

ANNUAL REPORT

2014–15



THE
RE 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 \$100 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.



The R E Ross Trust
Level 7, 24 Albert Road
South Melbourne Victoria 3205
Telephone (03) 9690 6255
www.rosstrust.org.au

Trustees

Mr John L C McInnes OAM

Mr Ian A Renard AM

Mrs Eda N Ritchie AM

Ms Jenny V Stephens

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 Louise Kuramoto (Maternity leave

October 2014 – June 2015)

Program Manager

Ms Venetia Taylor (Since September 2014)

Program Manager

Ms Ruth Pryce (October 2014 – April 2015)

Program Manager

Production details

Writer: Big Talk Agency

Design: Viola Design

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

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 \$4,038,407 were approved and \$3,895,695 in grants were paid during the year to 30 June 2015. Our strategy continues to embrace making multi-year grants available in order to give security and planning capacity to grantees, meaning we must carefully consider our forward commitments and our ability to fund them in uncertain economic times.

The Trustees are also conscious that a large part of the income of the Trust comes from our quarrying activities. The rock reserves available to us are a diminishing resource and while we anticipate many more years of quarrying, we must continue to be mindful of providing for the future of the Trust when the rock reserves are exhausted and income from quarrying is no longer available. Accordingly, the Trust continues to work to an annual granting budget of \$4 million which will normally allow for a portion of the income to be transferred to reserves.

Significantly this year, the Trustees at the Annual Strategy Day, decided to actively pursue impact investment opportunities for the Trust, based on the concept of a double return, both financial and social. A proposal of the Women's Property Initiative to develop a social enterprise real estate business producing a sustainable income stream for the organisation, was attractive to the Trust. Property Initiatives Real Estate Pty Ltd is the Trust's first impact investment in the form of a low interest unsecured loan to enable the business to grow to scale more quickly through the acquisition of a rent roll. Trustees were very involved in the development of the loan agreement and hope to do more impact investments in the future.

The performance of the Trust's investments for the year was satisfactory and our portfolio generally outperformed the market in what was a challenging period for investors.

The Trustees are also committed to the capacity of the Trust to work in ways which add value to organisations we seek to support. During the year Trustees adopted a strategy to personally align themselves with one of the Trust's Collaborations. In this capacity Trustees have visited Collaborations in Robinvale, Benalla, and many metropolitan locations, to gain greater and deeper knowledge of the organisations the Trust is supporting. Trust Staff also continue to work on location as part the Trust's Place Based Strategy, which is reported on in more detail in this annual report.

Another example of the Trust's 'value adding' work was the third Ross Trust Annual Conversation held at the State Library of Victoria in November 2014, where sector representatives heard about place based philanthropy in action. As always it is good to look outside your backyard and so the Trust was pleased to invite representatives of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation to present on their important work in Condobolin, NSW. Close to home, the representatives of the Tomorrow Today Foundation shared their approach to place based work through the Education Benalla Program, which the Trust is proud to support. We hope by sharing knowledge of practice, others may be encouraged to work in this way to effect greater change in communities of high need.



Trustees met with Alan Schwarz AM as the new President of Philanthropy Australia and warmly welcomed him to the role. Several Trustees attended the Philanthropy Australia conference held in Melbourne and were particularly pleased that staff presented on the Robinvale Collaboration alongside Glenn Stewart, a community representative.

I particularly want to recognise the contribution of the Trust Staff to the work of the Trust. Ably led by the CEO Sylvia Admans, the Staff are working in a “hands on” way with grantee organisations and representing the Trust in their dealings with other philanthropic trusts, Governments and other local organisations.

I want to thank my fellow Trustees for their great enthusiasm in how they approach their roles. Their various skill sets combined with their active contribution ensures that the Trustees are well placed to consider the applications for funding which come before them for decision at our monthly meetings and overseeing the management and strategic direction of the Trust. As I retire as a Trustee at the end of next June this is my last year as the Trust’s Chairman and I would like to publicly state how much I appreciate and value the opportunity to be part of an organisation that plays such an important role of philanthropy in the life of many Victorians.

John McInnes OAM Chairman 2014–15



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

Chief Executive Officer's Report

A request from a Ross family member for financial support from the Trust for the restoration of Mr Ross' parents' and sister's graves in the Mansfield Cemetery, was a timely reminder of the benefaction of Mr Roy Everard Ross and the wonderful legacy which exists 45 years later. The wisdom of his legacy was to allow the Trustees discretion to determine how to apply the Trust's income for the greatest effect to benefit the people of Victoria. But this requires constant vigilance, to ensure relevance to contemporary societal needs. Through the Trust's annual strategy day, Trustees and staff consider the best way to work to effect positive change with the Trust's full range of resources.

Philanthropic

In the financial year, staff researched 144 applications for funding of which Trustees approved 88 grants. Many of these grants were for support over three years and many were from organisations coming to the Trust for the first time for a grant.

The Trust's place based strategy continues to involve staff to a greater extent with regular trips to the locations (Benalla, Gippsland and Robinvale), participation on management and steering committees, speaking at events and encouraging other funders to join our work. Closer to home we were pleased to visit Banksia Gardens Community Centre in Broadmeadows, Carlton Gardens Primary School and Tarwin Lower Primary School, as a few examples of seeing our grants in action.

The Trust was able to promote its work in the regional settings of Geelong and Bass Coast through invitations to participate in panels which seek to explain the range of philanthropic funders available to these communities. We thank Give Where You Live and the Bass Coast Community Foundation for their promotion of philanthropy in their region.

A practice which is becoming increasingly common within the not for profit sector is that of friendly mergers of organisations. Three of these with which the Trust has had long relationships - Hanover, SOFA and Good Beginnings - have each merged with other agencies. We wish to acknowledge the work of these individual organisations and wish the new entities well.

Organisational

Critical to the grant making of the Trust are the Program Managers. During the year we recruited two Program Managers, one to replace Louise Kuramoto while she took maternity leave and the second to fill a vacancy. As a result of the recruitment, Ms Venetia Taylor was appointed to the vacant Program Manager role and Ms Ruth Pryce filled the temporary vacancy. Ms Pryce brought international experience from the UK and was able to contribute across a broad range of areas. We farewelled Ruth back to the UK in April 2015 and are forever grateful for her contribution to the Trust. We welcomed Louise's return in May 2015 and she and Venetia continue as the Trust's two Program Managers.

The Trust office examined its operational requirements considering the number of part time staff and proposed to Trustees that the office opening hours be condensed to four days (Monday to Thursday). A trial commenced last October and has proven to be beneficial in terms of efficiency and effectiveness for the Trust, without causing undue inconvenience to the organisations with which we work.

The Trust continues to be members of both Philanthropy Australia and the Australian Environmental Grant Makers Network and values the opportunities presented by these memberships. Through Philanthropy Australia, a pilot Program Managers Mentoring pilot was supported by the Trust and staff member Louise Kuramoto participated. It is hoped the learnings from this pilot will encourage Philanthropy Australia to continue to contribute to the professional development of philanthropy staff. The Trust hosted the first of the reformed Program Managers' luncheon meetings to promote exchange and better ways of working together, and we were pleased with the level of interest to maintain these.

I was a member of the Philanthropy Australia inaugural Philanthropy Awards which were announced at the September 2014 conference. The notion of celebrating philanthropy to encourage others is a positive contribution to growing the number of those undertaking planned giving.

Governance and Financial

As the Chairman has reported, the Trust has made its first impact investment, in the form of a patient loan to Property Initiatives Real Estate P/L. It is an exciting time for the Trust and clearly demonstrates the intersection of granting and investing. It has required original work on the part of the Trust which will stand us in good stead for consideration of future impact investments.

Each year the Trust reports to the Victorian Solicitor General by submitting a Pains and Troubles Report. The level of accountability and transparency provided by this and other reports such as the Annual Report, audited financial accounts and ACNC return, ensure the Trust remains at the forefront of philanthropic transparency.

I wish to acknowledge the extraordinary work of the organisations supported by the Trust and featured in the pages of this report. Trustees and staff are indebted to these organisations for breathing life into philanthropy and giving real meaning to broader community benefit.

I am also indebted to the Trustees for their guidance and commitment to the work of the Trust and am proud of the Trust's staff - Margarita, Paul, Dina, Venetia, Ruth and Louise - for always living the values of the Ross Trust in everything they do.

Please enjoy reading this report and I encourage you to share it with others to promote the important work the Trust does.

Sylvia Admans
Chief Executive Officer



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



Ruth Pryce, Program Manager, (Maternity Leave replacement October 2014 – April 2015)



Venetia Taylor, Program Manager since September 2014

The Ross Trust Approach to Granting

The Trust accepted 144 applications for grants in 2014–15. Of these, 88 (61 per cent) were approved, and total funds of \$4,038,407 were committed. The grants were made as Open Grants, Collaborations, or Programs, across one of four impact areas – A: Vulnerable Victorians; B: Children at Risk; C: Education, Arts and Culture, and; D: Australian Flora and Fauna.

