd occasion I have needed them. I have learnt more about the work of The Smith Family over the five months that I have worked with them, and I really like their focus on helping children obtain an education."

Katrina receives paid volunteer leave for the time she spends with The Smith Family as part of the Origin Foundation's Give Time program.

ENGAGING WITH ORIGIN EMPLOYEES

Our Give2 Program

Give2, our Matched Giving program, continues to be popular among Origin employees. In 2011, Origin people gave more than $252,000, which the Foundation matched dollar for dollar – a combined contribution of $505,000.

Origin employees continue to give in a variety of ways. Give2, facilitated through Karma Currency, gives employees the opportunity to give once, or give regularly to the same charities or a new charity each time.

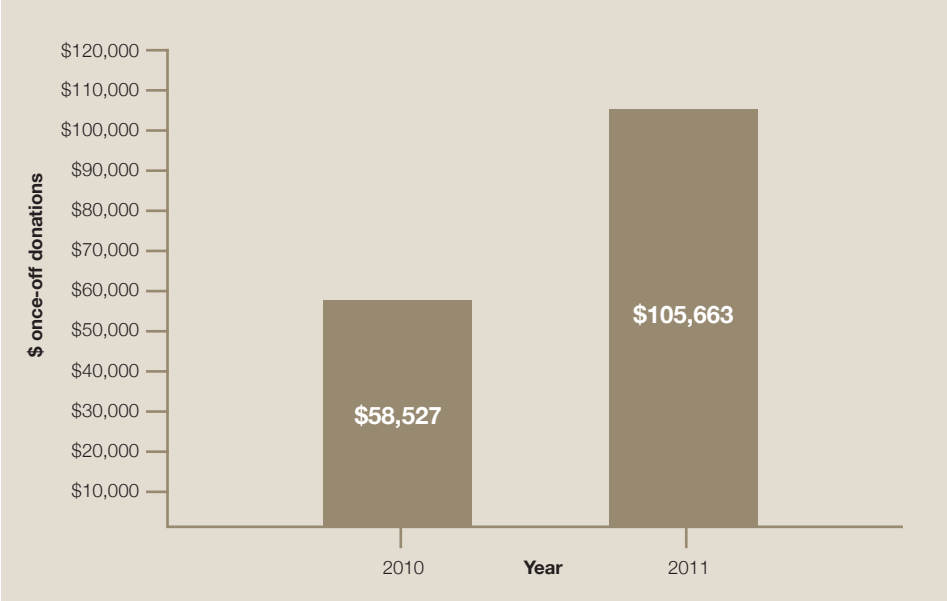
Over 2011 we were able to better understand the results of our November 2010 internal campaign to relaunch the program and increase participation in Give2.

The number of participating employees increased from 117 to 246 and monthly payroll donations doubled from $5,000 to over $10,000. Once-off giving has also increased from $58,527 in 2010 to $105,663 in 2011.

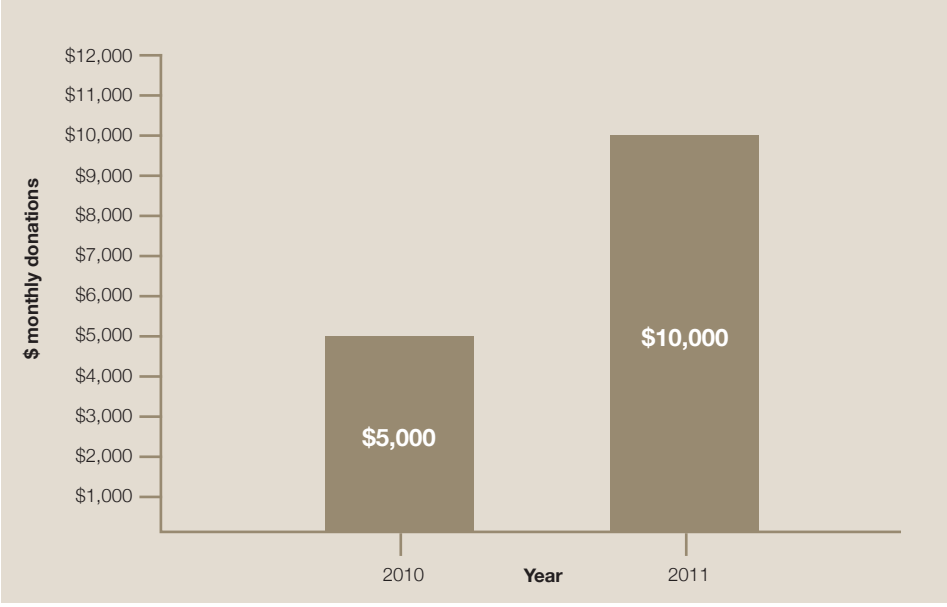
Fundraising represented a significant proportion of our Give2 contribution. Major events such as the Oxfam Trailwalker and Movember were big drivers of fundraising internally.

A survey of Give2 participants conducted during the year found that 90 per cent of respondents were highly satisfied with the scheme.

Comparison of once-off donations between 2010 to 2011



Comparison of monthly payroll donations between 2010 to 2011



*These figures represent average monthly giving.

Walkers win Oxfam fundraising award



Pictured is Origin's Narelle Hobbs



Pictured right are Origin Foundation walkers Scott Winter, Anthony Hobbs and Jeff Scott.

