



ANNUAL REPORT

2013–14



THE
R E ROSS
TRUST

The R E Ross Trust

The R E Ross Trust is a perpetual charitable trust established in Victoria in 1970 by the will of the late Roy Everard Ross. Since its inception, the Ross Trust has distributed over \$95 million in grants for charitable purpose in Victoria.



Roy Everard Ross

Roy Everard Ross was born in July 1899 at Mansfield, Victoria and died in Melbourne in November 1970. He trained as a land surveyor and engineer and went on to become a property owner, businessman, investor and successful local government engineer.

In 1968 Mr Ross founded Hillview Quarries at Dromana on the Mornington Peninsula. Hillview Quarries is wholly owned by the Ross Trust. Its operations generate income for the Trust to distribute as grants.

Mr Ross was a keen bushman with a strong interest in and extensive knowledge of native plants, trees and birds. His interest is reflected in his wish for the Trustees to take into consideration the 'protection and preservation of flora and fauna' when distributing the Trust's income.

The biography and history of Mr Ross – Roy Everard Ross – Engineer Investor Quarryman Philanthropist – was published in July 2003. Copies of the publication can be obtained from the office of the Ross Trust.

Trustees

Mr John L C McInnes OAM
Mr Ian A Renard AM
Mrs Eda N Ritchie AM
Ms Jenny V Stephens (from November 2013)
Mr Ian M Vaughan

Staff members

Ms Sylvia Admans
Chief Executive Officer
Ms Margarita Sagris
Grants and Office Manager
Ms Dina Vlanes
Grants, Administration and Executive Assistant
Mr Paul Read
Finance Manager
Ms Lara Hook (until February 2014)
Program Manager
Ms Louise Kuramoto
Program Manager

Production details

Editor: Vanessa Murray
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Our thanks to all the organisations and individuals who have contributed photos, images and stories to this report.

The Ross Trust guidelines and application forms are available on our website.

The Trust's logo was designed to convey the essence of a charitable trust – growth, warmth, energy and an outward reach.



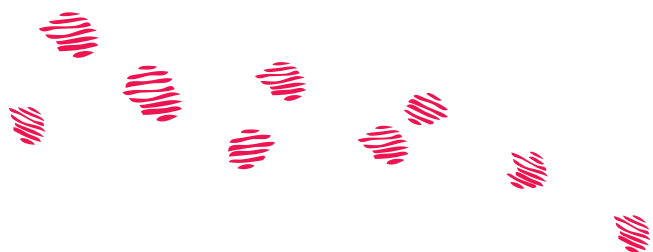
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Trustees' Report

Trustees were delighted to welcome new Trustee, Jenny Stephens, who commenced with the Trust on 1 November 2013. Jenny brings a valuable range of experience and it is pleasing to have someone who shares the enthusiasm and commitment for our important work.

The core business of the Trust is to make grants for charitable purposes in Victoria and I am pleased to report that grants to the value of \$4,826,153 were approved and \$3,745,542 in grants were paid throughout the year. Our strategy is to make multi year grants available in order to give security and planning capacity to grantees, but this means we must carefully consider our forward commitments and our ability to fund them in uncertain economic times.

Hillview Quarries is our major investment and source of income. Demand for its products was subdued during the year, which impacted on the funding available for the Trust's granting. Fortunately, this was partly offset by a strong performance by the Trust's investment portfolio. The Trust's Investment Committee reviewed and consolidated our investment management, and has taken steps through meetings and seminars to understand the implications of impact investing

The Trust's Annual Strategy Day, held in March, was an important opportunity for Trustees, working with staff, to review our grant making strategies in the light of our current situation and community needs. Trustees set an overall granting budget of \$4m for the following year. A report commissioned in 2013, and delivered by Ann Tonks and Jane Haley, was a valuable contributor to our discussions on funding in the Public Education area of focus, and consequently there has been some realignment of our giving in this area. Our funding guidelines are available for all on the web site and there are some wonderful examples of the work we do in this report.

The internal triennial review of the Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program reinforced strongly the need for this program which provides funds to outstanding organisations who supply basic needs to their communities. It was agreed to continue the program for a further three years with a new emphasis on rural and regional areas of Victoria.

The development and application of the Outcomes Reporting Framework, has been a very helpful aid to monitoring, reporting and evaluating the impact of grants made, and it is reassuring to know how many grants have been rated as exceeding expectations.

Hillview Quarries purchased land at Officer many years ago to provide a possible reserve rock resource for quarrying. It became clear that this land was not suitable for that purpose and, after considerable planning and coordination, a gift of 47 hectares of pristine bushland has been donated by Hillview Quarries to the Cardinia Shire Council. Residents of Pakenham, Officer, Upper Beaconsfield and the surrounding area, will be able to enjoy a wonderful new recreation reserve. This land, known as Hillview Bushland Reserve, has been permanently protected by a Trust for Nature covenant. The remaining land which had lower conservation values has been subdivided and sold and the proceeds used for paying off debt and reinvestment.

It was pleasing for the Trust's granting to be recognised in the inaugural Top 50 Philanthropic Gifts made in Australia. Of the 50 grants listed the Ross Trust had contributed to 10% of grants. They included organisations such as the Human Rights Legal Centre, The Tomorrow:Today Foundation's Education Benalla Project, the Australian Gardens at Cranbourne and the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal's Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program.



As the Trust's contribution to the sector and as part of our value adding strategies, the second Ross Trust Conversation took place in November 2013 at the State Library of Victoria. Guest speaker, Dr Diana Leat, visiting fellow, QUT and former Trustee of The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund spoke to around 70 representatives of philanthropy and organisations the Trust supports. She challenged the audience during the Conversation to focus foundations on using more than their financial assets, but also to focus on capacity building and engaged philanthropy in achieving greater impact. The Ross Trust strongly believes in the practice of adding value by way of sharing information and collaborating with other funders, and supporting our grantees beyond making grants

The Commonwealth Government's stated desire to abolish ACNC has disappointed Trustees who believe the increased accountability and transparency of the not for profit sector is an important way to increase confidence and giving to an area of increasing need.

I wish to thank my fellow Trustees for their diligent and active contribution to the work of the Trust and I particularly thank our CEO Sylvia Admans for her positive and constructive leadership of a wonderful small team who carry out the tasks involved in managing the Trust with great competence, while working in the field with our grantee organisations.

Eda N Ritchie AM Chairman 2013–14 on behalf of Trustees



R E Ross Trust Trustees Left to right: Ian Renard, Eda Ritchie, John McInnes, Jenny Stephens and Ian Vaughan

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Ross Trust hosted its Annual Philanthropy Conversation and were reminded by the leading international philanthropy academic Dr Diana Leat that 'philanthropic organisations are in possession of significant and unique intellectual property as a result of granting. If we treated our financial assets as many treat their knowledge, there would be a public scandal. We have a responsibility to share and mine our knowledge for public benefit'.

Dr Leat also said 'Foundations have a unique overview of the community like no other. Many foundations have conducted research and policy evaluations that government or the private sector would never do. The keepers of this knowledge are also in the position to cross compare and draw conclusions that others working in silos may have missed'.

In this year's CEOs report I would like to answer these challenges and explain how the Trust aims to meet these within our day to day work and the values and strategies which guide all the work of the Trust.

Philanthropic

During the year Trust staff considered 257 requests for funding and undertook due diligence for Trustees information and decision making; and of these requests, 117 grants were approved. The number of requests represents a 14% increase from the previous year. Just a small number of the reports of previous grants are featured as stories within this report, arranged within the relevant areas of impact in which the Trust seeks to work.

Trust staff have continued to implement our place based work, which is centred on the communities of Benalla, Robinvale and the region of Gippsland. Within each of these 'places' the Trust has different approaches and priorities. In Benalla for instance, the work of the Tomorrow:Today Foundation's Education Benalla Project receives both substantial grant funding and also a contribution to the governance of the project by staff, and networking, advocacy and liaison for the project. In November 2013 the Trust's guest Dr Diana Leat agreed to be guest speaker at the Tomorrow:Today Foundation Annual General Meeting in Benalla. In the Gippsland region, the Trust initiated a baseline report on the State of the Region for children and young people in East Gippsland as part of its commitment to supporting education, services for Aboriginal people and mental health needs in the region. This report is beneficial to a range of bodies seeking to improve outcomes within the region and

has been well received. In Robinvale, Trust staff visit regularly and undertake informed grant making initiated by the community within the context of the Advancing Country Towns program which is taking a whole of town approach to problem solving. I am proud to be an invited member of this committee. The Place Based section of the report explains in greater detail how the work translates on-the-ground in these communities. In recognition of the Trust's emphasis, I was asked by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation to participate in a workshop in Condobolin in NSW as they undertake 'place based work' within this community. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn first hand how others approach this strategy.

Important to the quality of granting is ensuring staff are well informed about the context of community need and also developments within the philanthropic sector. To this end staff attended conference and workshop presentations. With Dr Leat's words ringing in our ears the Trust has committed itself to using and sharing its grant information more extensively through implementation of an Outcomes Reporting Framework. The Program Managers and I presented a case study on the use of this framework at two Philanthropy Australia workshops on *Assessing Social Impact*. Other invitations have been to facilitate sessions for sector representatives at the Toyota Foundation workshop *Social contribution through multi sectoral partnerships*. Staff attended the NEXUS conference in Sydney, the annual AEGN conference in Melbourne, and Our Community conference in Melbourne.

The Trust responds to requests for participation in awards panels and grant making committees which align with the Trust's priorities. Again, this year I have been pleased to be a judge on the Dept. of Justice Community Work Partnership Awards and also the Geelong based Give Where You Live Foundation Innovation Grant committee, as an out of region representative. This work always serves to expand our knowledge of the sector and contributes greater coordination and sharing.



Our commitment to smaller not for profit organisations to build their capacity has remained a priority for the Trust, with a specific small grants program and staff contribution to initiate and facilitate capacity building peer to peer learning workshops which are reported on in greater detail later in this report.

Organisational

Ms Lara Hook, after over six years as Program Manager, resigned from the Trust. Her contribution to the Trust is evident in the Capacity Building Program, the place based work in Benalla and the Gippsland region and the annual planning work. She developed a deep knowledge and affection for many of the Trust's Collaborations and was instrumental in ensuring that the exit strategy for several long term collaborations was thoughtfully conducted. All at the Trust wish her well in her future career.

As a commitment to staff development the Trust has supported the Program Manager Mentoring Pilot conducted through Philanthropy Australia. Our Program Manager, Louise Kuramoto is one of six mentees participating in the 12 month pilot. The Trust considers it important to offer the opportunity within such a small sector as philanthropy, to ensure staff are encouraged to grow and develop in current and future roles.

As a result of our annual strategy day, the granting guidelines were updated to reflect current priorities, and advice was sent widely throughout the sector to alert grant seekers to changes which took effect on 1 July 2014. This process of continuous improvement is necessary to effectively manage our resources in line with our capacity.

Increasingly, the Trust is using a virtual environment to manage meeting papers and is progressively moving more to online. Grant applications are now only accepted online, relieving grant seekers of the responsibility of sending multiple copies to the Trust.

Applications for funding are a good indicator of community need and in the current environment we are seeing an increase in both the number of funding requests and the nature of requests. This makes a challenge for philanthropy to remain strategic in its granting at a time of increasing demand and competing and basic needs.

Governance and Financial

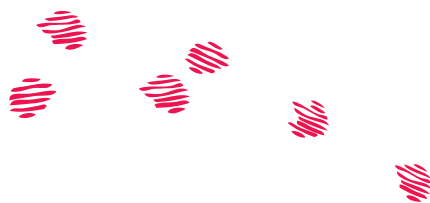
Strong governance continues at the Trust with regular monthly meetings (except January), two of which take place at Hillview Quarries, the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary. I wish to sincerely thank Mrs Eda Ritchie as the Trust's Chairman for the period of the report and acknowledge her active and enabling leadership style. I thank all Trustees for their commitment and hard work on behalf of the Trust. To Margarita, Paul, Louise, Lara and Dina, I thank them for their contributions in making the R E Ross Trust a very special place to work and in creating a deal of difference in the lives of many Victorians.

This report exemplifies all that the Trust stands for and I hope you enjoy reading the stories of the past year.

Sylvia Admans Chief Executive Officer

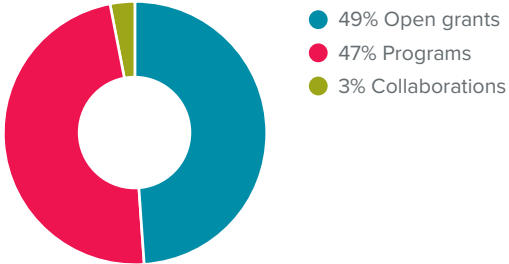


R E Ross Trust staff Louise Kuramoto, Sylvia Admans, Dina Vlanes, Paul Read, Margarita Sagris



The Ross Trust Approach to Granting

The Trust accepted 257 applications for grants in the 2013–14 year. Of these, 117 were approved, totalling \$4,826,153. The grants were made in three ways: Open Grants, Collaborations, or Programs with the following distribution:



An **Open Grant** is a process through which organisations can submit unsolicited applications for specific programs or projects that fall within the Trust’s granting guidelines.

A **Collaboration** is a formal relationship between the Trust and an organisation or organisations that have demonstrated effectiveness in areas in which the Trust has a specific interest. The Trust has developed these medium to long-term relationships in an effort to effect change on select issues of importance with the view that funding and assisting organisations in a more intensive and supported way will help them to have greater impact.

A **Program** is an area of work the Trust could administer itself, but chooses to work through respected organisations that have particular expertise to either give grants, or deliver a program on the Trust’s behalf. It is an outsourcing arrangement that is closely managed by the Trust’s staff. The programs have been designed and developed to achieve positive impact for the benefit of the community in the Trust’s priority areas.

Selection of organisations to be involved in the Trust’s Programs and Collaborations is based on a history of achieving successful outcomes in specific impact areas, not through unsolicited applications.

Granting limitations

The Trust provides grants to organisations operating in Victoria, or to organisations that will use the funds to benefit people in Victoria. The only exception concerns support for projects in the Pacific Islands and adjacent areas, an area of focus expressly referred to in the will of R E Ross. The Trust does not accept applications made by individuals for their own personal benefit, or for the benefit of other nominated individuals.



Ross Trust Granting Strategy



Impact Area A

Improvement of social and economic outcomes for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Victoria



During 2013–14 the Trust maintained its focus on providing grants to support those experiencing personal, social or financial disadvantage.

Priority was given to applications that assist:

- Newly arrived migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Greater access to health services for the disadvantaged
- Aboriginal Australians
- Individuals/families experiencing violence, abuse or neglect
- Offenders, ex offenders, and those at risk of offending and their families
- People with intellectual disability, cognitive impairment or mental health issues
- People living in small rural communities
- People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Trust continued to support projects that: meet the immediate and basic needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable; provide early intervention; invest in long-term efforts to overcome disadvantage; and seek to understand the causes and contributing factors to social and economic disadvantage.

The Trust supports projects that achieve outcomes in a variety of ways, including: arts, cultural, recreational and sporting activities; community and personal services; building the capacity of organisations, including professional development of staff and volunteers; education and training; and publishing and disseminating knowledge and information.

In 2013–14, the Trustees approved 67 grants totalling \$3,233,921 under Impact Area A, some of which may be paid over a period of up to three years.