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.

The Trust supports projects that achieve outcomes in a variety of ways, including: community and personal services; organisational capacity building, professional development of staff and volunteers; education and training; and program costs.

Types of grants

An **Open Grant** is a grant awarded through a process where organisations can submit unsolicited applications for specific programs or projects that fall within the Trust's granting guidelines. Grants can be awarded for periods of up to three years.

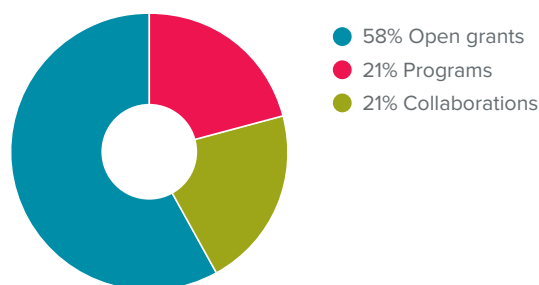
A **Collaboration** is a formal relationship between the Trust and an organisation or organisations that have demonstrated effectiveness in areas the Trust has a specific interest in. The Trust has developed these medium to long-term relationships to effect change on select issues of importance, with 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 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 community impact in the Trust's priority areas.

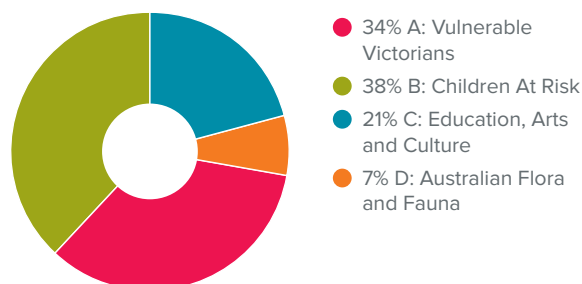
The Trust's selection of organisations for Programs and Collaborations is based on a proven history of achieving successful outcomes in specific impact areas, not through unsolicited applications.

Place-based grants are made across all four impact areas to support projects in communities of significant disadvantage: the Gippsland Region, Robinvale, and Benalla. Grants made in this area are primarily developed through consultation with the local community and made with a whole-of-community view.

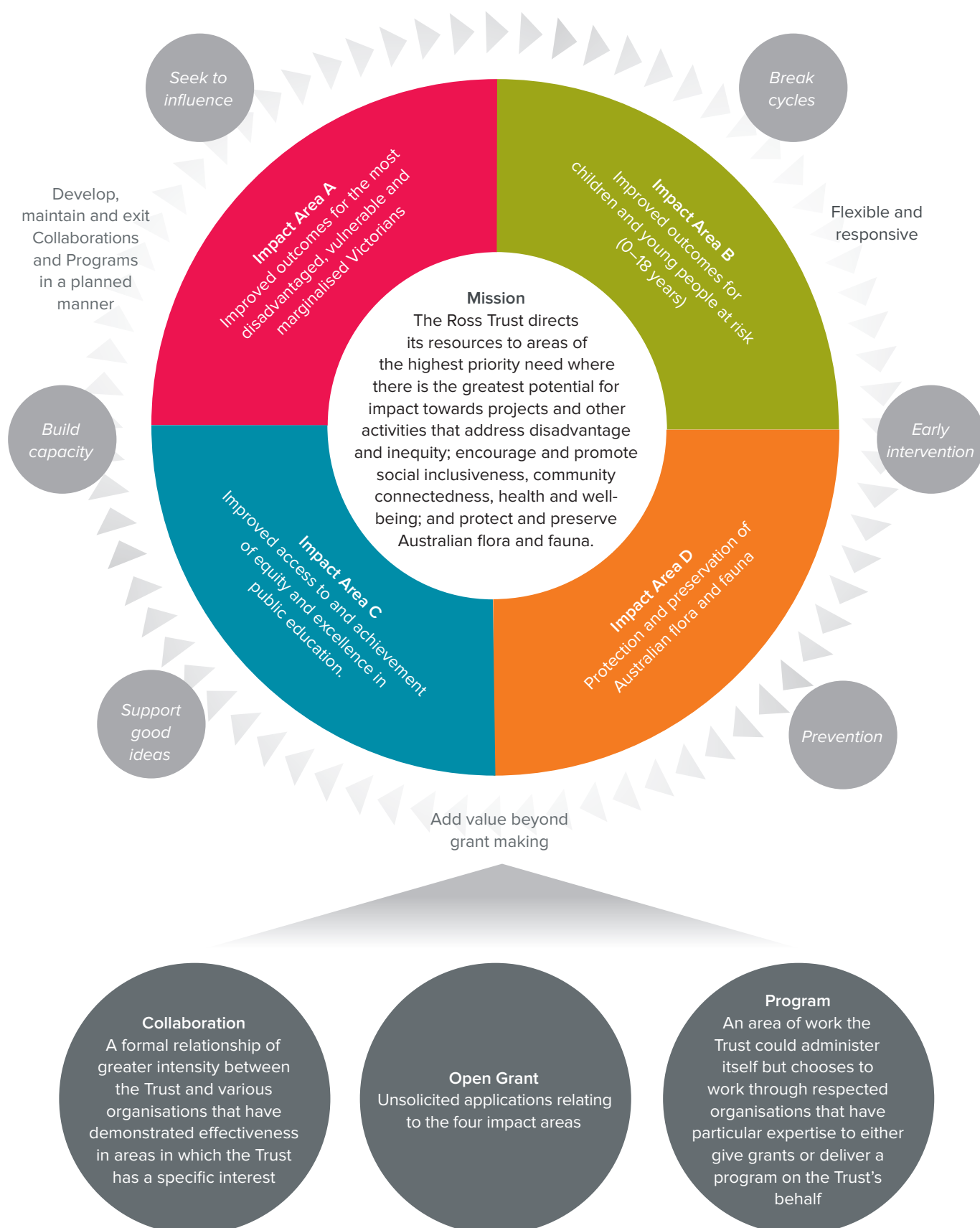
Distribution of funds across grant types in 2014–15



Distribution of funds across the four impact areas in 2014–15



Ross Trust Granting Strategy



Impact Area A : Vulnerable Victorians

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



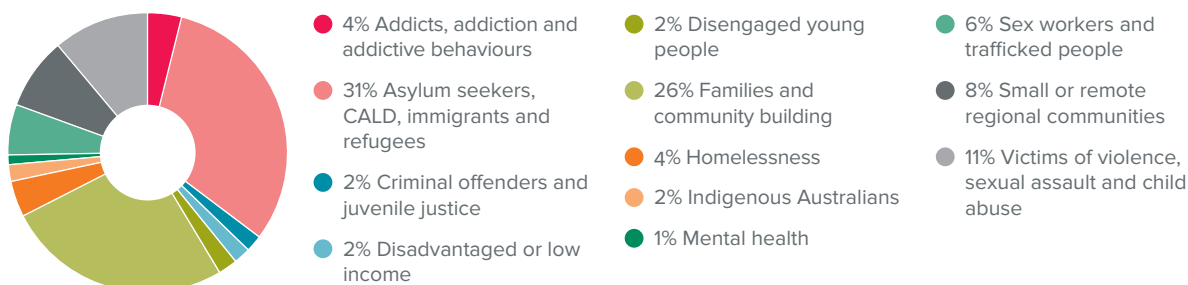
In 2014–15, the Trustees approved 42 grants totalling \$1,386,947 to organisations supporting those experiencing personal, social or financial disadvantage under A: Vulnerable Victorians.

Projects targeting asylum seekers, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, and immigrants/refugees received the most funding, followed by families and community building (see graph). Thirty three per cent of the grants were awarded to projects in regional areas, and 45 per cent to projects in urban areas, the remainder have statewide reach.

Priority was given to applications that:

- Provide early intervention
- Invest in long-term efforts to overcome disadvantage
- Seek to understand the causes and contributing factors to social and economic disadvantage
- Assist the population of small and regional communities.