In August, 44 Origin volunteers were collectively awarded Oxfam's top corporate fundraising prize for their efforts in raising almost $50,000 as part of Oxfam's Brisbane Trailwalker event.

The prize was well deserved. Each of the volunteers walked up to 100 kilometres in less than 48 hours, enduring blisters and fatigue in the name of fundraising.

2011 marked Brisbane's first Trailwalker event and 11 Origin teams participated. The Origin Foundation supported volunteers by covering the cost of their entry fee, providing paid volunteer leave and matching any donations made by Origin employees.

Origin's Sarah Tilby says it was the combined effort of teams and the support of people at Origin that made all the difference.

"Due to the large number of Origin walkers, it really lifted your spirits when you saw other Origin people walking along the trail or at the checkpoints. It was also motivating to know that our supporters could check our progress through the Oxfam Trailwalker website.

"It was definitely a tough trail, and it brought our team closer together. Whilst I didn't quite finish it (having pulled out at 90km), I am still happy to have done it both as a personal challenge and knowing that it raised funds for Oxfam."

Many Origin volunteers also braved the cold and an early morning to help out at the event start line, supporting teams to register, managing traffic in the car park and handing out event equipment.

"The commitment and effort of those that put their hand up was second to none and we couldn't have asked more of them. As always, it was a pleasure to have Origin supporting the event." said Brett Long, Oxfam's Event Coordinator

Financial summary for the year ending 30 June 2011

The Origin Foundation has a corpus of $50 million provided by Origin Energy. Investment income from the corpus funds the Foundation's three program areas: Grant Program; Give2, an employee matched giving program; and GiveTime, an employee volunteer program.

The running costs of the Foundation are funded by Origin so that all the investment income is directed to community programs.

It is the intention of the Foundation Board that all investment income will be distributed in the year in which it is earned.

Income

Investment income in the year to June 30, 2010*	$2,264,144
Investment income in the year to June 30, 2011	$3,011,312
Total Investment income	$5,275,456

Expenditure

Grant Program gifts to community partners	$4,737,379
Give2 employee matched giving	$ 288,942
Give Time employee volunteer program	$ 208,894
Total expenditure	$5,235,215
Surplus/Deficit	$ 40,241

*While the Foundation began its work in March 2010 the corpus had been earning income in the preceding period.

Photo courtesy of Good Return.



Our Board

The Origin Foundation is a perpetual philanthropic foundation. It was established and funded by Origin.

The Foundation is a separate entity and has its own Board. The Board members receive no remuneration. Members of the Board as at December 2011 are:



Gordon Cairns, Chair

Gordon has a keen interest in philanthropy and in particular, microfinance. In addition to his work on the Origin Foundation Board, Gordon is a member of the Origin Board. Gordon joined the Board of Origin in June 2007. He has extensive experience as a senior executive, most recently as Chief Executive Officer of Lion Nathan Ltd, and has held senior positions in marketing and finance with Pepsico, Cadbury Schweppes and Nestlé. Gordon is a director of Westpac Banking Corporation, Rebel Group Pty Ltd, The Centre for Independent Studies and World Education Australia and is a senior advisor to McKinsey & Company and Caliburn Partnership.



Kevin McCann

Kevin is the Chair of the Origin Board and was instrumental in the decision to create the Origin Foundation. Kevin has been part of the Origin Board since 2000. He is also the Chairman of Macquarie Group Ltd and Macquarie Bank Ltd, a director of BlueScope Steel Ltd and of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). Kevin is Chairman of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, a Council Member of the National Library of Australia, Chairman of the AICD's Corporate Governance Committee and a Fellow of the Senate of the University of Sydney.



Grant King

Grant has been Managing Director of Origin since the time of the company's demerger from Boral Ltd (February 2000). Grant is Chairman of Contact Energy Ltd, a councillor of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, a former director of Envestra Ltd and former Chairman of the Energy Supply Association of Australia Ltd.



Carl McCamish

Carl joined Origin in March 2008 and is responsible for corporate brand, sustainability, public policy, corporate communications, and government and media relations. Before joining Origin, Carl was head of strategic development at the private equity firm, Terra Firma. From 2004 to 2006, he was Senior Energy Advisor in the UK Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and was deputy head of the 2006 UK Energy Review. Before that he worked at McKinsey & Co management consultants. Carl has a Bachelor of Arts and Law from the University of Melbourne and a Masters in Industrial Relations and Labour Economics from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar.



Helen Williams

Helen joined the Origin Foundation Board as an External Director in January 2011. Helen has recently retired after a long public sector career. She was the first woman to head an Australian Government department and, since 1985, has headed the Departments of Education, Tourism, Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Communications IT and the Arts, and Human Services. She has been Public Service Commissioner and Parliamentary Service Commissioner, and was the inaugural Head of the Commonwealth-State Relations Secretariat. She is currently Deputy Chair of the Australian National Archives Advisory Council, and a member of the Board of the Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company. In 1993, she was made an officer in the Order of Australia for 'services to public administration.' She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Public Administration.



Sean Barrett

Sean is the Head of the Foundation and reports to the Board but is not a member. He was recruited from the not-for-profit sector where he has held senior roles in managing organisations in Australia and overseas. He successfully completed the inaugural Harvard Business School Humanitarian Leadership Program for senior managers in the not for profit sector. He is on the Advisory Board of the Centre for the Mind at the University of Sydney.



Keep in touch online

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