- 4% Aboriginal People
- 2% Addiction & Addictive Behaviours (alcohol, drugs and gambling)
- 15% Asylum Seekers, CALD, Immigrants/Refugees
- 3% Carers
- 5% Disabilities (physical, cognitive & sensory)
- 2% Disadvantaged/Low Income
- 44% Emergency Relief & Material Aid
- 6% Offenders & Ex Offenders/Juvenile Justice/Those at Risk of Offending
- 2% Sex workers/Trafficked
- 13% Small/Remote Rural communities
- 3% Victims of Violence/Sexual Assault/Child Abuse

Location of grants



Grants approved by the Trust in 2013-2014 under Impact Area A

Aboriginal People

Mallee Family Care Inc
\$30,000
Munatunga Elders Scrap
and Yarn Program

The Lowitja Institute
\$10,000
Regional Aboriginal
Participation in Congress
Lowitja 2014

Woor-Dungin
\$75,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
General capacity building

> **Total: \$115,000**

Addiction and Addictive Behaviours (Alcohol, Drugs and Gambling)

Odyssey House Victoria
\$39,000 (over two years)
Journey Towards
Independence Program

Hello Sunday Morning
\$40,000 (over two years)
Hello Sunday Morning
Premium

> **Total: \$79,000**

Asylum Seekers, CALD, Immigrants/Refugees

Baptcare
\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Sanctuary Preston –
Supported Transitional
Accommodation for
Asylum Seekers

**Croydon Hills Baptist
Church T/A Eleven41
Cleaning Enterprise**
\$9,000
Enterprise Consolidation

**Dixon House
Neighbourhood Centre**
\$41,109
English as a Second
Language Tutoring
Program

Goulburn Valley Health
\$10,000
My Health in Shepparton

**Housing for the Aged
Action Group**
\$10,000
Preventing homelessness
through engagement with
CALD communities

**International Social
Service Australia**
\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
International parental
child abduction family
support

New Hope Foundation
\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Homework Support
Program

**RISE (Refugee Survivors
and Ex-detainees)**
\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
General capacity building

**Rotary Club of
Flemington**
\$10,000
Women's Leadership –
Women's Empowerment
Project for Eritrean
Mothers' Group

**Victorian Foundation
for Survivors of Torture
(Foundation House)**
\$50,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Community engagement
strategy supporting
schools and families from
refugee backgrounds

**Water Well Project Inc
(The)**
\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
The Water Well project

Wellsprings for Women
\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Learning to Live in
Australia project

**Wingate Avenue
Community Centre**
\$84,380 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Wingate Multicultural
Men's Hub

Women's Circus Limited
\$10,000
Somewhere Now project

**Zimbabwean Community
in Australia (Victoria)**
\$3,000
Zimbabwe National Day
commemoration dinner

> **Total: \$482,489**

Carers

**Action on Disability within
Ethnic Communities**
\$10,000
Emergency Respite Pilot
Program

**Gippsland Carers
Association Inc**
\$87,360 (over three
years)
Regional Carers Support
Network – Rural Outreach
project

Total: \$97,360

Disabilities (Physical, Cognitive and Sensory)

Back to Back Theatre
\$25,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Back to Back Theatre's
Private Giving Program

**Communication Rights
Australia**
\$9,900
General capacity building

**EACH Social and
Community Health**
\$9,600
Starting the Journey
Program: Families on
the Waitlist for Early
Intervention

Inclusion Melbourne Inc
\$41,136 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Discovery Volunteer
project

Learning for Life
\$26,630
Learning for Life Fair
Access Program

Reinforce Inc
\$7,020 (OVER TWO YEARS)
My House, My Home,
My Rights

Summer Foundation
\$20,000
Young people living in
nursing homes in the
Barwon Region

Victoria University
\$15,778
The Lab project

> **Total: \$155,064**

Disadvantaged/ Low Income

**Advocacy and Rights
Centre**
\$20,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Advocacy-Health Alliance
Bendigo – Measuring
impact on legal
interventions to improve
patient health

Bendigo Foodshare
\$10,000
Fight food poverty in
Central Victoria

**Glenroy Neighbourhood
Learning Centre**
\$10,000
New website for Glenroy
Neighbourhood Learning
Centre

**Human Rights Law
Centre**
\$10,000
Core annual operating
expenses

Monashlink Community Health Service
\$20,000
Opening Doors: A Community Leadership Program for Social Inclusion

Prahran Mission
\$10,000
Redevelopment of Prahran Mission's website

> Total: \$80,000

Emergency Relief and Material Aid (ER&MA)

Anglicare Victoria
\$99,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in the northern growth corridor of Hume

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)
\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA for asylum seekers in Victoria

Brotherhood of St Laurence
\$81,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA education packs across Victoria

Community Support Frankston Inc
\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in the Frankston area

Council of Single Mothers and their Children
\$111,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA across Victoria

Cranbourne Information and Support Service
\$81,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in the City of Casey

Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service
\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in the Dandenong Ranges

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)
\$136,620 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA Back to School vouchers across Victoria

Hanover Welfare Services
\$120,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA across Melbourne

Loddon Mallee Accommodation Network
\$120,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in the Loddon Mallee

Mackillop Family Services
\$99,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in Melton and Wyndham

Mornington Community Information and Support Centre Inc
\$90,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA on the Mornington Peninsula

Orbost Neighbourhood House
\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in Orbost and surrounding areas

The Queen's Fund
\$84,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA for women and children

Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre Inc
\$90,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA on the Southern Peninsula

St Mark's Community Centre
\$39,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in the City of Yarra

Western Port Community Support
\$90,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in the Westernport area

Whittlesea Community Connections
\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
ER&MA in the Whittlesea area

> Total \$1,465,620

Offenders and Ex Offenders/Juvenile Justice/Those at Risk of Offending

Bridgingworx
\$29,000
E-merge Diversionary Program

Dandenong Neighbourhood House
\$24,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Mums n Bubs Connections Program

Fitted for Work Limited
\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Female Offenders Ready to Work Program

The Centre: Connecting Community in North and West Melbourne
\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Job search / employability skills for residents of JLTC

Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education
\$37,101 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Employment of project worker to support women offenders re-engage in education

> Total: \$180,101

Sex Workers/Trafficked

Project Respect Inc
\$60,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Organisational growth and development

> Total: \$60,000

Small Rural Communities

Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre Inc
\$10,000
Relocation costs

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
\$375,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Small Grants for Rural Communities Program

Morwell Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre
\$10,000
Lost Generational Skills and Mentoring Program

Robinvale District Health Service
\$20,000
Advancing Country Towns Initiative

Yarra Glen and District Living and Learning Centre
\$7,784
General capacity building

> Total: \$422,784

Victims of Violence/ Sexual Assault/Child abuse

Women's Property Initiatives (WPI)
\$10,000
Development of a fundraising microsite within the WPI website

Kildonan Uniting Care
\$86,503 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Fathering Without Violence Program

> Total \$96,503

> Total Impact Area A: \$3,233,921

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Building organisational sustainability and capacity

\$300,000 (2012–14)

The issue of people seeking asylum in Australia is a recurring and controversial issue in Australian politics and society. Opinion is diverse, and most asylum seekers live in poverty on the margins of Australian society.

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) was established to provide relevant and appropriate support, skills, knowledge and resources to asylum seekers to support them to be independent, engaged, proud and resilient future Australian citizens.

Since 2001, ASRC has operated as an independent not-for-profit organisation that protects and upholds the human rights, wellbeing and dignity of asylum seekers. Today, it addresses asylum seekers' needs beyond the direct provision of aid and includes services such as education, training and employment support.

The Trust has approved grants to the ASRC totalling \$1,320,000 since 2003. In 2012, the Ross Trust continued its Collaboration with the ASRC for another three years to support it reach its organisational goals of:

- Increasing financial sustainability
- Building organisational capacity
- Creating efficiencies in delivery by building sector partnerships
- Shifting the public conversation about asylum seekers to be grounded in facts, not characterised by fear and xenophobia.



Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, CEO ASRC at the new centre.

The funding is being used to support key positions within the organisation including the employment of a Volunteer Manager, Financial Operations Coordinator and Financial Administration positions. Funding also supports emergency relief and material aid for asylum seekers.

The Trust made the ASRC a Collaboration in recognition of the ASRC's dedication to delivering support and services to asylum seekers at a time when government policy and public discourse has left community-based asylum seekers some of the most marginalised and vulnerable people in Victoria.





Dining space at the new centre.



ASRC Foodbanks - feeds more than 200 asylum seeker families per week

Current statistics:

- The ASRC is currently assisting 1,465 asylum seekers
- It is assisted by over 900 volunteers
- There are approximately 120 new presentations per month
- It has 95 ongoing counselling clients
- Its Health team has 30+ new presentations per week
- Almost half of the asylum seekers who use the ASRC Foodbank have no work rights and receive no form of welfare support.

An important development for the ASRC was the relocation of the organisation to new premises at 214–218 Nicholson Street, Footscray. The new facility enables higher quality service provision and has the potential for new developments to better support members.



Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
03 9326 6066
asrc.org.au

Bendigo Family and Financial Services Financial Management Program

\$22,597 (2013)

In an effort to raise the levels of financial resilience and wellbeing among those most at risk of financial exclusion and disadvantage, Bendigo Family and Financial Services developed a Financial Management Program.

This Program addressed the immediate needs of clients in times of financial crisis by educating participants on the improved use and management of money and debt consolidation and offered a no-interest loan scheme to assist participants get on top of their debts.

Twenty-two people participated in the Financial Management Program. Approximately 80 percent of the participants were on a Disability Support Pension or had complex issues including mental health issues. Participants attended meetings with a case manager once a fortnight for the first six months and then once a month thereafter and also attended a four-week financial group education program. During the program, participants were also able to access support with food through the Bendigo Family and Financial Services Foodbank.

At the conclusion of the program, all participants reported that they were more aware of options available to them to address arising financial issues, felt able to make more informed choices, and take responsibility for reconciling their finances. All participants showed clear progress in working towards achieving financial independence and had greater confidence when dealing with mainstream financial services.



Bendigo Family and Financial Services staff

Participants reported that having their debts under control and managing day-to-day expenses had a profound impact on their quality of life and many reported that having their debts under control allowed them to actively participate in social and community activities and events.



Bendigo Family and Financial Services Inc
03 5441 5277

Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program

Various organisations

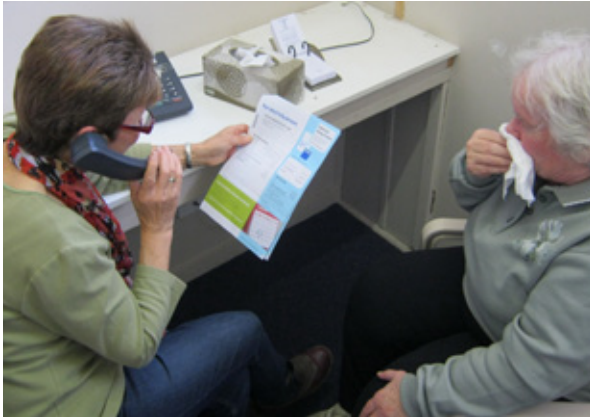
\$1,465,620 (2011–14)

The Trust’s Emergency Relief and Material Aid (ER&MA) Program was established in 2001 to assist charitable organisations to meet the immediate and basic needs of those most disadvantaged and vulnerable in Victoria.



Fresh food program

In 2013–14, the Trust completed the third and final year of its triennial funding cycle. The organisations involved in the 2011–14 program are listed on the next page.

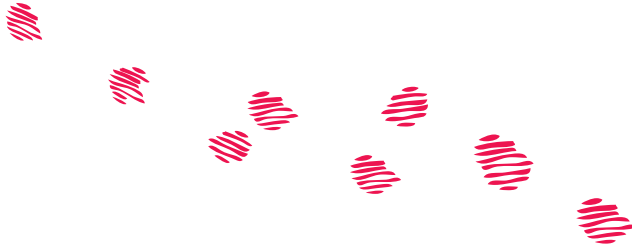


Advocacy and negotiation

The ER&MA Program is reviewed by the Trust on a triennial basis to ensure it continues to effectively assist welfare agencies to meet the needs of the community. In 2014 the program was reviewed and adjusted accordingly. Please refer to the Trust’s website for information on the 2014–16 program.



The R E Ross Trust
03 9690 6255
rosstrust.org.au



Organisations involved in the 2011-14 program (approved December 2010):

Anglicare ER&MA for clients in the northern metropolitan growth corridor	\$99,000 (over three years)
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre ER&MA for asylum seekers and refugees, including those living in detention	\$79,860 (over three years)
Brotherhood of St Laurence Educational packs to be distributed in metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria	\$79,200 (over three years)
Council of Single Mothers and their Children ER&MA to assist single parents in metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria	\$119,790 (over three years)
Community Support Frankston ER&MA for clients in the Frankston area	\$45,000 (over three years)
Cranbourne Information and Support Services Education supplies, school uniforms and school excursions/camps for families and their children in the City of Casey	\$79,200 (over three years)
Eastern Emergency Relief Network Assisting member agencies to access furniture and household goods	\$30,000 (over three years)
Hanover ER&MA for clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness	\$119,790 (over three years)
Lentara Uniting Care (formerly Hotham Mission) ER&MA for asylum seekers and refugees	\$79,860 (over three years)
Loddon Mallee Accommodation Network (LOMA) Education supplies, school uniforms and school excursions/camps for children across the Loddon Mallee Region	\$132,000 (over three years)
MacKillop Family Services ER&MA for clients in the outer western suburbs	\$99,000 (over three years)
Mornington Community Support and Information Centre Delivering emergency relief, financial counselling, no interest loans in the areas of Mt Eliza, Mornington, Mt Martha and Moorooduc	\$99,000 (over three years)
Orbost Neighbourhood House ER&MA for clients in the Gippsland region	\$49,500 (over three years)
St Mark's Community Centre ER&MA for people living in Fitzroy	\$39,930 (over three years)
Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre Inc ER&MA assisting clients on the Mornington Peninsula	\$132,000 (over three years)
The Queen's Fund ER&MA for women and children throughout Victoria	\$83,490 (over three years)
Western Port Community Support Centre ER&MA for clients in the Westernport region	\$99,000 (over three years)
Total Emergency Relief and Material Aid (over three years)	\$1,465,620

Human Rights Law Centre

Core operating costs

\$20,000 (2013)

The grant from the Ross Trust contributed to core operating costs during the 2012–13 financial year and enabled the Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC) to pursue its agenda of strategically combining legal action, research, advocacy, education and training.



The Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC) hosts public discussions on various human rights topics.

Some highlights during the year included:

- Playing a key role in developing and securing the passage of laws establishing Federal protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians against discrimination, including providing key support to the No To Homophobia campaign
- Successfully using the Victorian Human Rights Charter to change government policies which breached public housing residents' right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly
- Developing a report on human rights indicators to measure progress on eliminating racial discrimination
- Engaging with UN bodies to promote accountability for Australia's human rights obligations and delivering an oral NGO statement to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on the lack of progress around issues such as Aboriginal people and asylum seekers



The HRLC made important contributions in a landmark High Court case that provided legal recognition of the reality of gender diversity in our society.

- Preventing the forced return of 100 asylum seekers prior to their claims for protection being properly assessed
- Developing template letters that have been used by refugee advocates to ensure the proper processing of hundreds more asylum seekers
- Advocating for and achieving the release of two asylum seekers who had spent four years in detention and been found to be refugees but were being held in prolonged, indefinite detention due to adverse security assessments
- Collaborating with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services to develop a plan to promote a national action to reduce the imprisonment rate of Aboriginal people through a justice reinvestment framework.