Distribution of grants across priority population groups for A: Vulnerable Victorians



Location of grants



Grants approved by the Trust in 2014–15 under A: Vulnerable Victorians

Addicts, addiction and addictive behaviours

The First Step Program

\$61,131 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Employment of a Legal Case Manager

Total \$61,131

Asylum seekers, CALD, immigrants and refugees

Australian Multicultural Foundation

\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Sports Without Borders Heart of Carlton program

Big West Festival

\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Mobile Art Spaces workshops

Good Cycles

\$50,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Keeping the wheels in motion – capacity building

Living & Learning Inc

\$30,000

Employment of a Development Officer for Cardinia Migrant Resource Centre

Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services

\$38,675 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Learn to Drive program

McAuley Community Services for Women

\$7,770

Production of a guide to services for the Indian community of the western suburbs of Melbourne

North Melbourne Language and Learning

\$58,081 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Connecting Cultures project

Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre

\$80,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Employment of a Volunteer Coordinator

River Nile Learning Centre

\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Expanding the Asylum Seeker program

Shakti Migrant & Refugee Women's Support Group

\$10,000

Servicing Asian, African and Middle Eastern Women Survivors of Domestic Violence

SisterWorks

\$10,000

SisterWorks Coordinator project

Women's Health in the South East (WHISE)

\$20,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Connecting Women and Cultures program

Total \$434,526

Criminal offenders and juvenile justice

Friends of Castlemaine Library

\$8,800

Writer/reader in residence

Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company

\$20,000

Carer's program in the Barwon region

Total \$28,800

Disadvantaged or low income

Bereavement Assistance Funerals

\$10,000

Funeral software for more efficient management of operations

Endeavour Ministries

\$10,000

Growing Food, Growing Community

Port Phillip Housing Association

\$6,800

Rooming house residents Foodmate project

Social Security Rights Victoria

\$5,000

Server and IT upgrade

Total \$31,800

Disengaged young people

Bass Coast Community Foundation

\$10,000

Shining the light on our grant recipients

Brotherhood of St Laurence

\$22,000

Youth Transitions program

Total \$32,000

Families and community building

Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre

\$90,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Employment of a Coordinator

Victorian Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders VACRO

\$225,000 (over three years)

Supporting Kids & Youth (SKY)

Family Life

\$30,000

Collective Impact initiative in partnership with Cardinia Shire Council

Jika Jika Community Centre

\$10,000

Developing resources for volunteers of Jika Jika Community Centre

Multiple Birth Volunteer Support Foundation

\$6,660

Employment of consultant to design and construct an agency website

Total \$361,660

Homelessness

Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc
\$10,000

Bricks and mouse clicks: social media, a virtual home and the rooming house community

St Mary's House of Welcome

\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Employment of a Volunteer Coordinator

Uniting Care Ballarat

\$15,000

Meals for Homeless People Project – BreezeWay

Total \$55,000

Indigenous Australians

Circus Oz

\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Deadly Elders Circus

Total \$30,000

Mental Health

Saltbush Community Initiatives Inc

\$2,500

Mental Health First Aid training course

Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council

\$5,400

Supporting artists with schizophrenia to access the Schizy Week Program

Total \$7,900

Sex workers and trafficked people

St Kilda Gatehouse

\$90,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Employment of Therapeutic Support Worker to support young women's project

Total \$90,000

Small or remote regional communities

Manangatang P-12 College

\$9,000

College & Community Vegetable and Fruit Enterprise

Robinvale District Health Service

\$23,530

Continuation of Advancing Country Towns Program Manager position

Robinvale Network House

\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

'Nachos' program focusing on ethnic cooking

SecondBite

\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Redistribution of food on the Mornington Peninsula

Total \$107,530

Victims of violence, sexual assault and child abuse

African Australian Multicultural Employment and Youth Services

\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Salary costs of the family violence project

Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault Inc

\$48,540 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Sexual assault prevention program in Newcomb and Bellarine Secondary Colleges

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria

\$9,700

Safety for Women booklets

Safe Futures Foundation

\$10,000

Therapeutic group work with women and children who have experienced violence and abuse from close family members

Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment

\$18,360 (OVER TWO YEARS)

'No More Walking on Eggshells' program

Total \$146,600

Total granted in A: Vulnerable Victorians **\$1,386,947**

Foundation House

Supporting families from refugee backgrounds

\$50,000 (2013–14)

Parents and carers from refugee backgrounds often struggle to connect with their children's educational experience. This project sought ways to engage refugee parents and carers in their children's school life.

The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House) was established in 1987 to meet the needs of people in Victoria who were subjected to torture or other traumatic events in or while fleeing their country of origin.

This community engagement strategy was designed to help schools to better engage with and support families from refugee backgrounds.

The funding was used to establish and run an 18-month long pilot that involved setting up five parent advisory groups, in five schools drawn from Foundation House's Refugee Education Support Program. The groups were made up of people from Afghan, Karen, Chin, Assyrian/Chaldean and South Sudanese communities. They met with school leaders and principals monthly to discuss barriers to and ways of facilitating and improving parental involvement in children's learning.

A writer funded by the Trust's grant attended and documented each meeting. The results culminated in the publication of a background paper, *Educating Children from Refugee Backgrounds: A Partnership Between Schools and Parents* (VFST 2015) and subsequent resource, *Schools and Families in Partnership; A Desktop Guide to Engaging Families from Refugee Backgrounds in their Children's Learning* (VFST 2015). The guide was launched by Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, James Merlino in June 2015, and is being used in schools across Victoria to improve engagement with refugee students and their families.



Foundation House's CEO Paris Aristotle (far right) and the Deputy Premier and Victorian Minister for Education, the Hon James Merlino MP (front centre), along with key supporters of the Refugee Education Support Program at the launch in June 2015. Ahod Guargis is at the left in the middle row.

"My background in teaching in Iraq gives me insight into the challenges refugee families have when starting school in Australia. It's the simple things that are challenging at first – communication, where to get a uniform, where to get books," says Ahod Guargis who comes from Iraq and was an advisor to the Parent Advisory Group at Roxburgh College.

"The advisory group process was very inclusive. It gave parents and carers a chance to share their experience and have input into practical ways to make things easier. I'm starting to see the guide being put into practice now; it's a really valuable resource for schools."



Foundation House
The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc.

Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture
03 9388 0022
foundationhouse.org.au

Streets of Freedom (SOF)

Outreach to women in the sex industry

\$150,000 (2012–14)

SOF offers a framework of support for women who have been affected by sexual exploitation, violence, abuse, and modern day slavery. This grant enabled SOF to employ a full-time caseworker and funded some of the outreach support team's activities.

SOF was established in Melbourne in 2010 to help at risk women in the eastern region of Melbourne. It has expanded its reach to the southeast in the last year.

The organisation's operational framework, the 'Umbrella of Hope', aims to break through cultural, social and economic barriers, meeting the emotional, physical, spiritual and mental needs of each woman - one step at a time.

The caseworker provided one-on-one, intensive, high-level care for about 8–10 women a year. Casework includes individual assessment and the development and delivery of a support plan to meet each woman's needs.

The caseworker and outreach team also worked to establish relationships with brothel managers, increasing SOF's access to brothels. They visited 25 brothels on a regular basis over the grant period; building connections and increasing women's awareness of the ways SOF can support them.

SOF gifted food and care packages to more than 500 women, established a mentoring program for sex workers. It also set up a supportive cafe-style meet-up, Women at the Well, which is held in different suburbs on a monthly basis.

Executive Director Suzanne Ward says the grant was vital in helping SOF establish itself and enabling it to offer at-risk women comprehensive support.



SOF supports women who have been affected by sexual exploitation, violence, abuse, and modern day slavery.

"Every woman we've worked with one-on-one, has had a breakthrough in two or more of her main areas of focus; such as transitioning to new employment pathways, stable housing, family violence or residency status.

On their journey of restoration some of the women have gone on to pursue study, vocational training or alternative employment pathways."



Streets of Freedom
1300 651 189
streetsoffreedom.org.au

Women and Mentoring (WAM)

Women and Mentoring program

\$45,000 (2013–15)

Women charged with criminal offences are often stuck in cross-generational cycles of disadvantage and dysfunctional behaviour. WAM is an early intervention program that aims to help women get their lives back on track with support from a volunteer mentor.

WAM supports City of Yarra women who have been charged with a criminal offence by matching them with supportive volunteer female mentors. Established in Collingwood in 2009, the program can accommodate up to 15 adult women and their children. It operates separately from the police, the court, government and other community agencies.

Funding from the Trust was used to train and supervise 15 volunteer mentors who 'walk beside' their mentees in a practical way, role modelling functional behaviours. Mentors support mentees attending court and help them complete their court orders. They also support them in attending medical appointments; financial, alcohol and drug counselling; and child health and school visits. They provide encouragement and opportunity to talk through issues, refer to community service agencies as well as participate in leisure activities.

Outcomes of the project include positive social, economic and health impacts for disadvantaged women, their children and families, as well as reduced health, welfare, legal, and court costs, reduced recidivism, safer communities, and ongoing skill utilisation and learning for mentors.



A panel discussion during Law Week in May 2015, where experts discussed issues facing women caught up in the criminal justice system.

In 2013, six mentors were selected and trained with a total of 17 mentees matched and supervised. In 2014, four additional mentors were recruited and trained and nine new participants entered the program. The final year, 2015, has enabled two new mentors and two new mentees, with eight mentoring matches continuing from the previous year.

The funding has allowed WAM to transition from a pilot to an ongoing program, and WAM is now expanding its program into other areas of need.