During this period the HRLC also received an Australian Human Rights Commission Law Award.



Human Rights Law Centre
03 8636 4450
hrlc.org.au

School for Social Entrepreneurs

Development of *A Guide to Fundraising*

\$2,500 (2013)

Fundraising can be incredibly daunting. Surveys of students from the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) Australia show that when they are starting their enterprise asking others for money can make them feel anxious, vulnerable and confronted.

A Guide to Fundraising was designed to help SSE students and the wider sector support and develop their understanding of the fundamentals of fundraising and how to integrate them into achieving their enterprise's vision.

The pack is available free of charge from the SSE website and has been distributed to leading capacity builders in the social enterprise sector, including: Pro Bono Australia; Foundation for Young Australians; Social Ventures Australia; Social Traders; and with other sectoral bodies such as Philanthropy Australia, and various philanthropic foundations and trusts.



The team from Scarf Community social enterprise discuss their experiences with SSE students.
Photo by Erinna Ford.



School for Social Entrepreneurs
02 8008 0870
sse.org.au

Worawa Aboriginal College

Aboriginal Community History Documentation Project

\$10,000 (2013)

A grant from the Ross Trust was provided to assist Worawa students to establish a media centre to teach students skills in gathering and recording community oral history. The program aimed to conduct interviews with Aboriginal Elders to record their stories and experiences of living through different eras and challenges.

To complete this project the College purchased a number of items of equipment including computer and editing software, video cameras and sound recording gear. It made renovations to a classroom to create a media room with suitable acoustics and secure storage for the technical equipment. A professional photographer and documentary maker with experience working in Aboriginal communities was engaged as an instructor and the students spent two hours per week learning about filmmaking.

Engaging with the Worawa Council of Elders was an essential part of the project. It enabled the students to experience and appreciate the importance of documenting language, cultural knowledge and oral history of Aboriginal families and communities.

For their first assignment the class interviewed highly respected Elder, Aunty Dot Peters, at her home in Healesville. Aunty Dot is a basket and eel trap weaver who won the Australia Council for the Arts' 2002 Red Ochre Award. The students researched Aunty Dot by conducting preliminary interviews with the Council of Elders and developed a list of key questions for the interview. Students were then invited to Aunty Dot's home to hear her stories and to carry out the interview.

As a direct result of the knowledge gained through this program, two students were selected to undertake work experience with Channel 10.



Worawa students filming Aunty Dot Peters at her home in Healesville.



Worawa Aboriginal College
03 5962 4344
worawa.vic.edu.au

Impact Area B

Improvement of outcomes
for children and young
people at risk (0–18 years)



The Ross Trust prioritises programs working with children, young people and their families who are vulnerable and at risk.

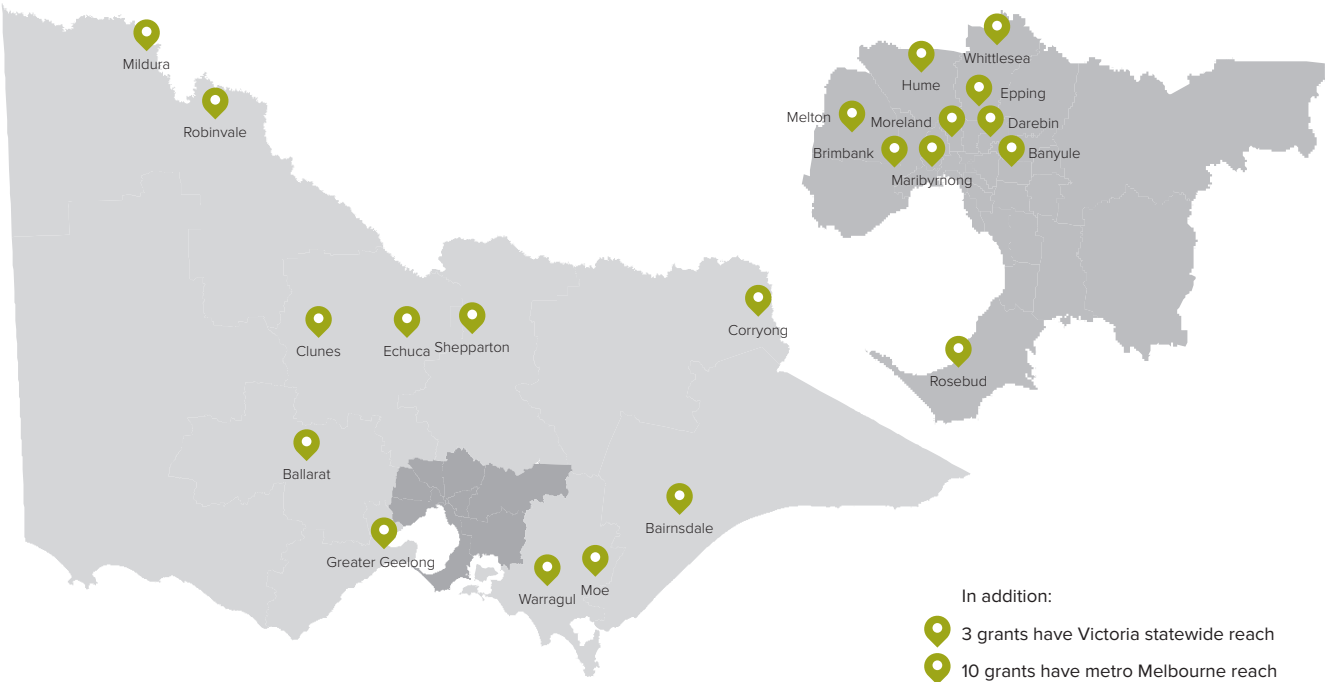
Priority is given to applications addressing:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Vulnerable families with children in their early years
- Quality support for at risk young people and their families
- Education, employment and training for young people in their middle years
- Wellbeing of young people at risk.

In 2013–14, the Trustees approved 38 grants totalling \$1,259,302, some of which will be paid over a period of up to three years.



Location of grants



Grants approved by the Trust in 2013–2014 under Impact Area B

Aboriginal People

Clontarf Foundation
\$90,000 (over three years)
Engaging Young Aboriginal males in education and employment

> **Total \$90,000**

Asylum Seekers, CALD, Immigrants/Refugees

Arabic Welfare Inc
\$20,000 (over two years)
Trust and safety: connecting Middle Eastern youth in Northern Metropolitan Melbourne

Leadership Victoria
\$1,498
Work Experience Program for young asylum seekers

Meadow Heights Learning Shop Inc
\$4,403
Occasional Care Centre

Outer Urban Projects
\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
General capacity building

Scarf Community Organisation
\$27,157
General capacity building

Vietnamese Community in Australia
\$20,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Disability – building strength and resilience

> **Total: \$133,058**

Disabilities (Physical, Cognitive and Sensory)

Community Living and Respite Services Inc
\$10,000
Club Teen Holiday Program

> **Total: \$10,000**

Disadvantaged/Low Income

Bluebird Foundation Inc
\$15,000
Rhyme, Rhythm and Song Program

City of Whittlesea
\$42,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Connecting children and families in Epping North: an early intervention pilot

Family Life
\$28,160 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Lifelong Learning project

Kids' Own Publishing
\$10,000
Digital inclusion strategy

Kids Thrive
\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
KIND – songs and stories to build cultural empathy

New Stars Basketball Association
\$90,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
General capacity building

St Jude's Anglican Church Carlton
\$20,000
Summer camp for residents of the Carlton Housing Estate and salary of the community worker

Stride Foundation
\$10,000
Sustainable future for Stride

Teach for Australia
\$15,000
Effective teaching evaluation

Thomastown Primary School
\$20,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Little Red School House Playgroup

Warragul Primary School
\$10,000
High Five Outdoor Learning project

Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service
\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Storytime on Wheels

> **Total: \$335,160**

Disengaged Young People (from Education, Employment or Training)

Beacon Foundation
\$25,000
Engaging youth at risk – Beacon Program expansion

Combined Churches Caring Melton
\$10,000
COACH Mentoring Program

Corryong Neighbourhood Centre
\$57,993 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Corryong Youth Space – Strengthening Connections project

Marist Youth Care
\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Affordable Housing for Life project

Phunktional
\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
General capacity building

Skilling Australia Foundation
\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Early Warning System Program

Social Ventures Australia Ltd
\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Industry employment initiative youth pilot

Worktrainers Ltd
\$90,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Geared 4 Careers Program

Zoe Support Australia
\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Great expectations: pregnant and parenting teens re-engaging in education

> **Total: \$417,993**

Homeless or at Risk of Homelessness

Latitude: Directions for Young People Inc
\$2,800
Planning for Our Future Program

Mission Australia (grant cancelled)
\$30,000
Homemade Program: Reducing Homelessness for Young People Exiting State Care

> **Total: \$2,800**

Mental Illness

Berengarra Independent School

\$10,000
Cafeducation – changing lives through education

Monash Health

\$10,651
CALM coping kit

> Total: \$20,651

Offenders and Ex Offenders/Juvenile Justice/Those at Risk of Offending

Baltara School

\$5,000
The MAT Program: A Therapeutic Martial Arts Program

> Total: \$5,000

Out of Home Care (Foster Families, Residential Care and Kinship Care)

Mallee Family Care Inc
\$20,000
Therapeutic Group Work Program for Young People in Out of Home Care

> Total: \$20,000

Small Rural Communities

Clunes Country Women's Association of Victoria
\$10,000 (over two years)
Clunes Youth Programs

Good Beginnings Australia

\$212,640 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Early Intervention and Practical Parenting Programs

Swan Hill Rural City Council

\$2,000
Lighting of Robinswood Oval in Robinvale

> Total: \$224,640

> Total Impact Area B: \$1,259,302



- 7% Aboriginal People
- 11% Asylum Seekers, CALD, Immigrants/Refugees
- 1% Disabilities (Physical, cognitive & sensory)
- 27% Disadvantaged/Low Income
- 32% Disengaged young people (from education, employment or further training)
- 0% Homeless or at risk of homelessness
- 2% Mental Illness
- 0% Offenders & Ex Offenders/Juvenile Justice/Those at risk of offending
- 2% Out of home care (foster families, residential care & kinship care)
- 18% Small Rural communities



Centre for Community Child Health

The R E Ross Trust Seminar Series

\$60,000 (2011–14)

Since 2009, the R E Ross Trust Seminar Series has focused on ensuring that communities, service systems and government have access to the latest research and practice evidence, and continue to use this evidence to inform their planning and service delivery.

The Seminar Series has been instrumental in providing those who work with children and families with up-to-date research findings, and information about relevant issues such as strategies to develop early years services.

In 2013–14 just over 300 early years professionals, policy makers and government representatives attended one or more of the three seminars held. The series' reach has been expanded through the use of webinar and videos.

In 2014 seminar topics included:

Equal life chances: how can early years services safeguard the health, development and wellbeing of all Australian children?

The seminar highlighted recent evidence, policy development and practices to reflect with participants on how services can provide better access and quality programs for children and families.

Investing in early childhood – the future of early childhood education and care in Australia

The Productivity Commissioner, Wendy Craik, presented the draft findings of the Productivity Commission inquiry into future options for childcare and early childhood learning. Opportunities, risks and key messages for further engagement with the Commission were identified and discussed.

Preventing vulnerability for children in Melbourne's north

This seminar focused on the critical issues facing children in Melbourne's north. Keynote speakers discussed the state of children and their families in this area, how we can respond to their vulnerabilities, and the key role universal services play in solutions and prevention.

Engaging with parents – from consultation to co-production

This half-day forum explored, in conversation with Margy Whalley from Pen Green in the UK, the intricacies of engaging with families and community members in ways that empower them to play a real role in the design and delivery of services.

The seminars included keynote presentations from several eminent international and Australian speakers, including:

- Megan Mitchell, National Children's Commissioner
- Dr Tim Moore, Senior Research Fellow, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, The Royal Children's Hospital Centre for Community Child Health
- Dr Wendy Craik AM, Productivity Commissioner
- Dr Anne Kennedy, Early Childhood Consultant
- Dr Margy Whalley, Director, Pen Green Research, Development and Training Base and Centre for Children and their Families at Northamptonshire County Council



Centre for Community Child Health
03 8341 6468
rch.org.au/ccch

Wirrpanda Foundation

Deadly Sista Girlz Program

\$10,000 (2013)

The Deadly Sista Girlz program was created for Aboriginal girls aged 12 to 17 years with the aim of improving self-esteem, resilience and knowledge of physical and mental health. It was delivered to 32 Aboriginal girls by Wirrpanda Foundation mentors at Worawa Aboriginal College once a week, for a year.



Worawa Deadly Sista Girlz participants before a physical activity session.



The Worawa Deadly Sista Girlz netball team.

The sessions covered identity, values, connecting, family violence, positive relationships, puberty, drug and alcohol use, emotions, goal setting and comfort zones. The girls also enrolled as a team in the Yarra Valley netball competition, trained twice a week and participated in carnivals, playing sport against non-Aboriginal girls.

Of the 52 students who attend Worawa College, most speak English as a second language, and their first language includes 42 different Aboriginal dialects. Many of the girls were very shy and not confident at the beginning of the program, but over the course of the year began to articulate their values and identity with confidence and conviction.

The language barrier also presented a challenge for obtaining accurate data in written questionnaires. Wirrpanda Foundation overcame this by using culturally appropriate methods of gaining baseline data, such as yarning circles.

The Deadly Sista Girlz program won a number of awards in 2013 including: the Constable Care Child Safety Foundation Community Safety Award; a Highly Commended in the Federal Government's House of Representatives Committee for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs; a World Aids Day Award; and the Deadly Award in the Excellence in Education category. In addition, Deadly Sista Girlz mentors won the NAIDOC Youth of the Year award and are finalists in the Sport and Recreation awards.



Wirrpanda Foundation
03 8679 4545
wf.org.au

Hands On Learning Australia

Expanding the Hands On Learning method in Victoria

\$300,000 (2012–15)

In October 2012, Hands On Learning Australia (HOLA) became a Ross Trust collaboration. HOLA is dedicated to preventing early school leaving by better equipping Victorian secondary schools to support their ‘at risk’ students.

Initially, 50 per cent of funding from the Ross Trust was to be used toward expanding Hands on Learning Australia (HOLA) in the Geelong region and 50 per cent was to contribute to the general capacity of the organisation. However six months into the collaboration the funding was diverted toward the general capacity of the organisation as they had successfully attracted program-specific funding from other philanthropic sources.

HOLA is currently advancing its 2012–15 strategic plan. Titled *Growing through strategic Partnerships*, it identifies three main directions for the organisation:

- To assist over 1,200 disadvantaged and ‘at risk’ kids annually by 2015.
- To expand the HOL method into at least 25 new partner schools.
- To build organisational capacity and financial stability through the development of a fee-for-service income stream that contributes at least 15 per cent of HOLA’s annual operational costs by 2015.



Preparing and sharing food is a big part of the day at HOLA

Exceptional progress against the strategic plan has been made this year. At June 2014, HOLA had built partnerships with 37 schools and helped them to support approximately 750 at risk students. The number of school partnerships is estimated to grow to 45 by early 2015. HOLA has also played a significant role as a key partner in the ‘Building Futures for Young Australians at risk’ research project. This has involved collaborating with leading organisations across the learning and not-for-profit sectors to build the first national measurement framework and evidence base of what works to keep young people connected to education.



Hands On Learning Australia
03 9787 3049
handsonlearning.org.au

Stride Foundation

A sustainable future for the organisation

\$10,000 (2013)

The Ross Trust provided a grant to Stride to investigate potential mergers with other suitable charitable organisations in an effort to enhance the sustainability of the organisation. With this funding, Stride's CEO was seconded part-time to prepare the internal staff and systems for a merger, facilitate the merger and manage post merger integration.

An international literature search was undertaken in an effort to review and understand any learnings from other mergers. A number of not-for-profit leaders were consulted for advice on which charitable enterprises Stride could approach and how to handle the merger discussions. Clayton Utz was also engaged pro bono to assist with the legal aspects of the merger.

Following a strategic review of likely merger partners, discussion was initiated with Whitelion. The youth programs offered by Stride and Whitelion were quickly identified as highly complementary. It was also identified that a merger with a more robust organisation would ensure better support of vulnerable, at-risk youth across Australia.

The Board Chairs of both organisations agreed to proceed to the next level of merger discussions through a process of due diligence. This led to an agreement that the merger proceed through the integration of Stride's operations into Whitelion with effect from 1 May 2014.



Staff at Stride excited about the merger.



Stride
03 8354 0880
stride.org.au



Whitelion
03 8354 0800
whitelion.asn.au

UnitingCare Goulburn North East Centre for Grief and Loss Action Research Project

\$30,000 (2012)

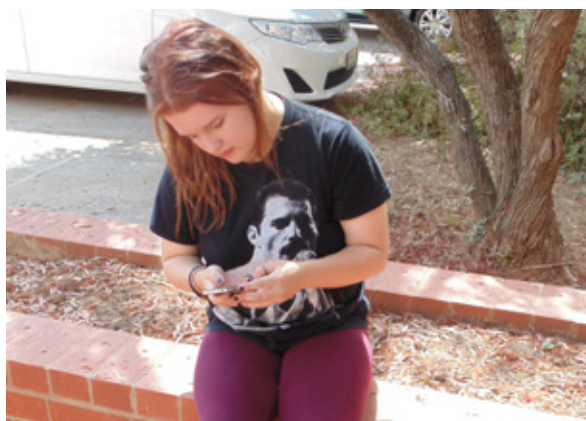
UnitingCare Goulburn North East were funded to undertake action research into a best practice model of grief and loss counselling for young people in Wangaratta that incorporates professional and peer-to-peer counselling delivered both online and in person.

A mental health expert advisory panel was created to advise on the project. Two surveys and a number of focus groups with 13–25 year olds and youth service providers were undertaken, resulting in the development of two discussion papers on issues relating to the needs of young people experiencing grief and loss.

As a result of this work, it was decided to create a website named myrollercoaster where information about grief and loss can be located, where thoughts and feelings can be expressed and where resources can be found. The website was launched in Wangaratta at an event attended by 170 young people and 40 supporters in April 2014.

The site is purpose-built to meet the needs of Wangaratta's young people. It is anticipated that it will be relevant to young people living in rural settings throughout Australia, particularly as the resources available on the site increase.

myrollercoaster.org.au



The myrollercoaster.org.au website was designed to enable rural teenagers to contribute to an online community, and to be able to readily access information relating to grief and loss.



UnitingCare Goulburn North East
03 5723 8000
unitingcaregne.org.au

Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders

Supporting Kids and Young people (SKY) program

\$300,000 (2011–14)

Children of offenders and prisoners are nobody's client and can be the secondary victims of their parents' crimes. A parent's incarceration or experience with the criminal justice system can result in their children experiencing unstable living situations, separation from family, trauma, low self-esteem, anxiety, depression and affect their ability to develop positive relationships.

The Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (VACRO)'s SKY program has been a Ross Trust Collaboration since August 2008. In this time, the Trust has approved \$600,000 in two separate grants to be paid over six years for VACRO to create and pilot the program. Since 2008, over 200 families have benefited from SKY's intensive, flexible face to face support, while others have received support over the phone or through their community. SKY has helped families remain connected and children supported through difficult transitional periods in their lives.

The SKY program was developed by VACRO, in collaboration with the Trust to provide child focused counselling and family therapy for children and young people with a parent or family member in the criminal justice system. The SKY counsellors provide wrap-around support to children and families of offenders in a number of ways including counselling sessions with the child or young person, their carers or the adult parent in prison. This support is available to families at any stage of their family contact with the criminal justice system: during arrest, court process, incarceration and release of a family member from prison.

The SKY program also offers training and capacity building to mentoring organisations, schools and child and family service agencies to enable them to better support children and young people of offenders.



Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders
03 9605 1900
vacro.org.au



Father and daughter re-connect as father approaches his release date.

The program's success can be attributed to:

- Its flexibility in being able to work in partnership with families as long as needed
- Its specialist clinical expertise to support children overcome trauma and build resilience
- The program's success at building partnerships with schools, which helps by enabling SKY to work with children in a safe and neutral environment and to work with teachers and principals to equip them to more effectively respond to children with complex behaviours and who have experienced trauma.

In 2014, with the support of the R E Ross Trust, SKY collaborated with The Art Cabriolet and the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre to develop a school holiday program for incarcerated fathers and their children. This therapeutic arts-based program will run in the 2014–15 financial year and will provide an opportunity for soon to be released fathers to strengthen their bond with their children and gain confidence in their ability to be a father prior to returning to the family home.

Impact Area C

Improvement of access to
and achievement of equity
and excellence in public
education



The Trust seeks to promote, sustain and increase access to, equitable and quality individual and collective knowledge in Victoria.

Priority was given to applications contributing to:

- Advancing knowledge and understanding
- Increasing educational opportunity for the general population
- Promoting access, engagement and preservation of Victoria's history, art and culture
- Making information accessible to rural communities and future generations.

The Trust considered applications from a range of organisations including:

- Education and tertiary institutions
- Public institutions (museums, galleries, libraries and archives)
- Community organisations
- Information media, such as the internet, community radio, television and information centres.

In 2013–14, the Trustees approved eight grants totalling \$256,400 in Impact Area C, some of which will be paid over periods of up to three years.

Grants approved by the Trust in 2013-2014 under Impact Area C

Cultural Infusion
\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Discovering Diversity
Equal Access Fund

Delacombe Primary School
\$5,000
Boys, Books, Blokes and Bytes project

Melbourne Writers Festival
\$6,500
Schools' Program:
EAL Programming and Subsidies

The Melbourne Athenaeum
\$15,000
The Walls Speak Volumes project

Malthouse Theatre
\$5,000
The Customer Relationship Management project

Museums Australia Inc – Victorian Office
\$150,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Connecting community museums; a sustainable network for Regional Victoria

Tarwin Lower and District Primary School
\$22,900
SEEDS – Sustainable Edible Education
Developing Students

Hothouse Theatre Ltd
\$7,000
Generate a Community Engagement Program

Total Impact Area C: \$256,400

Location of grants



Abbotsford Convent Foundation

The Abbotsford Convent Interpretive Signage project

\$28,000 (2012–13)

The Abbotsford Convent Foundation used the grant to manufacture and install 27 external signs and 13 internal signs around the Convent site to tell the story of the place, its different ‘occupations’, the history and uses of the buildings and detail many of the publically accessible rooms in the ground floor spaces. The signs also feature information about the site’s current uses.

The purpose of the signage is to build a stronger understanding of and relationship with the site for visitors.

There is now interpretive signage across the site, available for viewing by the approximately 850,000 members of the public who visit The Convent every year. The signage is also important for the Convent’s stakeholders: Good Shepherd Sisters, Indigenous communities and the Abbotsford Convent Coalition.

Feedback about the signs and the numbers of people seen viewing them indicates that the project has been a success.



Convent visitors utilising the interpretive signage
Photo by Beth Wilkinson



Abbotsford Convent Foundation
03 9415 3600
abbotsfordconvent.com.au

Baltara School

My Dreams project

\$15,000 (2012–13)

Baltara School is a multi-campus Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) School which caters for students aged 9 to 17 years who are 'at-risk students' with significant social, emotional and behavioural challenges.

Many have experienced trauma, poverty, abuse and neglect and have only attended school intermittently because of their personal circumstances. Baltara School aims to provide students with relevant, interesting and developmental educational experiences. The educational programs are focussed upon students' needs, particularly literacy and numeracy with a major emphasis placed upon social skills development and interest-based learning including arts-based programs.

Baltara has a large open space where the boys take their breaks and play ball games. The walls enclosing part of the length of the space are 20 metres long and four metres high so in partnership with artist in residence, Sarah Faulkner, Baltara developed the 'My Dreams' whereby the students painted a mural on the wall that signified and reflected their dreams for the future.

Rapper Rob Tremlett, was also employed to work with the boys to express themselves through songs, asked the boys to come up with some lyrics relating to the work they were doing on the mural and what it meant to them. There were two rules about what couldn't be used in the mural, no tags or gang-related imagery.



The completed mural

Staff and minders often contributed with ideas and painting, creating a strong sense of community within the project, they advised that the project provided an environment where they could chat to the boys easily about their thoughts and feelings about certain topics that are usually difficult to broach.

The mural was an incredibly rich, colourful and diverse piece of work with subject matter that related to the young people's own lives and what is important to them.

The Trust learnt in 2014 that an administrative decision of DHS was made to remove the mural. The Trust was disappointed that this occurred.



Baltara School
03 9465 2405
baltara.vic.edu.au

Centre for International Child Health R E Ross Trust Regional Fellowship Program

\$292,100 (2011–14)

For our nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea (PNG), almost 60 out of every 1000 children will die before reaching school age, compared with four out of every 1000 in Australia.

Children in PNG die from preventable diseases including pneumonia, malnutrition, diarrhoea, tuberculosis, low-birth weight, severe newborn infections and HIV. In PNG and the Pacific many more children do not reach their development potential because of illness and under-nutrition. Underlying causes include poor education, poverty and unsafe environments.

Since 2005, the Trust has been working with the Centre for International Child Health to run a Regional Fellowship program for doctors and nurses working in child health in PNG. The program aims to develop much needed leadership skills in child health. In 2008 the program was extended to the Solomon Islands, a close neighbour with similar child health problems. Funding for this program is now more important than ever due to severe cuts to the AusAID budget, which had previously also funded work in this area.



PNG Paediatric Society Port Moresby (2014)





Dr Mary Paiva explains the findings of a clinical examination of a young child in Port Moresby

This year the program has continued its focus on training in PNG, conducted for health workers by paediatricians in several provinces, and training of junior paediatricians in Port Moresby. The Fellowship has supported research into the common causes of child illness and death, such as malnutrition, pneumonia, tuberculosis, child protection and care of newborn babies.



Paediatric trainees practice interpreting x-rays at Port Moresby General Hospital

In 2013–14 Dr Gwenda Anga was supported to train in childhood cancer treatment at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne for a year. Gwenda is now working in Port Moresby where she is responsible for caring for all children with cancer. She has written a guidebook of protocols for treating children with cancer in PNG, and is providing support to other paediatricians treating children with cancer in the provinces.

In 2015 it is hoped that the program will support the training in Melbourne of a paediatrician from PNG who specialises in child disability.



Centre for International Child Health Royal Children's Hospital
03 9345 4986
rch.org.au/cich

State Library of Victoria and fortyfivedownstairs

The R E Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Development Awards

\$240,369 (2012–14) State Library of Victoria

\$48,000 (2012–14) fortyfivedownstairs

The R E Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Development Awards were created in 2003 to support Victorian writers and foster Victoria's theatre industry. Each successful playwright receives financial support towards the development of their script. The funding is used to support workshops with a director, dramaturg, script editor and actors.

To provide an opportunity for public presentation of the developed scripts, the Trust also supports the Flashpoint Series. This enables playwrights to present a reading of their scripts in front of a live audience at fortyfivedownstairs and the State Library of Victoria.

As another value-add to the awards this year, the State Library of Victoria (SLV) initiated Chewing the Scene: Playwrights' Workshops for emerging writers, or anyone wanting to sharpen their playwriting skills. This is an intensive four-hour workshop with a range of Victorian theatre professionals. A variety of themes are covered, including: how to get off the slush pile; script development; writing for companies; critiquing your own work; and developing your craft.

The 2014 award winners were:

[Bottomless](#) by Dan William Lee

A seamless integration between the cultural and political. Dan Lee tells the tale of Will, a once desperate alcoholic who returns to Broome with a radical plan to break the cycle of booze, madness, crime and incarceration. An entirely new glimpse into a rarely seen world for the Australian stage.

Dan also won the Playwriting Australia Award in which he will receive additional development and support for this play.

[Peripheral Damage](#) by Alexandra Macalister-Bills

Sam and Kip are stuck on one side of the door. Beans is on the other. It has been 37 hours and no contact. Sam and Kip don't know what to do. Coaxing and threatening, kicking the door down – nothing works. More and more desperate, Sam and Kip begin to slip sideways into the black hole that Beans left behind. Peripheral Damage looks beyond the epi-centre of mental illness and questions who hurts most when sanity falls away.

[Mad as a Cute Snake](#) by Dan Giovannoni and Amelia Evans

A joyous and poignant ride, Mad as a Cute Snake follows Cardigan Corriander-Turner on her epic journey from suburban Melbourne to the Daintree and beyond in order to save Trix, the family's pet snake. Cardigan's eccentric mum and dad have taught her that she can be anything she wants to be, which Cardigan has taken literally, deciding to become a little boy who is also a super hero.



State Library of Victoria
03 8664 7000
slv.vic.gov.au



fortyfivedownstairs
03 9662 9966
fortyfivedownstairs.com





Trust Chairman Eda Ritchie presenting the Awards



Trust Chairman Eda Ritchie with the 2014 Award winners

Commendation:

Shit by Patricia Cornelius

Three women retrace their steps over a night which has ended with them locked up. They're in trouble. Big trouble. They've committed an act of unspeakable violence. Shit is a hard-hitting play about violence towards women and about how women internalise misogyny. The play is an examination of brutalisation begetting brutalisation.

This year's judging panel comprised:

Chris Mead: Literary Director, Melbourne Theatre Company

Mark Pritchard: Resident Dramaturg, Malthouse Theatre

Susie Dee: Performer, Divisor, Director

Mari Lourey: Playwright, Director, Performer

Mary Lou Jelbart: Artistic Director, fortyfivedownstairs

All plays submitted to the awards since they began have been accessioned into the SLV's Australian manuscripts collection, thereby preserving important cultural history for the playwriting and theatre community, and providing a unique resource to researchers.

After 11 years of support from the Ross Trust, this year marks the conclusion of the awards and a great partnership with the SLV and fortyfivedownstairs. The awards have proven a valuable addition to the Victorian theatre industry through their support of the career development of many outstanding writers, such as Declan Greene, Lally Katz, Mari Lourey, Patricia Cornelius and Barry Dickins. They have also resulted in many full productions at fortyfivedownstairs, the Melbourne Theatre Company and The Malthouse Theatre.



Impact Area D

Protection and preservation
of Australian flora and fauna



Roy Everard Ross was a keen bushman with a strong interest in and extensive knowledge of native plants, trees and birds. In his will he expressed a wish for the Trustees to consider the protection and preservation of Australian flora and fauna in their grant-making decisions.

The Trust prioritises applications that demonstrate conservation value and provide scientific biological or botanical evidence to support Mr Ross' wishes.

In 2013–14 the Trustees approved four grants totalling \$76,530 in this Impact Area, some of which may be paid over a period of up to three years.