Women and Mentoring
03 9417 2210
womenandmentoring.org.au

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Organisational sustainability and capacity

\$100,000 (2014–15) COLLABORATION

Since 2003, the Trust has granted \$1,320,000 to the Centre. The funds are used to support key positions and emergency material aid. In 2014–15, the Centre was able to grow its volunteer base, and launch the Innovation Hub.

The Centre has operated as an independent not-for-profit organisation since 2001. Its vision is to ensure all people who are seeking asylum have their human rights upheld, and receive the support and opportunities they need to live independently. The Centre delivers on its mission by protecting people seeking asylum from persecution and destitution, supporting wellbeing and dignity, and empowering asylum seekers to be self-determining members of society.

In January 2015, the Centre opened its onsite Innovation Hub. The Hub offers 13 holistic employment, education, social and community development, and social enterprise programs that seek to build pathways to empowerment for asylum seekers.

“The Hub is a step towards long-term vision of working beyond the charity/welfare model of basic service provision. It’s one of the boldest undertakings the ASRC has ever embarked upon,” says Gavin Ackerly, founder of the Innovation Hub.

“Gaining access to employment opportunities is a massive barrier for asylum seekers. Our members are often excluded from the local job market due to lack of networks, language barriers, a lack of locally-recognised qualifications, and so on. The Innovation Hub is a space where asylum seekers can gain this experience, not just in low-skilled work but in white collar roles.”



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



The late Malcolm Fraser, a key patron of the Centre, was honoured in the Journeys of Courage mural on the exterior wall at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Footscray in 2014–15.

Another key achievement for the year was the growth of the volunteer base from 800 to 1,172. This increase includes the recruitment of current members as ASRC volunteers. The Community Meals program now functions under the help of 20 member volunteers, while 80 per cent of the Innovation Hub’s reception team is made up of members.

“I volunteered at the ASRC with all of my heart to make an impact on our society, so that Australia may view us differently,” says one member of his decision to volunteer.

“When not granted work rights, the skills and talents of our members have often gone to waste. Our initiative to engage with this untapped resource via skilled volunteering opportunities benefits our members, the community and the overall utilisation of our human capital,” explains Mr Ackerly.

Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program

Various organisations

\$1,465,620 (2014–16) PROGRAM

The Trust's Emergency Relief and Material Aid (ER&MA) Program was established to assist charitable organisations to meet the immediate and basic needs of Victoria's most disadvantaged and vulnerable. 2014–15 marked the beginning of a new triennial funding cycle.

The program has two critical objectives:

1. To support a range of agencies providing ER&MA to people affected by poverty and adverse circumstances
2. To target particular geographic areas and population groups where Ross Trust funding is most needed and would have most impact.

Since 2001, the Trust has provided over \$6 million dollars to the program, and in 2014-15 a new triennial funding cycle began. A review at the end of the 2011–13 funding cycle prompted the following key changes:

1. Up to 10 per cent of the grant to an organisation may go towards its administration costs. It is believed that this will enable many ER&MA providers to provide better case work services that will reduce the need for ER&MA in the longer term.
2. A greater focus on funding ER&MA providers in rural and regional Victoria, in response to the review's conclusion that the level of disadvantage is greater there than in metropolitan Melbourne.



Back to School program provides \$50 vouchers to rural and regional students in need, to help purchase the basics for school, so they start the year on an equal footing.

Agencies participating in the program receive annual grants for three consecutive years. This three-year commitment is an important element of the program as it reduces the administrative load of recipient organisations. It also provides greater financial certainty, which enables it to forecast and commit to future programming and services.



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



Organisations funded in the 2015–17 ER&MA Program:

Anglicare Servicing Fitzroy, St Albans, Craigieburn, Sydenham and Preston	\$33,000
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Servicing asylum seekers in inner metropolitan Melbourne	\$20,000
Brotherhood of St Laurence Providing education packs to 65 agencies Victoria statewide	\$27,000
Council of Single Mothers and their Children Servicing women and children Victoria statewide	\$37,000
Community Support Frankston Servicing Greater Frankston	\$15,000
Cranbourne Information & Support Centre Servicing City of Casey	\$27,000
Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Servicing Dandenong Ranges	\$10,000
Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal: back to school packs Servicing La Trobe Valley, Grampians, East Gippsland, Colac Otway, West Wimmera, Glenelg, Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie, Murrindindi	\$45,540
Launch Housing Ltd (previously Hanover Welfare Services) Servicing homeless people in inner Melbourne	\$40,000
Loddon Mallee Accommodation Network Servicing 20 agencies in the Loddon Mallee region	\$40,000
MacKillop Family Services Servicing Melton and Wyndham	\$33,000
Mornington Community Information and Support Centre Servicing Mornington, Mt Eliza, Mt Martha and Moorooduc	\$30,000
Orbost Neighbourhood House Servicing East Gippsland, Wellington	\$10,000
St Mark's Community Centre Servicing City of Yarra	\$13,000
Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Servicing Safety Beach, Red Hill, Shoreham through to Portsea	\$30,000
The Queen's Fund Servicing women Victoria statewide	\$28,000
Western Port Community Support Centre Servicing primarily Hastings, Crib Point, Somerville	\$30,000
Whittlesea Community Connections Servicing Whittlesea	\$20,000
Total Emergency Relief and Material Aid (per year x three years)	\$488,540

Impact Area B: Children at Risk

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



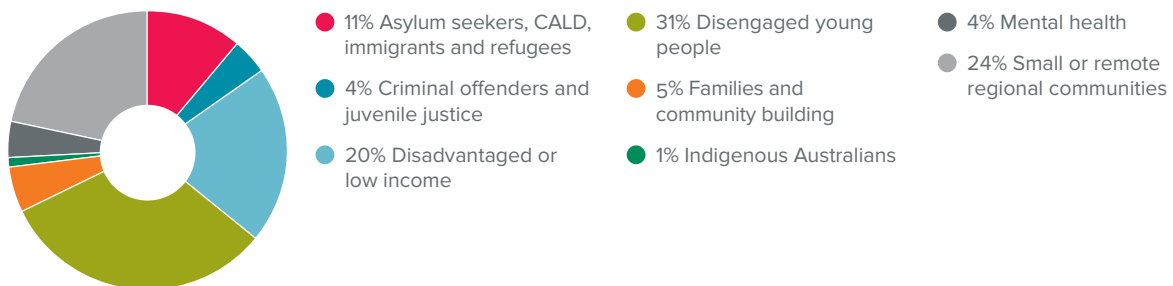
In 2014–15, the Trustees approved 32 grants totalling \$1,540,510 to selected programs working with children, young people and their families who are vulnerable under B: Children at Risk.

Projects supporting young people disengaged from education, employment or further training received the most funding, followed by projects in small or remote regional communities. Fifty-nine per cent of the grants were awarded to projects in regional areas, and 28 per cent to projects in urban areas, the remainder have statewide reach.

In this area, the Trust prioritises applications that address:

- 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.

Distribution of grants across priority population groups for B: Children at Risk



Location of grants



Grants approved by the Trust in 2014–15 under B: Children at Risk

Asylum seekers, CALD, immigrants and refugees

Australian Red Cross

\$55,297 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Connect, Listen, Learn, Share - Life skills Podcasts for Young Asylum Seekers

L2R Next Gen Inc

\$9,880

Towards L2R 2015 - Build, Strengthen, Sustain

Bridgingworx

\$84,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Emerge Youth Justice Program

Jesuit Social Services

\$10,000

Fitzroy Soccer Lions Program

Operation Stitches

\$15,000

Say "No to Drugs, Violence and Crime"

Total \$174,177

Criminal offenders and juvenile justice

Western Community Legal Centre

\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

YouthLaw services to young people at the Grange, Hoppers Crossing

Youthlaw

\$15,000

Smart Justice for Young People

Total \$55,000

Disadvantaged or low income

East Grampians Health Service

\$30,000

Happy Mouths Happy Kids Goes Bush Program

Anglicare Victoria

\$30,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Western Victoria Winners Initiative

Bairnsdale & East Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House

\$86,325 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Coordinator to run the After School Program

Playgroup Victoria

\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Connecting Schools and Community Playgroup Project

Sale Combined Kindergardens Inc

\$12,500 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Pre-school Literacy Project

Springvale Rise Primary School

\$5,000

Heights Campus Playgroup

Stawell Neighbourhood House Inc

\$20,360

Masks, Manga & Mash School Holiday Program

Brimbank/Melton Local Learning and

Employment Network

\$23,000

Melton Festival for Healthy Living 2015

Eastbourne Primary School

\$60,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

3a Rosebud West Children's Project

Total \$312,185

Disengaged young people

Ballarat Secondary College

\$51,900 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Wilderness Adventure Therapy program

Beacon Foundation

\$12,500

Continuation of Engaging Youth at Risk - Beacon Program Expansion

bestchance Child Family Care

\$76,964 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Parent Counsellor

Lancefield Neighbourhood House Inc

\$3,000

Field Trip Program

Phunktional

\$120,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Stories from Beneath the Vale