Grants approved by the Trust in 2013–14 under Impact Area D

Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises
 \$30,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
 Mt Barker Property Preservation project

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
 \$20,000
 Briars Wildlife Sanctuary

Trust for Nature
 \$15,000
 Purchase and restore Long Swamp in the Moolort Plains wetlands

Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Cooperative
 \$11,530 (OVER THREE YEARS)
 Seed collection and establishment of nursery populations of locally rare plant species

Location of grants



Ross Trust Grants
 1 grant has Victoria statewide reach

Norman Wettenhall Grants
 3 grants have Victoria statewide reach

Cardinia Shire Council

Hillview Bushland Reserve

(2013)

Residents of Pakenham, Officer, Upper Beaconsfield and the surrounding area will be able to enjoy a wonderful new recreation reserve following a gift of 47 hectares of pristine bushland to Cardinia Shire Council. Known as the Hillview Bushland Reserve, the land lies between Bathe Road and Carpenters Road and is bisected by Officer Road.



Trust Chairman Eda Ritchie with Mayor Cr Owen at the land handover presentation



Hillview Bushland Reserve

The Ross Trust, through its subsidiary Hillview Quarries, has donated the area – the equivalent size to 25 MCGs – to protect local flora and fauna and for the recreational use of the community. The land has important environmental conservation values and is now permanently protected by a Trust for Nature conservation covenant. Prior to the attachment of the Covenant the land was estimated to have a value of at least \$500,000.

Mrs Eda Ritchie, Chairman of the Ross Trust and a Director of Hillview Quarries, said the company recognised the important conservation values of the area and the value of protecting it for the future.

Hillview Quarries originally purchased the land in the 1980s to expand the company's quarrying interests. However the land was found to be surplus to its commercial interests, so the Trust requested Hillview set aside the 47 hectares for a reserve that the Cardinia Shire now owns on behalf of the community.

An adjacent seven hectares was subdivided into nine large residential blocks. These residential blocks, running off Bathe and Leppitt roads, are for sale and the proceeds will enable more charitable grants throughout Victoria.

Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Cr Brett Owen said the land handover was a generous gesture and is the largest gift of bushland to a Melbourne council by a philanthropic trust for more than 50 years.

"This area will become a wonderful asset for bushwalkers and bird watchers and the gift of the reserve was an example of how business, local government and philanthropy can work together for the lasting benefit of the local community," he said.

Norman Wettenhall Foundation (The) Small Environmental Grant Scheme

\$190,000 (2011–13)

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation is an philanthropic environmental organisation supporting projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of Australia’s natural living environment.

Since 2008, the Trust has partnered with the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to distribute \$355,000 in environmental grants to small Victorian communities.

Through this partnership, the Trust is able to utilise the knowledge, expertise and networks of the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to receive and research applications on its behalf, which, in turn also increases the capacity and reach of the Foundation’s existing environmental grants programs.

Wherever possible, the Foundation chooses projects that are innovative, serve as models for future projects, demonstrate collaboration with other groups (particularly community groups), disseminate project outcomes broadly and result in long-term improvement of the natural environment.

During this, the sixth year of the program, nine grants were awarded as outlined below:

Prinetown Landcare Group Prinetown Landcare: a voice for the Gelli	\$3,250
BirdLife Australia Monitoring and conservation reporting for Australian Important Bird Areas	\$5,000
Woody Yaloak Catchment Group Benchmarking birdlife in the Woody Yaloak Catchment	\$5,000
University of Melbourne Alpine insets of Australia: developing a field guide for Australia’s high country insects	\$5,000
Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Birds and Plants of the Little Desert - a photographic guide	\$7,000
Victorian Landcare Council Mobilising Landcare’s community leaders for planning and review	\$7,875
Moolort Landcare Group Mapping Moolort	\$4,500
Macedon Ranges Shire Council Macedon Ranges nestbox program	\$3,424
Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife Conserving the microbats of Bayside	\$9,034



The Norman Wettenhall Foundation
03 5472 1316
nwf.org.au





Woody Yaloak Catchment Group

\$5,000

Benchmarking birdlife in the Woody Yaloak catchment

The primary aim of this project was to monitor changes in bird life across the Woody Yaloak catchment. The research formed part of the group's audit process, which looks at overall catchment condition including pest plants and animals, soil quality, waterway condition, vegetation changes, salinity and farm productivity. Remnant sites were surveyed many years ago, but this project added revegetated sites to the survey area. The group will look at changes over time with monitoring of remnant sites and also establish new benchmarks for future monitoring.

Wimmera Groups of Australian Plants

\$7,000

Birds and Plants of the Little Desert – a photographic guide

The aim of this publication was to educate people about the flora and avian fauna of the area, provide an educational tool for students of all ages from primary through to university, provide a reference guide for keen amateurs and professionals alike, and promote tourism to the region. This is the first publication of its kind for the area and includes over 200 birds and 430 plant species with accompanying photos. The grant helps the group keep the sale price of the guide affordable.

Moolort Landcare Group

\$4,500

Mapping Moolort

This group in central Victoria employed an expert to digitally map 25 years of conservation work in their area and train landholders in how to enter spatial data online. Collecting data in order to plan for future restoration works is the crucial first step that is often overlooked by many groups. This project particularly sought to engage landholders, and help them to work strategically in the future.

Parklands Albury Wodonga

Connecting Youth with Murray River Country and Community

\$60,000 (2013–16)

The Ross Trust made a contribution toward the salary of the Parklands Albury Wodonga Ranger to work alongside volunteers, with a focus on youth, along the Murray River, Kiewa River and smaller waterways in the Wodonga and Indigo areas.

In the first 12 months of the project there have been a number of activities completed with various groups:

- Archaeologists undertook a cultural heritage management plan of the area for a priority section of the Murray River Adventure Trail. This will allow students to fabricate and install steel boardwalks, small footbridges, stock crossings, signs and picnic tables in the coming year
- Ten Aboriginal young people constructed customised steel barrier gates that have been installed at river frontage parklands to manage unauthorised vehicle access
- Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Wodonga TAFE, Albury High School Boys Education and Victory Lutheran College students performed a range of tasks including: the construction and installation of steel/timber picnic tables at four sites on the Kiewa River and Lake Hume foreshore; the construction and removal of fences at Ryan's Lagoon Wetlands; and the construction of walking tracks at parklands near the Kiewa River
- Unemployed young people volunteered time installing chicane pedestrian gates along a section of the Murray River and assisted with preparations and marshalling at the annual Fishy Trail Run and Half Marathon that showcases 21km of Murray River frontage tracks.



Wodonga Senior Secondary College students installing picnic tables they fabricated as part of their VCAL studies with materials donated by the Bonegilla Rail Trail Advisory Group.

A key aim of the project is to instil a sense of civic responsibility in young people by raising their awareness of how community groups and organisations operate and that these projects are generally driven by community leaders, not government.



Parklands Albury Wodonga
02 6023 6714
parklands-alburywodonga.org.au

Small Grants for Capacity Building Program

The Ross Trust recognises that organisations with strong management systems and operations and who are well resourced will be better positioned to deliver services that are able to have impact in overcoming disadvantage.

With this in mind, in July 2012, the Ross Trust launched the Small Grants for Capacity Building Program to provide one-off small grants to support organisations build their capacity either financially or organisationally.

The Trust considers requests for grants of up to \$10,000 for one-off projects that will be catalytic in improving an organisation's efficiency and effectiveness or ability to increase their revenue in terms of variety and depth of sources.

During 2013–14 the Trust approved 10 grants to support organisations to build their capacity. These ranged from projects that increase fundraising capability in a website, provide support for due diligence for a merger proposal, develop new websites and independent assistance to support the evaluation and development of a governing board.

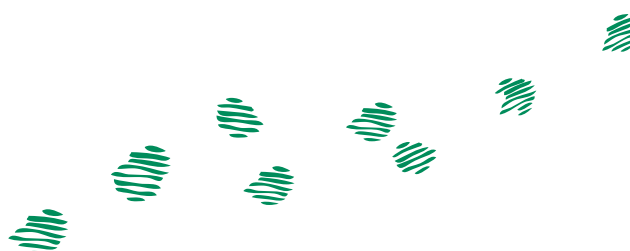
The Small Grants for Capacity Building Program is supported by a series of peer-to-peer roundtables around issues of capacity building and financial sustainability. The roundtables are an opportunity for community sector CEOs and senior managers to share ideas and discuss experiences and challenges around building and strengthening sustainable organisations. During 2013-14 the Trust hosted three round tables to increase the knowledge of participants and stimulate ways to build organisational capacity. The topics covered were:

- Engaging with Government – Presented by Murray Baird ACNC
- Collective Impact – Presented by Dawn O'Neil, Centre for Social Impact, and Adrian Appo, Ganbina
- Business to Business Partnerships – Presented by Barry Thatcher, Westpac

In addition, Dr Diana Leat presented on the Challenges of Strategic Philanthropy at the Annual Ross Trust Philanthropy Conversation held at the State Library of Victoria on 26 November 2013 to an audience of over 70 people from the philanthropic and community sectors.



The R E Ross Trust
03 9690 6255
rosstrust.org.au



Grants made under this program in the 2013–14 year:

Bendigo Foodshare Fight Food Poverty in Central Victoria	\$10,000
Communication Rights Australia Employment of an independent consultant	\$9,900
Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre Redevelopment of Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre's website	\$10,000
Kids' Own Publishing Kids' Own Publishing's Digital Inclusion Strategy	\$10,000
Latitude: Directions for Young People Inc Planning for Our Future program	\$2,800
Malthouse Theatre Customer Relationship Management project	\$10,000
Prahran Mission Redevelopment of Prahran Mission's website	\$10,000
Stride Foundation Facilitating merger discussions for a sustainable future for the organisation	\$10,000
Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) Development of a microsite within the WPI website	\$10,000
Yarra Glen and District Living and Learning Centre Building and strengthening organisational capacity	\$7,784



Place-based grant making

Place-based approaches to grant making are one strategy adopted by the Ross Trust to target specific communities of significant disadvantage. They are characterised by a variety of government and community agencies agreeing on a shared set of objectives and working collaboratively to address community issues.

Since, 2002 the Ross Trust has adopted a place-based approach to its granting. Since this date \$3,253,595 has been approved for projects across Gippsland Region, Loddon Mallee (Robinvale), Benalla and through the Foundation of Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR) Small Grants program.

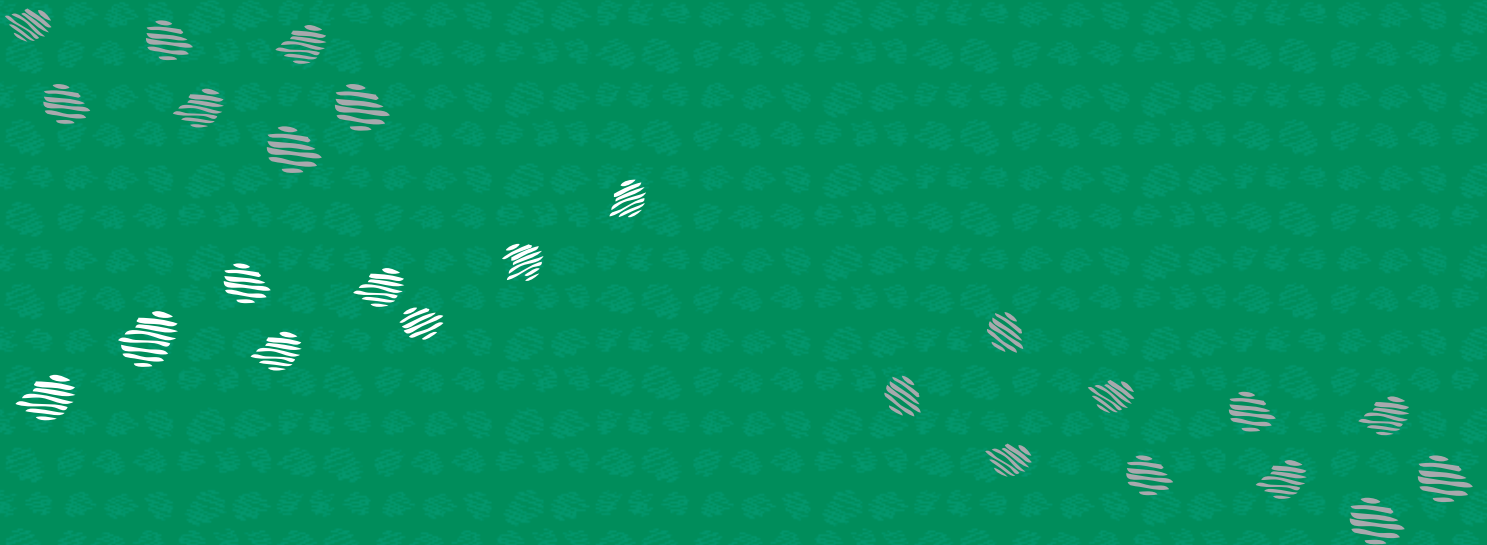
Place-based approaches can be an appropriate response where an area is experiencing multiple complex issues and there are a range of community members and agencies with different strategies and possible solutions to them.

The Trust has worked differently across the three locations, depending on the unique needs and context of each location. However all strategies have involved building the capability of the community to respond to their own needs, encouraging collaboration and partnership, and investing in local skills and resources.

In Benalla the Trust has worked in collaboration with the Tomorrow:Today Foundation to assist them deliver a whole-of-community education program in partnership with government, philanthropy and community.

In Robinvale and Gippsland the Trust has worked with stakeholders across multiple activities and has taken on a mix of convening, facilitating and funding roles, adjusting its approach to meet the needs of the particular situation.

Importantly, the Trust entered into each of these communities with intentions of staying long-term.



Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program

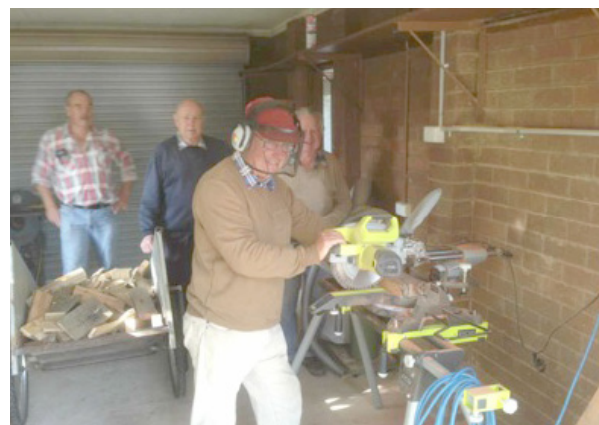
\$375,000 (2011–13)

Rural communities have challenges across all areas: health, education, income and employment opportunities, access to goods and services, transport and cultural activities.

Most small rural communities have a lower capacity to raise funds locally due to small population size and fewer business sponsorship opportunities. They also find it harder to access philanthropy, pro bono support and skilled volunteers. Small grants can build social capital and physical infrastructure, resulting in stronger, more resilient community groups and more sustainable, vibrant rural communities.

FRRR's Small Grants for Rural Communities program focuses on communities with a population of fewer than 10,000, providing grants of up to \$5,000 to not-for-profit organisations. Projects must be for a charitable purpose and offer clear benefit for communities in small rural and remote locations by contributing to their social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural development.

The Ross Trust has been funding the Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program since 2002, and has contributed \$1,422,000 to the program over this time. The program gives life to the place-based approach which the Trust seeks to implement, and has a particular emphasis in Gippsland. In 2014, the Trust committed to this program for another three years.



Yackandandah Men's Shed participants eager to begin using tools and safety equipment for projects helping local community groups including the Yackandandah Festival Committee.



FRRR - Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
1800 170 020
frrr.org.au

In the 2013–14 year, 41 grants were awarded by FRRR on behalf of the Trust, including:

Bass Valley Community Group Inc Bass Valley News Community Newsletter (Bass)	\$3,224
Expanding community newsletter to showcase courses, events, training and facilities on offer.	
The Dereel and Surrounding Communities Men's Shed Inc Men's Shed Wood Grubs (Dereel)	\$2,600
Supporting local bushfire affected residents by purchasing a log splitter to cut firewood.	
Mystic Mountains Tourism Inc Open Gardens Marysville (Marysville)	\$3,000
Rebuilding tourism reputation through the marketing of local Open Garden Scheme.	
Dredge Hole Recreation Reserve The Last Pioneer (Harrietville)	\$2,500
Park sculpture representing the pioneering spirit of a town recently challenged by flooding and fire.	
Marnoo Soldiers Memorial Park Reserve Committee Reduce, Recycle, Relocate! project	\$3,000
Marnoo is a farming town 285km northwest of Melbourne with a population of 300. Infrastructure includes a primary school, general store, a reserve and a range of sporting facilities. Funding was allocated for a community-run recycling depot called Reduce, Recycle, Relocate! to decrease landfill and to raise money to maintain local reserves.	



Gippsland

Place-based granting

The Ross Trust conducts a scan and analysis of its granting to ensure an equal distribution of funds across Victoria and that the Trust's resources are being directed to the areas of most need.

Scans in 2007 and 2008 identified that the Trust was underinvesting in the region of Gippsland; a third of the state in terms of land mass, and a region that generally receives little philanthropic funds but has high levels of disadvantage. Multiple generations of unemployment, low levels of educational attainment and high levels of child protection notifications, homelessness and incidents of mental health were all identified as areas of community vulnerability.

The first step towards redistributing Trust granting in this area was to build knowledge and understanding of the region, which began with a number of visits by Trust staff. In 2009 the Trust supported the Victorian Council of Social Service to host a philanthropy afternoon in Morwell where 30 community organisations heard presentations from six philanthropic trusts and foundations, and met with the representatives to discuss potential projects.

In 2011, the Trust formalised its approach for supporting Gippsland by identifying a number of key priority areas: mental health; public education; vulnerable children and young people at risk; Aboriginal people; and initiatives that build community and organisational capacity. The Trust also decided to focus its efforts to the communities in East Gippsland and the La Trobe Valley.

A key approach has been supporting sub-region wide research efforts led by Good Beginnings and Berry Street, looking at the major issues facing children and young people in East Gippsland and the La Trobe Valley. The result of this research was a report, The State of East Gippsland's Children and Youth Report. Launched in January 2014, the report provides a clear picture of the wellbeing of children in East Gippsland.

Through the project, Good Beginnings established a coalition of East Gippsland service providers and agencies that provided input into the report based on agreed data indicators. This group is now the basis of the network needed to enact the next phase of the project; improving service coordination and working together to meet some of the needs identified in the report.

As a result of the Trust taking a place-based approach to the Gippsland region a total of \$1,130,595 has been committed since 2010.

Grants made in Gippsland through the place-based approach in the 2013-14 year are:

Gippsland Carers Association Inc Regional Carers Support Network – Rural Outreach project	\$87,360 (over three years)
Good Beginnings Australia Early Intervention and Practical Parenting programs	\$212,640 (over three years)
Warragul Primary School High Five Outdoor Learning project	\$10,000



R E Ross Trust
03 9690 6255
rosstrust.org.au

Loddon Mallee Government and Philanthropic Partnership

Since 2008, the Trust has been working with a range of government and not-for-profit organisations to build the effectiveness of two Aboriginal-controlled organisations in Mildura and Robinvale. Social Compass has externally evaluated the effectiveness of this partnership.

Due to the level of need and the complexity of issues in Robinvale, the Trust has focused its resources in this community. It has built relationships with a number of local organisations including: Mallee Family Care; Swan Hill Rural City Council; Robinvale District Health Service; and the Robinvale P-12 School.

Robinvale is a town on the Murray River in northern Victoria, between Swan Hill and Mildura with a population of approximately 2,200. The Aboriginal community in Robinvale is significant, comprising at least 10 per cent of the population. The town itself comprises people of varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds: 34 per cent were born overseas,

28 per cent are from a non-English speaking background. Australian Bureau of Statistics data from the 2011 Census ranked Robinvale the 10th most disadvantaged area of the state.

The Trust's CEO, Sylvia Admans, sits on the Robinvale Advancing Country Towns Initiative, a four-year Victorian Government initiative that brings together a number of government and non-government agencies to address the economic development, education and integrated services in the region.

As a result of the Trust taking a place-based approach to Robinvale, over \$470,000 has been committed since 2008.

Grants made in Robinvale through the place-based approach in the 2013–14 year are:

Clontarf Foundation Engaging Young Aboriginal Males in Education and Employment	\$90,000
Mallee Family Care Inc Munatunga Elders Scrap and Yarn	\$30,000
Robinvale District Health Service Continuation of Advancing Country Towns initiative	\$20,000
Swan Hill Rural City Council Lighting of Robinswood Oval in Robinvale	\$2,000



R E Ross Trust
03 9690 6255
rosstrust.org.au



Tomorrow:Today Foundation

The Education Benalla program

\$185,000 (2012–13)

We know from research that social disadvantage has an adverse impact on educational attainment, which in turn creates inter-generational cycles of disadvantage.

The 2007 Professor Tony Vinson report, *Dropping off the edge: The distribution of disadvantage in Australia*, and subsequent releases of data by the Australian Early Development Index and the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that children and young people in Benalla have lower levels of literacy and numeracy, leave school earlier than the state average and have lower levels of tertiary education.

The Tomorrow:Today Foundation developed the Education Benalla Program, a cross-sector partnership with schools, community groups, government agencies and business, to support children and young people to have educational success, with the objective of breaking the cycles of disadvantage.

The Ross Trust has supported the program from its conceptual stages since 2009. In 2012, the Ross Trust continued its support of Tomorrow:Today for another two years to enable the completion of stage one of the ten-year Education Benalla Program. The Trust's total investment to date is \$420,000.

The program's three long-term aims are to achieve:

- Significant and sustained improvement in Year 12 completion rates
- Significant and sustained improvement in transitioning to tertiary education
- Significant and sustained improvement in completing a tertiary degree/diploma or apprenticeship.



Parachute fun

The program has four objectives to achieve the long-term aims:

- All Benalla children to start school ready to learn
- Improvement in literacy and numeracy levels
- Improved levels of student wellbeing
- Raised educational expectations by family and community.

The program began in 2010 and has been designed in two five-year phases. The University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Education has been commissioned to design and implement the evaluation of Phase one; scheduled for completion in June 2015.

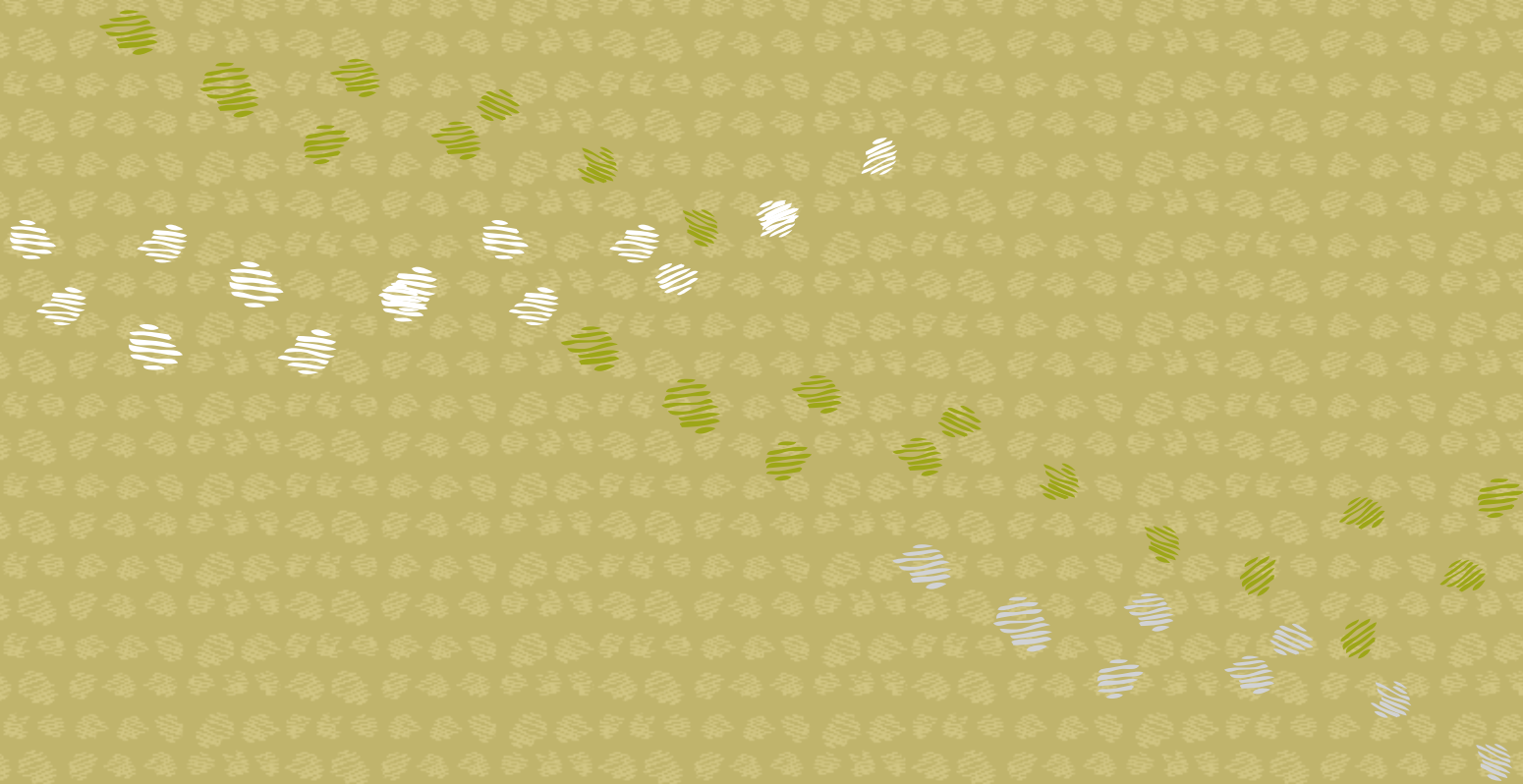
Tomorrow:Today works with government and non-government organisations including community groups, schools, government departments, local government, and local businesses to achieve a whole-of-community delivery outcome for the program.

In 2013–14, Tomorrow:Today Foundation successfully delivered programs itself, partnered with others and embedded the Education Benalla Program's objectives in existing institutional systems.



Tomorrow:Today Foundation
03 5762 1211
tomorrowtoday.com.au

Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd



Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd

Giving to the Mornington Peninsula and beyond

As a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust, 100 per cent of the profits of Hillview Quarries are distributed to community organisations through the Trust's granting strategy. Hillview Quarries also provide financial assistance and quarry product to local organisations on the Mornington Peninsula throughout the year.

Hillview Quarries is located in Dromana on the Mornington Peninsula, on the Arthur's Seat escarpment and adjacent to the Arthur's Seat State Park. For over 45 years, it has supplied superior brown and grey granite products to local, state and federal government authorities, private contractors, retail garden supply outlets and the public.

Hillview's site is host to many species of flora and fauna and Hillview Quarries has, over many years, won awards and been praised for its quarry rehabilitation and environmental focus. It is proud to have a long history of being sensitive to the environmental needs of the site and the community by carefully managing and nurturing native species of plants and animals. The quarry operates with a full-time horticulturist on payroll. All revegetation is done with trees propagated in its own nursery, from seed collected from trees on site. To date, over 80,000 trees have been planted.



Hillview Quarrie's Head Office



Hillview Quarry



Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd
03 5987 2600
www.hvq.com.au

In the 2013–14 year quarry product donations, estimated value over \$34,200, were made to the following organisations:

Baxter Primary School	Merricks Pony Club
Boneo Primary School	Mornington Baseball Club
Bay-Park Scout Camp	Mornington Secondary College
Berendale School	Red Hill and District Memorial Preschool
Crib Point Junior Football Club	Red Hill Consolidated Primary School
Disabled Victoria	Rosebud Secondary College
Dromana Football Club	Rosebud Community Garden
Dromana Italian Club	Rosebud Primary School
Dromana Primary School	Rotary Club of Dromana
Dromana Secondary College	Somers Primary School
Elizabeth Murdoch College	Somers Yacht Club Inc
Hastings Primary School	Somerville Secondary College
Help Lloyd Community Group	St Georges Anglican Church
Hastings Football and Netball Club	St Thomas More Primary School
Hastings Blue Light Motorcycle Club	Tyabb Primary School
Lord Somers Camp	Westernport Riding for the Disabled

In the 2013–14 year financial donations or sponsorships were provided to the following organisations:

Balnarring Bowls and Social Club Inc Sponsorship of 2014 season	\$ 200
Boneo Primary School Construction of a garden shed	\$ 4,181
Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation Four scholarships for the SMP Connect program	\$ 5,090
CFA – Pearcedale Fire Brigade Sponsorship of Annual Community Golf Day	\$ 150
Crib Point Junior Football Club Sponsorship of 2014 season	\$ 340
Dromana Art Show Sponsorship of the 2013 Art Show	\$ 1,363
Dromana Bay Life Saving Club Inc Sponsorship of 2014 Open Water Swim event	\$ 200
Dromana Bowls Club Inc Sponsorship of 2013–14 season	\$ 1,272
Dromana Bowls Club Inc Sponsorship of the 2014–15 season	\$ 909
Dromana Chaplaincy Committee Welfare and pastoral care services for students, parents and teachers	\$ 5,000
Dromana Community House Sponsorship of Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea	\$ 200
Dromana Community House Backyard playground area	\$ 500
Dromana Cricket Club Inc Resurfacing the practice net area	\$ 1,363

Dromana Football Club Sponsorship of 2013 and 2014 Season	\$ 10,000
Dromana Junior Football Club Sponsorship of 2014 season	\$ 3,000
Dromana Potters Group Inc Sponsorship of annual exhibition	\$ 250
Dromana Preschool Centre Inc Educational play equipment	\$ 909
Fit to Drive Trust Sponsorship of the Arthurs Seat Challenge	\$ 1,500
Habitat Restoration Fund Weed control at Hillview Community Reserve	\$ 5,000
Hastings Literacy Festival Inc Sponsorship of 2013 Literary Festival	\$ 500
International Cool Climate Wine Show Sponsorship of 2014 Winter Wine Show	\$ 1,500
Light Up Autism Foundation Sponsorship of Family Fun Run	\$ 250
Main Ridge Bowls Club Inc Sponsorship of 2013 season	\$ 500
Main Ridge Cricket Club Sponsorship of 2013-14 season	\$ 200
Main Ridge Tennis Club Inc Bronze sponsorship of Club	\$ 200
Mornington Peninsula School Environment Week	\$ 2,000
Mornington Peninsula Shire Major Sponsorship of 2014 Mornington Australia Day Parade	\$ 6,818
Mornington Special Developmental School Computer Equipment	\$ 3,000
Mt Martha Bowls Club Inc Sponsorship of score cards	\$ 395
Peninsula Summer Music Festival Sponsorship of 2013–14 festival	\$ 2,500
Red Hill and District Memorial Preschool Kinder auction and wine night fundraiser	\$ 500
Red Hill Football Netball Club Sponsorship of 2014 season	\$ 500
Red Hill Show Sponsorship of the 2014 Red Hill Show	\$ 5,000
Rosebud Football Netball Club Inc Sponsorship of 2014 season	\$ 363
Rosebud Netball Club Sponsorship of 2014 season	\$ 181
Rosebud Tennis Club Sponsorship of Easter Tournament	\$ 250
Rotary Club of Dromana Inc 2014 Australia Day celebrations	\$ 2,500

Rotary Club of Dromana Inc Sponsorship of 2013 community Christmas carols	\$ 250
Rye Beach Community Centre Sponsorship of 2013 Carols in the Park	\$ 150
Rye Football Netball Club Inc Gold sponsorship of 2014 season	\$ 700
Rye Sports and Social Club Sponsorship of the 2014 Rye Gift	\$ 1,500
Rye Tennis Club Inc Sponsorship of 2014 Australia Day Tournament	\$ 200
Safety Beach Golf Club Advertising of 2014 syllabus	\$ 50
Sorrento Football and Netball Club Sponsorship of 2014 season	\$ 500
South Mornington Football Club Sponsorship of 2014 season	\$ 227
The Studio @ Flinders Gallery Sponsorship of 2014 Teapot Exhibition	\$ 200
West Rosebud Bowling Club Sponsorship of 2013–14 season	\$ 454
Western Port Festival Sponsorship of the 2014 Festival	\$ 2,272
Wurru-Wurru Inc Preschool outdoor play equipment	\$ 500
TOTAL	\$ 75,587

Governance of The R E Ross Trust

The R E Ross Trust is a perpetual Charitable Trust established in Victoria in 1970 by the will of the late Roy Everard Ross. The will named the five original Trustees and provided for Trustees to choose new Trustees upon the retirement or death of serving Trustees.