Red Cliffs Secondary College

\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Re-engagement through Flexible Learning Options

South Port Uniting Care

\$22,144 (OVER TWO YEARS)

BOLT - Bicycles over Lunchtime

The Link Centre Ltd

\$50,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

General operations of The Link Centre

The Smith Family

\$80,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Lakes Entrance Schools and Community Hub

Total \$476,508

Families and community building

Bendigo Family & Financial Services Inc

\$84,110 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Young Mum's Support Program

Total \$84,110

Indigenous Australians

Koorie Youth Council

\$10,000

Koorie Youth Summit 2015

Total \$10,000

Mental Health

Peninsula Mindfulness Association

\$28,530

Mindfulness in Schools project

Sports Challenge Australia

\$20,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Improved Mental & Physical Health in Children in Geelong

ACT on it Mindfulness for Teenagers

\$10,000

Developing, testing and launching a free application for iOS and Android devices

Total \$58,530

Small or remote regional communities

Robinvale District Health Service

\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Robinvale Playgroups

Tomorrow:Today Foundation

\$330,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Education Benalla Program

Total \$370,000

Total granted in B: Children at Risk
\$1,540,510



Carlton Primary School

Building Resilience Program

\$30,000 (2013–15)

Many refugee children at Carlton Primary have first hand or generational experience of trauma, which impacts their family dynamic and their ability to settle and achieve at school. The Building Resilience program fosters positive behavioural change for the children.

Opened in 1973, Carlton Primary is a community-focused, multicultural school. The majority of children at Carlton Primary are from a refugee background.

In 2013, the Trust awarded the school a two-year open grant to develop and run a program to assist refugee children whose experiences of trauma triggered behavioural and educational issues at school and home.

The grant is enabling the school to increase the position of the school's Wellbeing Coordinator, Ellie Bradbeer, to full-time. Ellie facilitates promotion of positive behaviours throughout the school, which includes twice a term in-house professional development for all teachers and seven hours of weekly classroom work with students. This work encourages children to think about their own learning and behavioural choices and looks at a variety of complex issues they encounter, in one-on-one sessions. One project focuses on addressing the anti-Muslim sentiment that exists in the media and public opinion.

Ellie says the funding is enabling the school to deliver a deeper, more rigorous, targeted wellbeing program, which has made a significant difference to students, teachers and the wider school community.

"The program has seen a major improvement in school wide positive behaviour. It has taught students self-awareness that will help them in the classroom, at home, and throughout their lives. In particular, we



Children playing in the grounds of Carlton Primary School.

have noticed a much greater capacity for children to solve problems independently, to raise concerns respectfully and to engage in their work with greater curiosity and capacity."

The grant is also supporting the production of a video showing the change in students' understanding of what it means to be 'a learner' over the course of a year. The school plans to continue to deliver this program.



Carlton Primary School
03 9347 6022
carltonprimaryschool.vic.edu.au

King Valley Children's Services

Whitfield Community Childcare Centre

\$22,500 (2013–15)

All communities benefit from ongoing access to childcare, which can sometimes be hard to find in regional areas. This grant contributes to the operation of the Whitfield Community Childcare Centre, which services families in and around the town of Whitfield in north-eastern Victoria.

The Whitfield Community Childcare Centre is an occasional care service operated by King Valley Children's Services. It operates during school term time, and has 15 places available for children aged 0–6 for one day a week.

The centre focuses on providing social contact and learning opportunities for children in its care. For many rurally located children, it is the only peer group activity they participate in, and contributes significantly to their social and educational development.

Children participate in a range of early development activities. Visiting performers share skills and give demonstrations, local police build positive relations with children and families and increase children's traffic safety awareness, and music sessions provide exposure to language and physical movement. The children also grow vegetables, cook and contribute to the local flower show.

Financial support from the Trust is enabling the organisation to plan for the future of its childcare service, to strengthen its fundraising base, and to refine its longer-term strategic plan.

Whitfield Community Childcare Centre Director, Lindy Roberts, says the grant is helping to maintain positive working conditions at the centre, which makes it easier to recruit excellent staff.

"Our assistant in 2014 had a strong history in Indigenous education, so she introduced the children to Aboriginal language, concepts and artefacts, which they really enjoyed."

Parents and carers benefit from the service too. They can use the weekly day of care to pursue activities like paid employment, farm work, self-employment, personal care, or household commitments. Thus the service contributes to family and community wellbeing, the economy, and tourism in the area. It also provides parents with useful feedback on their children's development.



King Valley Children's Services
0427 298 387
whitfieldchildcare@gmail.com

Mallee Family Care

Total Learning Centre – Indigenous Engagement Officer

\$40,000 (2012–14)

Playgroups are beneficial for children’s early development. They can also be a powerful mechanism for community building. This project enabled more Indigenous families to engage with playgroups in and around Mildura.

The Total Learning Centre (TLC) operates under the umbrella of Mallee Family Care and delivers a wide range of early education programs and children’s playgroups to communities in the Mallee area.

The Trust’s grant supported the salary of an Indigenous Engagement Worker, Darlene Sanders, to engage Indigenous families in early years education through playgroups.

Families who attend these playgroups have often experienced domestic violence, mental health issues and disengagement from their communities. Engaging with playgroups, and accessing additional support offered by Darlene, resulted in positive changes for many at risk families.

Lack of access to transport prevents many families from attending playgroups. Thirty-nine per cent of families attending playgroups in the last two years accessed transport assistance and more than half of these were Indigenous families.

Trust funding also enabled Darlene to assist Indigenous families with transportation to playgroup, enrolment of children at school and in kindergarten, and referral to a range of services.

From 2012–14 the number of Indigenous families attending playgroups increased from 10 to 26. The number of parents and grandparents engaged rose from 10 to 27, and the number of children attending increased from 12 to 30.



The team at the Total Learning Centre in Mallee, with some of their charges. Indigenous Engagement Worker Darlene Sanders is at the front left.

TLC General Manager, Chris Forbes, says a holistic approach is critical to the program’s success.

“Connection to community is what builds resilience in families. The funding we received has been so helpful in achieving engagement with the community – the proof is in the increased numbers of attendees.”



Mallee Family Care
03 5023 5966
malleefamilycare.com.au

Hands On Learning Australia (HOLA)

Expanding the HOLA method in Victoria

\$300,000 (2012–15) COLLABORATION

The Trust has been supporting the general organisational capacity of HOLA to prevent early school leaving by better equipping Victorian secondary schools to support their ‘at risk’ students since 2012. In 2014–15, HOLA continued to grow the number of partner schools, and pioneered the development of a new tool to better measure what works to keep kids engaged at school.

HOLA works to prevent early school leaving by creating opportunities at school for vulnerable young people to be more engaged, to discover their talents and to experience success. It is a targeted in-school intervention where two artisan-teachers work collaboratively with small groups of cross-age students. The students form strong, long-term relationships by engaging in significant creative building projects around the school and local community.

HOLA is made up of four fundamental elements that build a platform for young people to grow confidence, engage and achieve at school:

1. **A place to belong:** a physical sanctuary at school
2. **People to belong to:** small teams working together, sharing meals and building strong relationships
3. **Real things to do:** engaging in creative and meaningful projects
4. **Giving back:** making valuable contributions to their community, building self-esteem and connection

In 2014–15, the Trust’s funding is helping HOL to exceed its target of partnering with 50 schools by the end of 2015. By mid 2015, there were 48 schools actively implementing the HOL method and a further ten schools committed to commencing the program by the end of the year. This gives the partner schools the capacity to support up to 1,250 at risk students each year.



Creating a safe and supportive environment for vulnerable students at McClelland Secondary College, Frankston.

HOLA also continues to play a significant role as a founding partner in a national research project to develop a new tool to measure what works to keep young people engaged at school. Titled ‘Building Futures for Young Australians’, the project is being led by the University of Melbourne. It pioneers the concept of enabling spaces, and a Connections, Capacities and Meanings (CCM) framework to measure what works to keep vulnerable kids at school. The study’s data reinforces HOL’s success in fostering self-esteem, promoting engagement and helping low performing or disadvantaged students to develop social and emotional skills.

“This year’s growth has been phenomenal and it is immensely satisfying to see Hands on Learning adopted by an increasing range of schools, from tiny remote colleges to big metropolitan schools,” says HOL’s founder, Russell Kerr.



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

Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (VACRO)

Supporting Kids and Young people (SKY) program

\$225,000 (2015–17) COLLABORATION

Since 2008, the Trust has granted \$1,125,000 to enable VACRO's SKY program, which supports children and young people with a parent or family member in the criminal justice system. In 2014–15, SKY continued its service provision throughout metropolitan Melbourne, delivered several new initiatives, and received two awards.

VACRO has worked to support people in the criminal justice system and their families in Victoria since 1872.