Each of the five Trustees holds two half shares in a nominee company, R E Ross Nominees Pty Ltd. All five Trustees are Directors of that company which is the nominal owner of the assets of The R E Ross Trust. The company employs the staff of The R E Ross Trust, including the Trust's Chief Executive Officer, who is responsible for the management of the Trust.

The Trust's Chief Executive Officer is selected by the Trustees. The current Chief Executive Officer, Ms Sylvia Admans, also holds the office of Company Secretary. Mr Paul Read is Assistant Company Secretary.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Statutory responsibilities

The main responsibilities of the Trustees are set out in the provisions of the will and the Trustee Act 1958 (Vic). Responsibilities include:

- Administration of the Trust, including the employment of staff and other services that Trustees deem "necessary or desirable in carrying out the trusts of [the] will", the expenses of which may be met from the income of the Trust
- Investment of the funds of the Trust, including holding these investments in the name of a custodian trustee for which purpose the Trustees may form a company, R E Ross Nominees Pty Ltd, the expenses of which may be met from the income of the Trust
- Payment and application of the income of the Trust to charities or for charitable purposes.

In their capacities as Trustees of The R E Ross Trust and as directors of R E Ross Nominees Pty Ltd, Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd and Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd, the Trustees also have responsibilities under a number of Victorian and Commonwealth laws, including corporations, industrial, environmental and taxation laws.

Other responsibilities

The present Trustees consider their responsibilities also include:

- Pay and apply the Trust's income to achieve positive impacts for public benefit (Will and Trustees' decisions)
- Treat applicants and recipients of Trust grants fairly and consistently
- Make information publicly available on the basis of Trustees' granting decisions (Guidelines), audited annual accounts and grants made each year.

Trustee decisions and meetings

Decisions

The Will provides for decisions to be made by a majority of Trustees. Except in circumstances approved by Trustees, all significant decisions are made at meetings of Trustees. The Trust maintains a Financial Authorities Register which sets out who may exercise authority under certain circumstances which have financial implications.

Meetings

During the year there were 11 scheduled meetings of the Trust including the annual Strategy Day and four meetings of the Investment Committee. 11 meetings of the Directors of Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd and Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd, including the annual Strategy Day, and four meetings for the Directors of R E Ross Nominees Pty Ltd. The Chief Executive Officer attended all meetings.

Remuneration

Payment of Trustees

By special Orders of the Supreme Court of Victoria, the Trustees are paid commission if the Attorney- General of Victoria is satisfied with the Trust's Annual Accounts. The Trust submits a copy of the Annual Accounts in the form of the Annual Report, together with a report of the activities of the Trust, to the Attorney-General each year.

Trustees do not receive fees for their services as Directors of R E Ross Nominees Pty Ltd, Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd or Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd; all issued shares are held in the name of R E Ross Nominees Pty Ltd on trust for The R E Ross Trust.

Trustees retire no later than June 30 in the financial year in which they turn 75 years.

Staff

Trustees determine the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer following an annual review of performance.

Remuneration of staff is determined in accordance with the policies and annual budget approved by the Trustees. The Chief Executive Officer conducts an annual performance review of all other staff members.

Strategy

In March 2014, Trustees reviewed in detail The R E Ross Trust Strategic Plan.

The Plan covers:

1. Philanthropic

- Be a flexible and responsive philanthropic trust
- Add value beyond our grant-making
- Develop, maintain and exit collaborations and programs in a planned manner

2. Organisational

- Examine our systems and allocation of resources for effectiveness and efficiency
- Maintain a strong team approach

3. Governance and Financial

- Increase income by diligent management of the Trust's funds and businesses
- Maintain high standards of corporate governance

Trustees approved the revised Strategic and Operational Plan in March 2014. It is monitored in twice yearly reviews.

Auditors

The Auditor for The R E Ross Trust and R E Ross Nominees and its subsidiaries is Pitcher Partners.

Disclosures

John McInnes, OAM, Trustee:

- Director, Mutual Trust Pty Ltd
- Director and Chair, Bass Strait Oil Company Ltd
- Director, Haoma Mining NL
- Director, Assetco Management Pty Ltd Group
- Director and Chair, Castlegate James Australasia Pty Ltd
- Director, Roy Morgan Research Pty Ltd Group

Ian Renard, AM, Trustee:

- Director, CSL Limited (until October 2013)
- Director, Ausnet Services Group
- Chair, Archives Advisory Board, University of Melbourne
- Member, Collections Committee, State Library of Victoria

Eda Ritchie, AM, Trustee:

- Member, Council of The University of Melbourne
- Board Member, Port Fairy Spring Music Festival
- Chairman, Victorian College of the Arts Foundation

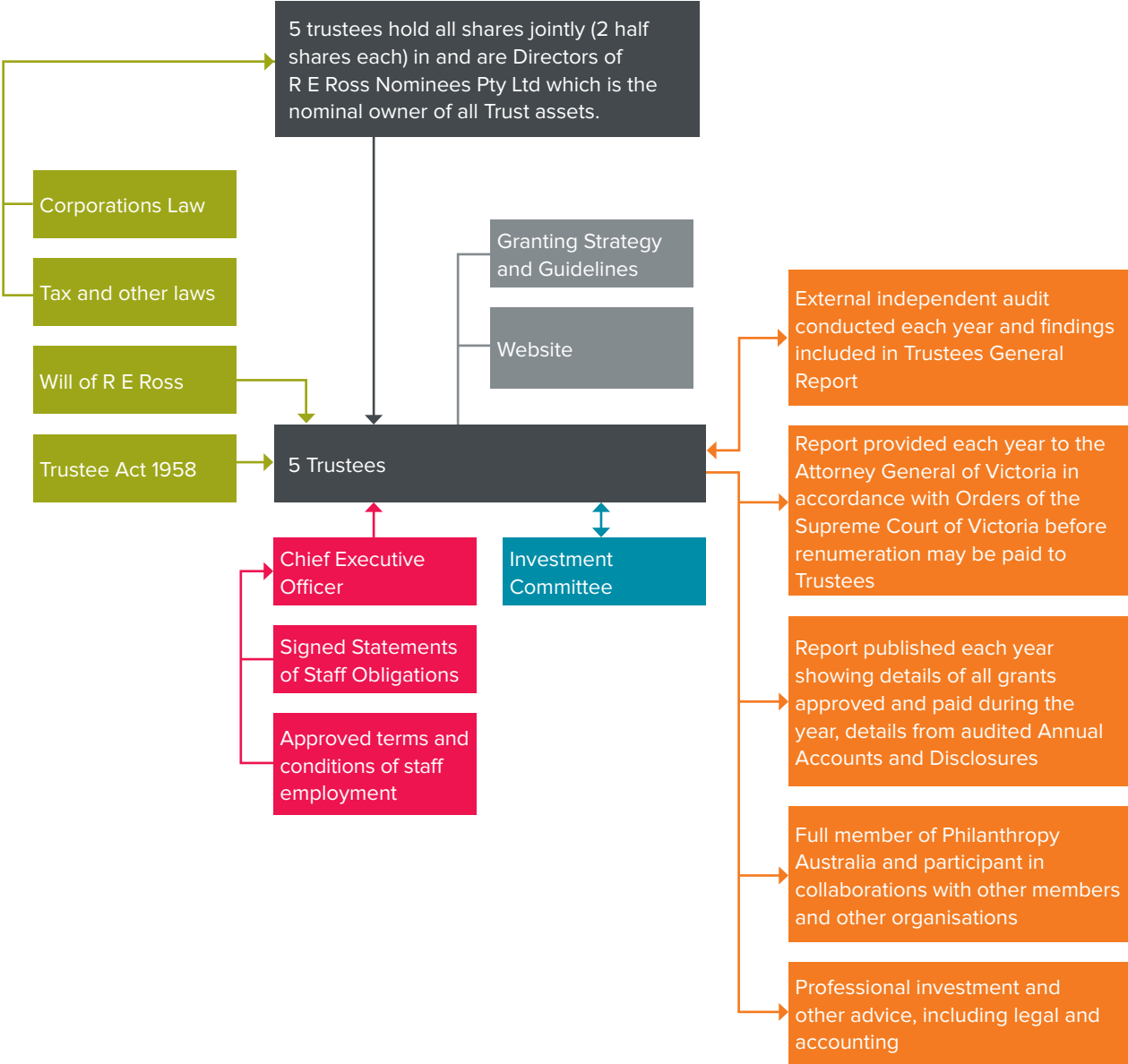
Jenny Stephens, Trustee:

- Director, Clifton Hill / North Fitzroy Community Bank, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd
- Director, Tanjable Pty Ltd

Ian Vaughan, Trustee:

- Director, Godfrey Hirst Pty Ltd
- Director, Sampford-IXL Pty Ltd
- Director, Backwell-IXL Pty Ltd

Summary of Governance Arrangements



Governance Framework

1. Comply with Trustee Act 1958 (Vic.) and all other relevant laws.
2. Maintain at least real value of corpus assets (Will and Trustee Act).
3. Earn maximum income taking account of necessity to maintain real corpus asset value and to distribute income (Will and Trustee Act).
4. Pay and distribute income to achieve positive impacts for public benefit (Will and Trustees' decisions).
5. Meet obligations to staff, professional advisors, and suppliers of goods and services.
6. Treat applicants for and recipients of grants fairly and consistently.
7. Make information publicly available on the basis of trustees granting decisions (Guidelines), audited annual accounts and grants made each year.

Investments and financial report

Framework

The will of Roy Everard Ross provides that the Trustees hold on trust the balance of the “real and personal estate” of Mr Ross remaining after payment of debts, expenses and duties following his death, in order “to pay or apply the income there from in perpetuity...”. The will authorises the Trustees to invest the Trust’s monies as they “think fit” and “to vary, alter, transpose and re-invest” monies.

The Trustees have the approval of the Australian Taxation Office to withhold from distribution up to 20% of income earned each year. The Trustees invest these withheld distribution funds (Reserves) to generate income which will provide a buffer in the event of negative fluctuations in income in future years. In the year under report, nil income was withheld.

The Trust is an income tax exempt charity, is registered for GST but is not a deductible gift recipient.

Investments

Investment objectives

The Investment Parameters set out the Trust’s investment objectives which are to:

- a. at least maintain the real value of the funds under management as measured by the change in the value of Average Weekly Ordinary Times Earnings (AWOTE) over a three year rolling period;
- b. maximise the amount of income earned, where income includes the expected amount of imputation credits for which The R E Ross Trust will be able to claim a refund from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- c. receive payments of income quarterly.

Investment policy

The Trust’s Investment Manager for the majority of 2013–14 was Evans & Partners. The Investment Manager is authorised to direct the investment and reinvestment of such monies as are allocated by The R E Ross Trust in an actively managed diversified portfolio.

The Portfolio is to consist of the asset classes and investment ranges listed below. Funds Managers have discretion to manage the Portfolio within these ranges subject to any overriding directive which may from time to time be given by The R E Ross Trust. Such directive shall be in writing to the Investment Manager.

The asset allocation profile is as follows:

- Cash 0% to 15%
- Hybrids & Fixed Interest 0% to 35%
- Australian Equities (inclusive of listed property) 45% to 75%
- International Equities 0% to 20%
- Alternative Investments 0% to 5%

The asset allocation profile was modified by the Trustees in August 2013.

All securities other than Cash and Short Term Securities must be listed on a recognised stock exchange, or have a reasonable prospect of being listed within six months of subscription, or be units in an unlisted trust or fund which has been agreed in writing by The R E Ross Trust as an authorised investment, or otherwise approved in writing by The R E Ross Trust. No more than 20% of Fixed interest and Hybrids can be invested in securities which are unrated or rated less than BBB. All Cash and Short Term Deposits are to be placed with financial institutions which are rated no less than AA.

The Portfolio may not include any Excluded Securities which at 30 June 2014 were:

- Aristocrat Leisure Limited
- Crown Limited
- Echo Entertainment Group Limited
- Ratoon Limited
- Tabcorp Holdings Limited
- Tattersall’s Limited

Investment reporting

The Investment Manager provides written reports on a quarterly basis and for the financial year as a whole.

Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd and Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd

The Trust maintains an investment in its wholly owned quarrying business, Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd and Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd. All Trustees serve as the Directors of Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd and Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd. The Trust owns the land used for quarrying operations.

Investment performance

Gross income for the year totalled \$5,001,882 a decrease of 18.6% on the previous year.

At 30 June 2014 the book value of the net assets of the Trust was \$45,665,657 represented by:

- \$34,496,673
Residuary (corpus) funds (an increase of \$2,489,651 on the prior year).
- \$9,939,290
Reserves of accumulated income (up to 20% withheld from distribution). No change due to funds not allocated in 2013/14.
- \$1,229,694
Accumulated surplus (a decrease of \$409,348 from the prior year).

The Market Value of listed investments was \$35.1 million compared with previous year's end value of \$32.8 million.

Financial Information and Reporting

For the year ended 30 June 2014, the Trustees prepared a special purpose financial report (Annual Report) on The R E Ross Trust and its controlled entities, Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd and Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd.

The information contained in this Financial Report is drawn from the Annual Report of The R E Ross Trust for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

Payment of income as grants

Income paid as grants during the year totalled \$3,785,178 (2013: \$5,075,665). Grants refunded by previous recipients amounted to \$39,636 (2013: \$188,410).

Approval was given during the year for 117 new grants with a total grant value of \$4,826,153. Some of these grants were approved for payment in instalments over a number of years. 180 grant payments totalling \$3,785,178 were made in the year, including payments of grant instalments which comprised part of grant amounts approved in previous years.