The Trust's funding enables VACRO to employ SKY's counsellor, Romy Same, who works with children and families throughout metropolitan Melbourne. It also funds activities like providing training on working with children of offenders through the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare.

"We provide wrap-around support to children and families of offenders at any stage of their contact with the criminal justice system: during arrest, court process or incarceration, or on a family member's release from prison and reintegration into the community," explains Same.

Since the Trust first funded the program, more than 260 families have benefited from SKY's intensive, flexible face-to-face support. Even more have received support over the phone or through their community's skill development. SKY 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.



SKY's counsellor Romy Same accepting the Robin Clark Memorial Award, with the Hon Mary Wooldridge, Shadow Minister for Health (left) and Nicole Fairchild from VACRO (right).

In September 2014, VACRO's SKY program won the 'Making a Difference with Children, Young People and Families' category in the Robin Clark Memorial Awards, which recognise service provision and leadership of the highest standard that improves the lives of vulnerable children, young people and families in Victoria. The SKY program also received one of three Victorian National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect 'Play Your Part' awards, which recognises inspiring prevention initiatives.

VACRO is working towards extending the SKY program to regional areas through funding from the development of social enterprises.

Painting to communicate - SKY at work

A case study written by Romy Same

Seven-year-old Casey grew up in a violent home and struggled to put into words what was happening, including the fact that her mum was in prison. She said that no one except her dog knew about her feelings, which she kept deep inside herself.

After a number of attempts at encouraging Casey to speak about the things she found unspeakable, she has now found a different way to express herself. In one of her counselling sessions she was given a cardboard mask to paint. On the outside she painted the girl who the world knows – the one her family, friends and teachers see. On the inside she painted what is deep inside her. At that point, she wasn't ready for words, but now Casey has started the process of expressing herself in a way that is comfortable for her.

What we have found at VACRO, particularly through the SKY program, is that with early intervention, and specifically targeted therapeutic work, potentially negative outcomes can be alleviated and the children whose parents offend can come to terms with their parent's imprisonment. They can do this by developing positive relationships with others including their school, their friends and relatives.

That's what makes us so passionate about the work we do and the unique position we are in to meet these children where they are placed emotionally, without judgement and with skills and experience.

The counselling literature tells us that feeling understood is the most significant factor in a client's satisfaction with therapy sessions. The values of supporting children and families are embedded in an organisation and encourage a holistic view of an individual's journey through the criminal justice system. This approach allows our work to be well informed, incorporating the person's family, their community and the broader society. It also means that VACRO can be present to understand the complexities, yet not lose sight of the human being sitting in the room and the strengths they bring to the interaction.

There is great hope and opportunity in being able to work with children and young people in their formative years, in helping them to see their own potential and the power of the choices they make.

We know that by equipping children and families with these resources, they do make positive choices for themselves.

Casey is not her real name. This story was published in Good practice: a state-wide snapshot 2015 published by the Department of Health and Human Services, State of Victoria.



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

Impact Area C : Education, Arts and Culture

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



In 2014–15, the Trustees approved eight grants totalling \$842,250 under C: Education, Arts & Culture. Projects supporting overseas students received the most funding (this relates specifically to the Ross Trust Regional Child Health Fellowship), followed equally by projects supporting Indigenous people, and projects for the general population.

The Trust seeks to promote, sustain and increase access to, equitable and quality individual and collective knowledge in Victoria through its granting in this impact area.

It considered applications from a range of organisations, including education and tertiary institutions; public institutions (museums, galleries, libraries and archives); community organisations, and; information media, such as the internet, community radio, television and information centres.

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 regional communities and future generations.



Location of grants



Grants approved by the Trust in 2014–15 under C: Education, Arts and Culture

Koorie Heritage Trust Inc

\$90,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

New Technology for a New Era: website and database upgrade

Ilbjerri Theatre Company

\$150,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Building organisational capacity

Melbourne Writers Festival

\$26,400 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Melbourne Writers Festival Schools Program

Community Music Victoria

\$25,550 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Victoria Makes Music 2: the Street Band Project

fortyfivedownstairs

\$16,000

2015 Flashpoint series

State Library of Victoria

\$150,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Development and delivery of state wide skills training for public librarians

Centre for International Child Health

\$354,300 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Ross Trust Regional Child Health Fellowship

Wedderburn Community House

\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Click Go the Shears course

Total granted in C: Education,
Arts and Culture **\$842,250**



Koorie Heritage Trust

New technology for a new era: website and database upgrade

\$90,000 (2014–17)

The Koorie Heritage Trust promotes awareness and appreciation of the diversity of Koorie culture. This grant is enabling the organisation to upgrade its old website and build a powerful new database, improving its ability to deliver services.



The Koorie Heritage Trust relocated to Federation Square in 2015.

The Koorie Heritage Trust is an Indigenous-owned and managed not-for-profit that has grown from a small community organisation into a significant cultural icon. In 2015 it turned 30 and relocated to new premises at Federation Square.

It works towards the broader goal of reconciliation for all Australians. It also cares for the only public collection in Victoria dedicated solely to Koorie art and culture. The collection contains more than 100,000 items including; artefacts, artworks, stone tools, photographs, library items and oral history recordings.

This grant is for the development and implementation of a powerful new database that is compatible with the existing website. It will vastly improve the organisation's ability to manage its diverse operations.



Koorie Heritage Trust
03 8662 6300
korieheritagetrust.com



The Koorie Heritage Trust cares for the only public collection in Victoria dedicated solely to Koorie art and culture.

Tom Mosby, CEO, says the database will facilitate more effective, dependable and secure day-to-day operations at the Koorie Heritage Trust, and deliver better outcomes for audiences accessing the organisation's wealth of cultural material.

"The new website and database will give us the opportunity for much greater, more meaningful engagement with our Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders."

Phase one of the project has been completed, with the enormous task of all the Trust's data being entered into the new database. The Koorie Heritage Trust now employs a full-time administrator to check that all records are accurate and up-to-date. Phase two of the project, implementing the point of sale system, is planned to coincide with the launch of the new website in late 2015.

Malthouse Theatre

Customer relationship management project

\$5,000 (2014)

This grant enabled Melbourne's Malthouse Theatre to upgrade their Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, with the aim of improving communication with stakeholders and increasing box office revenue.



The Malthouse Theatre produces and presents contemporary Australian theatre.

The Malthouse Theatre is a not-for-profit organisation that produces and presents contemporary Australian theatre. Their mission is to provide opportunities for the best and most promising theatre artists, and to develop diverse intergenerational audiences.

Trust funding supported the installation of specialist CRM software, which effectively integrates Malthouse's ticketing, marketing, fundraising and educational capabilities. Its centralised platform for streamlined sales, reporting and marketing has created efficiencies, and enabled staff to optimise stakeholder and patron interactions.

Now that the organisation has accurate and accessible information about current subscribers and donors, it can work on strengthening stakeholder relationships with and increasing box office revenue.

The Malthouse's current income comprises approximately a third each from ticket sales, fundraising and government. As government grants become less reliable, the Malthouse hopes the CRM system will help them replace this lost income with increased fundraising.



The new CRM system has helped to increase ticket sales at the iconic Malthouse.

Development Manager, Jayne Lovelock, says all available funding normally goes to the development and staging of new work. Because of this, the organisation finds it difficult to prioritise things like necessary system upgrades, no matter how critical they are.

"We didn't want to miss this rare opportunity to access funding specifically earmarked for capacity building. The new CRM system enables us to liaise with artists, audiences and donors in a more sophisticated way, opening up new opportunities for engagement and ensuring that we are making theatre that responds to our community."

Since its implementation in 2014, the CRM system has improved gift voucher functionality, allowed for simpler e-marketing campaign distribution, and resulted in an increased number of donations alongside subscription sales.

**MALTHOUSE
THEATRE**

Malthouse Theatre
03 9685 5111
malthousetheatre.com.au

The Melbourne Athenaeum

These Walls Speak Volumes

\$30,000 (2014)

This project enabled the Melbourne Athenaeum to revise, expand and re-publish a sold out reference book documenting the early history of the Mechanics' Institutes and Free Libraries in Victoria.

During the first 100 years of settlement in Victoria, nearly one thousand Mechanics' Institutes and Free Libraries were established to dispense adult education and provide library services and invaluable early infrastructure.

The Melbourne Athenaeum was established in 1839, and was the first Mechanics' Institute in Victoria.

The Trust provided funding towards a second edition of *These Walls Speak Volumes: A history of Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria* by Pam Baragwanath and Ken James, which was first published in 2000.

These Walls Speak Volumes is a valuable reference book for historians, researchers, community groups, local government, libraries and heritage workers.

It includes information on all Victorian Institutes. The addition of 550 new entries to the first edition's existing 400 entries makes the book the most comprehensive survey of Victoria's historic community buildings. Five hundred copies were printed, and the book was officially launched alongside the 175th birthday celebrations of The Melbourne Athenaeum in November 2015.

Community historian and joint author, Pam Baragwanath, says the book offers many rich, social and educational accounts of early enterprise. She says the surviving buildings hold social value as a physical reminder of generations of memories, rites of passage and nostalgia.

"This book enables the Mechanics' Institute legacy to live on, as a timely altruistic reminder in a rapidly changing world. It is a far more comprehensive and complete history than the first edition."



The Melbourne Athenaeum, on Collins St, Melbourne.



The Melbourne Athenaeum
03 9650 1500
melbourneathenaeum.org.au

Centre for International Child Health

R E Ross Trust Regional Fellowship

\$354,300 (2015–17) PROGRAM

The Centre for International Child Health is based at the University of Melbourne and the Royal Children's Hospital. Since 2005, the Trust has worked with the Centre to run a Regional Fellowship program for doctors and nurses working in child health in Papua New Guinea.



The PNG Paediatric Society in Port Moresby, September 2015, where trainees presented their research projects and the revised 2015–2020 Child Health Plan was launched.

The Program aims to develop much needed leadership skills in child health in Papua New Guinea (PNG), our nearest neighbouring country. In PNG, almost 60 out of every 1000 children will die from preventable diseases like pneumonia, malnutrition, diarrhoea, and tuberculosis before reaching school age, compared with four out of every 1000 in Australia.

As in other parts of the Pacific, many more children do not reach their development potential because of illness and under-nutrition caused by a number of intersecting factors, including poor education, poverty and unsafe environments. In 2008 the Trust's Program was extended to the Solomon Islands, a close neighbour with similar child health problems.

In 2014–15 the Program is continuing its focus on paediatric training of health workers in several provinces in PNG, and on training junior paediatricians in Port Moresby. The Fellowship is supporting research into the common causes of child illness and death, child protection and care of newborn babies.



Trainees from all over PNG came together for annual revision week at Port Moresby General Hospital in November 2014.

The Program is also helping to train 17 doctors in paediatrics in 2014–15. Three graduated in November 2014 and are working in Vanimo, Port Moresby and Honiara. A further three are completing training in 2015, and 11 are in earlier stages of training. Their research topics include:

- The evaluation in children of a new test to diagnose tuberculosis
- Evaluation of a program for prevention of HIV transmission from parents to children
- Understanding the burden of child sexual abuse in Goroka
- Ear infections in children in Port Moresby
- What health workers understand about infant feeding
- Improving the management of children with severe malnutrition.

“These are everyday problems faced by health workers in PNG. Doing good quality research on these topics teaches trainees about the context and complexity of the problems. It teaches them broadly about research, and fosters critical thinking. Some projects, like the study on child sexual abuse, address topics that are rarely discussed, but demonstrating the scale of the problem helps bring them into the open,” says Trevor Duke, Professor of International Child Health at the University of Melbourne, who leads the Program.

Two major publications were released during the year: the 2014 Annual Report on Child Morbidity and Mortality, and an updated edition of the Papua New Guinea Child Health Policy and Plan 2009–2020. These publications were supported by the Fellowship.

Funds from the Trust assist PNG’s National Department of Health to gather vital information on diseases and outcomes for children. In 2014–15, the Paediatric Hospital Reporting system gathered data from up to 16 hospitals, and these are included in the annual reports on Child Morbidity and Mortality.

“The data and reporting is helping to develop good policy and effective action at national and provincial levels. Actions include training, a program to improve neonatal care, a project to improve management of severe malnutrition, and initiatives to lower deaths from severe pneumonia,” says Professor Duke.

The PNG National Plan for Child Health was updated this year to take PNG beyond the Millennium Development Goals, he continues.

“In revising the plan, it was striking to note that most of the activities proposed in the plan’s first five years had been done. This, along with falling child mortality rates in PNG, gives us and the teams in the provinces huge encouragement that the effort is worth it.”



Dr Tina Yarong, paediatric registrar from Madang, examines Gladys, a young girl with tuberculosis, during training at Port Moresby General Hospital in November 2014.



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

Impact Area D: **Australian Flora and Fauna**

Protection and preservation
of Australian flora and fauna



In 2014–15 the Trustees approved six grants totalling \$268,700 under D: Australian Flora and Fauna. The projects supported include a community research project, a conservation and reintroduction project, and the development of a website and e-newsletter. Fifty-five per cent of grants made in this impact area were regional and 45 per cent had statewide reach.

Roy Everard Ross was a keen bushman with a strong interest in and extensive knowledge of native plants, trees and birds. The Trust prioritises applications that demonstrate conservation value and provide scientific biological or botanical evidence to support Mr Ross' wishes for the Trustees to consider the protection and preservation of Australian flora and fauna in their grant-making decisions.

A Partnership with the Norman Wettenhall Foundation also comes under this impact area. Since 2008, the Trust has partnered with the Foundation to distribute more than \$350,000 in environmental grants to small Victorian communities. In 2014–15, the Foundation distributed \$42,545 on behalf of the Trust.

Grants approved by the Trust in 2014–15 under D: Australian Flora and Fauna

Bush Heritage Australia

\$20,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Securing Orchids for the Future: Orchid conservation and re-introduction in the Kara Kara – Wedderburn landscape

Bush Heritage Australia

\$35,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Breaking through habitat isolation: securing the Wychitella Block

Kara Kara Conservation Management Network

\$3,570

Development of a website and e-newsletter

Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group

\$25,590 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Threatened bats of the upper Moorabool River catchment region

Norman Wettenhall Foundation (The)

\$165,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

The continuation of the 'Small Environmental Grants Scheme'

Wombat Forestcare Inc

\$19,540 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Wombat Forest Community Research Project

Total granted in D: Australian Flora and Fauna **\$268,700**

Location of grants



Museum Victoria

Catching the Eye

\$60,000 (2013–14)

Catching the Eye: Engaging the public through quality wildlife imagery was an extensive image capture project of Victoria's wildlife successfully carried out by Museum Victoria.



Photographer David Paul and DELWP biologist Tony Mitchell working on the collection. Image by Keith Lancaster.

The project aimed to raise the profile and knowledge of Victoria's rich wildlife and their conservation needs by enabling unrestricted, easy access to hundreds of high quality images of Australian wildlife.

The Trust's grant enabled Museum Victoria, which cares for Victoria's scientific and cultural collections, to employ a specialist wildlife photographer to photograph live animals and museum specimens over two years. David Paul captured more than 20,000 images that were developed and edited down to a catalogue of hundreds of high quality images.

David also created a web-interface for people to easily access and download free wildlife imagery. He is currently developing another online image gallery that will enable a wide range of users to search and access images, species names, conservation status, and biological and locality information.



An image of a Jewel Beetle (*Castiarina*) from the collection.

Dr Mark Norman, Head of Sciences at Museum Victoria, says the images have already been shared with Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and by conservation, education and special interest groups.

"The project has had a huge public benefit. The images are already being used in public talks, publications, and in digital products, including a free wildlife field guide app."

An unexpected benefit of this project was David's ability to capture images of introduced pests. These images were immediately used in campaigns to identify and eradicate pests to prevent significant impacts of native wildlife.



Museum Victoria
13 11 02
museumvictoria.com.au

Trust for Nature

Purchase and restoration of Long Swamp in the Moolort Plains wetlands

\$15,000 (2013–15)

In Victoria, two thirds of land is privately owned and many native species and their habitats are not protected. Trust funding enabled Trust for Nature to purchase a large tract of high conservation value farmland, to restore it to its original deep freshwater marsh state.



Long Swamp during a temporary inundation in 2011. Image by Geoff Park.



A site visit to Long Swamp in October 2015.

Trust for Nature is a not-for-profit organisation that works to protect native plants and wildlife in cooperation with private landowners. Established in 1972, it has evolved into one of Victoria's primary land conservation organisations, dedicated to helping people protect biodiversity on private land.

Long Swamp is a 200-ha deep freshwater marsh in the Moolort Plains wetlands in central Victoria. Forty hectares was already owned by Trust for Nature and managed for conservation. When the opportunity to purchase 142 of the remaining 160-ha arose, the Trust approved a grant.

Trust for Nature used the Ross Trust's early support as leverage to secure other funding, including a major donation of \$200,000. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), has also agreed to fund future restoration and land management costs.

"We're confident that the wetland flora and fauna will respond well to restoration," says Trust for Nature's Development Manager, Vanessa Meachen.

"This will increase the habitat for threatened species, including growling grass frog and brolga. It will also enable wildlife to move between other habitat patches, increasing ecological and population resilience.

Surveying is complete and subdivision plans are going through council. It has had preliminary discussions with local and Melbourne-based ecologists, Catchment Management Authorities and other interested parties, to establish a committee to manage the ongoing restoration of the property.