From its establishment in 1970 to 30 June 2014. The R E Ross Trust has made grants totalling \$100,852,776 – of these \$86,376,633 have been made by the Trust directly and \$14,476,143 by Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd at the request of the Trust.

Expenses

Expenses comprise the three categories listed below which almost mirror the responsibilities of the Trustees.

- Investment of the funds of the trust, including activities of Trustees, staff and payments to third parties;
- Activities of Trustees, staff and third parties directly related to the application of the income of the Trust to charities and for charitable purposes; and
- Administration of the Trust, including all activities of Trustees, staff and third parties not directly related to investing activities or to application of the income of the Trust to charities and for charitable purposes.

Financial reporting

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2014

Revenue	Note	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)
Revenue from continuing operations	3	5,001,882	6,145,570
Less: expenses			
Employee benefits expense		(597,051)	(636,488)
Depreciation expense		(13,505)	(10,078)
Other expenses		(555,960)	(677,183)
Write off of development expenses associated with waste management project		(499,172)	(1,074,606)
		(1,665,688)	(2,398,355)
Operating surplus prior to granting		3,336,194	3,747,215
Grants paid during the year		(3,745,542)	(4,887,255)
Profit/(Loss) from continuing operations		(409,348)	(1,140,040)

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2014

Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,703,365	1,330,928
Receivables	5	3,204,786	3,453,789
Investments	6	31,978,757	31,128,942
Other assets		3,813	200
Total current assets		37,890,721	35,913,859
Non-current assets			
Receivables		5,432,592	5,469,915
Other financial assets	6	164,011	164,011
Property, plant and equipment		2,546,386	2,481,893
Total non-current assets		8,142,989	8,115,819
Total assets		46,033,710	44,029,678

Current liabilities	Note	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)
Trade & Other Payables	7	304,655	373,427
Provisions		19,682	21,894
Total current liabilities		324,337	395,321

Non-current liabilities

Provisions		43,716	49,003
Total non-current liabilities		43,716	49,003
Total liabilities		368,053	444,324
Net assets		45,665,657	43,585,354

Trust funds

Residuary estate funds		34,496,673	32,007,022
Other Reserves		9,939,290	9,939,290
Accumulated surplus		1,229,694	1,639,042
Total trust funds		45,665,657	43,585,354

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial report preparation requirements of the will. The trustees have determined that the economic entity is not a reporting entity. The R E Ross Trust and controlled entities is a not for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial report was approved by the trustees as at the date of the trustees report.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with all applicable Accounting Standards, with the exception of:

- AASB 7: Financial Instruments: Disclosures
- AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements
- AASB 137: Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
- AASB 139: Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report:

(a) Basis of preparation of the financial report

Historical Cost Convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets as described in the accounting policies.

(b) Going concern

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis.

(c) Income tax

The Trust is a non-profit charitable organisation and is not subject to income tax on its income. The Trust is entitled to receive a refund of imputation credits attached to franked dividends received.

On 28 June 1992 the trustees were granted clearance by the Australian Taxation Office to accumulate up to 20% of the net income, before grants, of the Trust each year. The purpose of this is to maintain and enhance the capital asset base of the Trust for derivation of income to be distributed by way of grants for future years.

(d) Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets with an indefinite useful life are not amortised but are tested annually for impairment in accordance with AASB 136. Assets subject to annual depreciation or amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances arise that indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may be impaired.

An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount of an asset is defined as the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

(e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and at banks, short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less held at call with financial institutions.

(f) Revenue

Dividend, interest, distributions and refundable imputation credits are recognised when the right to receive the revenue is established.

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking in to account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(g) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Property

Property is measured on a cost basis.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on a cost basis.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

(h) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of long service leave and annual leave which is not expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

(i) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs can include interest expense calculated using the effective interest method, finance charges in respect of finance leases, and exchange differences arising from foreign currency borrowings to the extent that they are regarded as an adjustment to interest costs.

Borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

(j) Grants

Grants are recognised as a liability where there exists a present obligation which the entity has no realistic alternative but to settle. Accordingly, grants approved which have not been settled at 30 June 2014 and 30 June 2013 have not been recognised as liabilities at 30 June 2014 and 30 June 2013 respectively because the Trust can vary or terminate the approved grants prior to payment.

(k) Treatment of Residuary Funds / General Reserves

(i) Reserves are increased by the transfer of up to 20% of net income to reserves (see note 1(d)). The transfer in the 2014 year was 0% (2013: 0%) of net income before grants.

(ii) Residuary Funds are increased by profit on disposal of investments and decreased by losses on disposals of investments and by unrealised losses on fall in market value below purchase cost.

(l) Investments and other financial assets

Interests in listed and unlisted securities are brought to account at cost, and are measured at the lower of cost and market value at each reporting date.

Controlled entities are accounted for in the consolidated financial statements as set out in note 1 (b).

(m) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the company prior to the end of the financial year which remain unpaid at year end. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Note 2: Financial Risk Management

The economic entity is exposed to a variety of financial risks comprising:

(a) Market price risk

Market price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk).

(b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates.

The economic entity has significant interest bearing investments.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in statement of financial position and notes to financial statements.

The economic entity does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single debtor or group of debtors under financial instruments entered into by the economic entity.

The economic entity minimises concentrations of credit risk in relation to trade receivables by undertaking transactions with a large number of customers.

Note 3: Revenue	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)
Royalties and fees from Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd	873,747	992,482
Other Revenue		
Dividend income	2,330,148	3,115,429
Interest income	838,963	761,483
Imputation credits refunded	959,024	1,276,176
Total revenue	5,001,882	6,145,570

Note 4: Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash on hand	70	30
Cash at bank	67,040	21,415
Cash on deposit	2,636,255	1,309,483
	2,703,365	1,330,928

Note 5: Receivables

Current

Trade debtors	1,001,891	1,297,792
Other receivables	2,202,895	2,155,997
	3,204,786	3,453,789

Note 6: Investments

Current

Investment portfolio	31,978,757	31,128,942
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Interests in listed and unlisted securities are brought to account at cost and are measured at the lower of cost and market value at each reporting date. The market value of investments at reporting date is \$35,072,300 (2013: \$32,811,828).

Non Current

Private company shares — at cost	164,011	164,011
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Note 7: Payables

Current

Unsecured liabilities

Trade creditors	205,651	286,420
Sundry creditors and accruals	99,004	87,007
	304,655	373,427

Note 8: Related Party Transactions

Transactions with related parties

Royalty revenue	648,895	767,630
Interest revenue	391,397	396,384
Dividend revenue	1,200,000	1,950,000
Fees received for managerial services	200,000	200,000
Fees received for company secretarial services	24,852	24,852
	2,465,144	3,338,866

- Royalties received from Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd based on the company's operations;
- Interest received from Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd on loans from the Trust;
- Dividends paid from Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd;
- Fees received for managerial services received for management of Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd; and
- Fees received for company secretarial services provided to Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd.



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G A DEBONO
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D B RANKIN
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S SCHONBERG
M O NORTHEAST
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C D WHATMAN
A E CLERICI
P MURONE
A D STANLEY
D C BYRNE
P B BRAINE
R I MCKE
T G HARR
A T CLUGSTON

19 November 2014

The Trustees
The R. E. Ross Trust
7th Floor
24-26 Albert Road
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

Dear Trustees

EXTRACTS OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE R. E. ROSS TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2014

This is to confirm the financial information presented on pages 57 to 66 of the R. E. Ross Trust Annual Report 2014 has been extracted from the R. E. Ross Trust's 2014 Special Purpose Financial Report dated 18 September 2014.

The 2014 Special Purpose Financial Report was audited by Pitcher Partners and was not subject to audit qualification.

We have reconciled the extracted information presented on pages 57 to 66 of the R. E. Ross Trust Annual Report 2014 to the R. E. Ross Trust's 2014 Special Purpose Financial Report noting no exceptions.

Yours faithfully
PITCHER PARTNERS


B J BRITTEN
Partner

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Pitcher Partners is an association of independent firms
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List of Grants Paid by the Ross Trust in 2013–14

Organisation	Amount
Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities	\$10,000
Advocacy and Rights Centre	\$10,000
Alannah and Madeline Foundation (The)	\$10,000
Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare	\$20,000
Anex	\$13,400
Angel Light Link	\$14,500
Antiochian Community Support Association Inc	\$29,340
Anxiety Recovery Centre Victoria	\$20,000
Arabic Welfare Inc	\$10,000
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	\$100,000
Australian Environment Grantmakers Network	\$5,000
Back to Back Theatre	\$12,500
Banksia Gardens Community Services	\$10,000
Baptcare	\$20,000
Barwon Youth	\$25,000
Beacon Foundation	\$25,000
Bendigo Baptist Community Care Inc	\$10,000
Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre Inc	\$10,000
Berengarra Independent School	\$10,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters (Melbourne) Inc	\$15,000
Bluebird Foundation Inc	\$15,000
BrainLink Services	\$20,000
Bridgingworx	\$29,000
Brotherhood of St Laurence	\$26,400
Carlton Primary School	\$12,000
Casey North Community Information & Support Service	\$15,000
Centre for Community Child Health	\$20,000
Centre for International Child Health	\$99,300
Centre for Non-Violence Inc (formerly EASE)	\$44,000
Charities Aid Foundation Australia – Timehelp	\$10,000
Churchill North Primary School	\$30,000
City of Whittlesea	\$14,000
Clunes Country Women's Association of Victoria	\$10,000
cohealth Ltd	\$15,000

Combined Churches Caring Melton	\$10,000
Communication Rights Australia	\$9,900
Communication Rights Australia	\$10,000
Community College Gippsland	\$18,000
Community Living & Respite Services Inc	\$10,000
Concern Australia	\$10,000
Corryong Neighbourhood Centre	\$28,746
Cranbourne Information & Support Service	\$26,400
Croydon Hills Baptist Church T/A Eleven41 Cleaning Enterprise	\$9,000
Cultural Infusion	\$15,000
Dandenong Neighbourhood House	\$8,000
Delacombe Primary School	\$5,000
Dinjerra Primary School	\$4,000
Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre	\$10,897
Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises	\$15,000
Doveton College	\$35,000
EACH Social and Community Health	\$9,600
Fitted for Work Limited	\$20,000
fortyfivedownstairs	\$16,000
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	\$125,000
Foundation House – Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture	\$30,000
Gateway Community Health	\$20,000
Gippsland Carers Association Inc	\$29,120
Good Beginnings Australia	\$70,880
Good Beginnings Australia	\$25,000
Good Beginnings Australia	\$89,394
Goulburn Valley Health	\$10,000
Hands on Learning Australia	\$50,000
Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc	\$5,000
Hello Sunday Morning	\$20,000
Hope Springs	\$30,000
Hothouse Theatre Ltd	\$7,000
Housing for the Aged Action Group	\$10,000
Human Rights Law Centre	\$10,000
Inclusion Melbourne Inc	\$24,308
International Social Service Australia (ISS)	\$20,000
Jirrahlinga Koala & Wildlife Sanctuary	\$15,000
Kids Thrive	\$10,000

Kildonan Uniting Care	\$27,711
King Valley Children's Services	\$7,500
Koha Community Cafe	\$15,000
La Trobe University	\$25,000
Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association	\$50,000
Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association	\$5,250
Latitude: Directions for Young People Inc	\$2,800
Leadership Victoria	\$1,498
Learning for Life	\$26,630
Lentara UnitingCare (formerly Broadmeadows Uniting Care)	\$26,620
Mallee Family Care Inc	\$30,000
Mallee Family Care Inc	\$20,000
Mallee Family Care Inc	\$20,000
Malthouse Theatre	\$5,000
Marist Youth Care	\$20,000
McAuley Community Services for Women	\$50,000
Meadow Heights Learning Shop Inc	\$4,403
Melbourne Citymission	\$15,000
Melbourne Writers Festival	\$6,500
Monash Health	\$10,651
Monashlink Community Health Service	\$20,000
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	\$20,000
Morwell Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre	\$10,000
Museum Victoria	\$40,000
Nara Early Learning Centre	\$9,500
New Hope Foundation	\$20,000
New Stars Basketball Association	\$30,000
Norman Wettenhall Foundation (The)	\$55,000
North East Support and Action for Youth	\$23,000
Odyssey House Victoria	\$19,000
On the Line	\$29,903
Orbost Neighbourhood House	\$16,500
Outer Urban Projects	\$20,000
Parklands Albury Wodonga Limited	\$20,000
Philanthropy Australia	\$25,000
Phunktional	\$20,000
Plans @ Work	\$2,500
Port Phillip Community Group	\$7,603

Prahran Mission	\$10,000
Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education	\$12,367
Project Respect Inc	\$30,000
Regional Arts Victoria	\$22,000
Reinforce Inc	\$4,510
RISE (Refugee Survivors & Ex-detainees)	\$20,000
River Nile Learning Centre	\$20,000
Robinvale District Health Service	\$7,500
Robinvale District Health Service	\$55,000
Rotary Club of Flemington	\$10,000
Save the Children Australia Trust	\$15,000
Scarf Community Organisation	\$27,157
School for Social Entrepreneurs	\$2,500
Shine for Kids	\$30,000
Skilling Australia Foundation	\$10,000
Social Firms Australia Ltd (SoFA)	\$20,000
Social Firms Australia Ltd (SoFA)	\$25,000
SOS Foundation	\$10,000
Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council (SEAAC)	\$14,260
St Albans Secondary College	\$9,641
St Jude's Anglican Church Carlton	\$20,000
St Mark's Community Centre	\$13,310
State Library of Victoria	\$81,293
Streets of Freedom	\$50,000
Stride Foundation	\$10,000
Summer Foundation	\$20,000
Sunraysia Disability Group Inc	\$20,000
Swan Hill Rural City Council	\$2,000
Tarwin Lower and District Primary School	\$7,800
Teach for Australia	\$15,000
The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne	\$10,000
The Lowitja Institute	\$10,000
The Lowitja Institute	\$5,000
The Melbourne Athenaeum	\$15,000
The Queen's Fund	\$28,000
The Smith Family	\$50,000
The Social Studio	\$20,000
The Water Well Project Inc	\$10,000

Thomastown Primary School	\$5,000
Tomorrow:Today Foundation	\$110,000
Trust for Nature	\$15,000
Uniting Care Gippsland	\$19,373
Uniting Care Werribee Support and Housing	\$27,337
Venus Bay Tarwin Lower and District Men's Shed	\$10,400
VICSEG New Futures	\$30,000
Victoria University	\$15,778
Victorian Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders	\$100,000
Victorian Deaf Society	\$15,000
Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Cooperative	\$11,530
Vietnamese Community in Australia	\$10,000
Warragul Primary School	\$10,000
Way Community (The)	\$23,884
Wellington Collingwood Inc	\$15,000
Wellsprings for Women	\$20,000
Western Port Secondary College	\$18,200
Wingate Avenue Community Centre	\$27,300
Women's Circus Limited	\$10,000
Women's Health West	\$10,000
Women's Mental Health Network Victoria	\$15,000
Women's Property Initiatives (WPI)	\$10,000
Woor-Dungin	\$25,000
Worktrainers Ltd	\$30,000
Yarra Glen & District Living & Learning Centre	\$7,784
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service	\$15,000
Yarrunga Primary School	\$30,000
YSAS	\$20,000
Zimbabwean Community in Australia (Victoria)	\$3,000
Zoe Support Australia	\$15,000
Total	\$3,785,178
Amount Refunded	
West Heidelberg Community Legal Service	-\$273
West Heidelberg Community Legal Service	-\$39,363
Total Net Distributed	\$3,745,542





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