Trust for Nature
1800 99 99 33
trustfornature.org.au

Norman Wettenhall Foundation

Small Environmental Grant Scheme

\$165,000 (2014–16) PROGRAM

Since 2008, the Trust has partnered with the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to distribute \$355,000 in environmental grants to small Victorian communities. In 2014–15, the Foundation distributed six such grants, with a total value of \$42,545.

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

The partnership enables the Trust to draw on the Foundation's knowledge, expertise and networks to receive and research applications on its behalf. In turn, the partnership increases the capacity and reach of the Foundation's existing environmental grants programs.

The Foundation selects projects that are innovative; that serve as models for future projects; that demonstrate collaboration with other groups – particularly community groups; that disseminate project outcomes broadly, and; that result in long-term improvement of the natural environment.

2014–15 marks the seventh year of the program. During this year six grants were awarded, two of which are detailed on the following page:

Australian Network for Plant Conservation Bring Back the Banksias – Stage 1	\$4,900
Euroa Arboretum The Box-Ironbark Ecology Course	\$9,720
Jocelyn Lindner Flora and Fauna of the Victorian and South Australian Mallee	\$5,000
Mount Rothwell Interpretation Centre Genetic infusion for three threatened mammal species	\$8,000
Panyyabyr Landcare Group Finding Nature	\$9,925
RMIT Quantifying the contribution of environmental education – pilot project	\$5,000





Eastern quolls at the Mount Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre.

Mount Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre Genetic infusion for three threatened mammal species

The Mount Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre breeds threatened native species for release. They manage Victoria's largest predator-free property on 453 hectares.

This particular project aimed to improve and enhance the genetic diversity of three threatened marsupials – the eastern barred bandicoot, brush-tailed rock-wallaby and mainland eastern quoll – to maximise their survival potential for reintroduction into the natural environment. The project utilised gene pool mixing in order to infuse and improve genetic variation of the three species. This was carried out in two phases over three years, and results monitored and evaluated on the Centre's property before the animals were released.



Panyyabyr Landcare group volunteers are shown how to set up a sound recorder to gather information on frogs for the Finding Nature project.

Panyyabyr Landcare Group Finding Nature

This project aimed to investigate species richness and diversity in the current farming landscape in western Victoria, and to identify methods to support nature and agriculture to successfully co-exist. The group conducted thorough biodiversity surveys for native plant and animal species in the region, and identified the critical factors that have enabled native species to survive in an altered environment. The project also focused on raising awareness, community pride, and willingness to improve and extend natural habitats and species within the farming environment.



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

Place-based grants

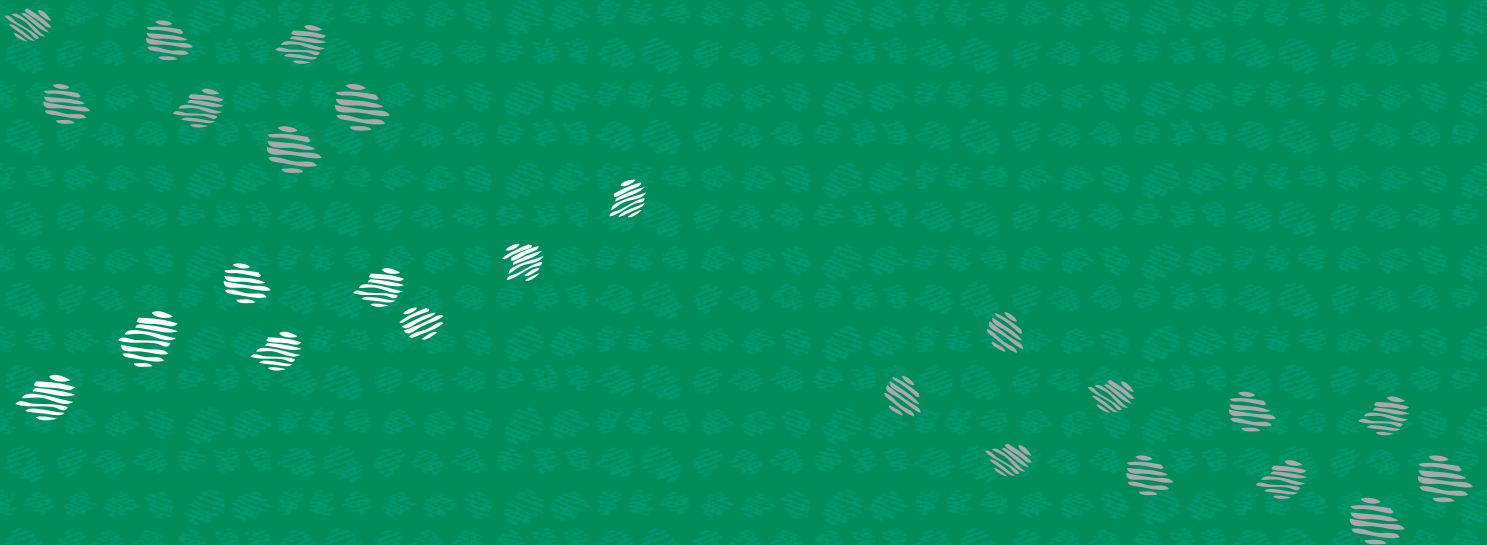
Since 2002 the Ross Trust has adopted a place-based approach to granting. It funds projects in three specific communities: Gippsland, Robinvale, and Benalla. It also distributes funds through the Foundation of Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR) Small Grants program. In 2014–15, \$620,000 was approved for place-based projects.

A place-based approach enables the Trust to target a community experiencing significant disadvantage. It can be appropriate when 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. A place-based approach is characterised by a variety of government and community agencies agreeing on a shared set of objectives and working collaboratively to address community issues.

The Trust works differently across the three locations; its strategy shaped in response to the unique needs and context of each. All strategies involve building the capability of the community to respond to their own needs, encouraging collaboration and partnership, and investing in local skills and resources. The Trust entered into each of these communities with intentions of staying long-term.

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

In Robinvale and Gippsland the Trust works with stakeholders across multiple activities. It takes on convening, facilitating and funding roles, adjusting its approach to meet the needs of the particular situation.



Gippsland

Place-based granting

COLLABORATION

The Trust has committed a total of \$1,210,595 to projects in Gippsland region, specifically in East Gippsland and the La Trobe Valley, since 2011. In 2014–15, one grant was made within this collaboration.

Gippsland comprises a third of Victoria's landmass. It is a region that has high levels of disadvantage, yet receives little philanthropic funding. Multiple generations of unemployment, low levels of educational attainment and high levels of child protection notifications, homelessness and incidents of mental health have all been identified as areas of community vulnerability. In response, the Trust has identified mental health; public education; vulnerable children and young people at risk; Indigenous people; and initiatives that build community and organisational capacity as key priority areas for its work in the region.

In 2014–15, one of the projects approved was The Smith Family's Lakes Entrance Schools and Community Hub. It builds on a hub model formulated by The Smith Family in 2010, to bring together schools, families, community organisations and local business to address current barriers to education success. The project will help schools to develop strategic partnerships and projects within the local community, with the long-term goal of increasing education attainment for young people in the Lakes Entrance area.

The Kurnai Education Hub Pilot (KEHP) is another initiative developed by The Smith Family in the region. Based at Kurnai Secondary College in the La Trobe Valley, KEHP creates activities, events and opportunities to inspire students to stay at school, complete their education and improve their future study and career options.



Students from Nowa Nowa Primary School singing and playing their ukuleles as part of the Schools and Community Hub program.

Two of the programs developed in 2014–15 are Kurnai Young Parents, which has re-engaged 30 young parents in their education, and the Kurnai Literacy and Numeracy Course, a bridging course developed on a part-time basis to reengage youth with schooling by providing basic literacy, numeracy and IT skills. The project is in its third year of funding, and has had a significant impact on the likelihood of students in the Hub schools completing their secondary education and progressing to tertiary studies.

Grant made in Gippsland through the place-based approach in the 2014–15 year:

The Smith Family

Lakes Entrance Schools and Community Hub

\$80,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)



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

Robinvale

Place-based granting

COLLABORATION

Since 2008, the Trust has directed both financial and staffing resources to the town of Robinvale and surrounds with the broad aim of improving social outcomes, particularly in the areas of wellbeing, education and employment. More than \$680,000 has been committed since 2008. In 2014–15, four projects with a combined value of \$210,000 were approved.

Robinvale is a town with a population of approximately 2,200 of varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds on the Murray River in northern Victoria, between Swan Hill and Mildura. It has a significant Indigenous community comprising 10 per cent of the population. Another 34 per cent of its population were born overseas; 28 per cent 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 has built relationships with various service and community organisations in the region including local council, Victorian Government, Health Services and the P-12 School. It works with these organisations at a number of levels to effect change.

The CEO, Sylvia Admans, represented the Trust on the Robinvale Advancing Country Towns Initiative. A Victorian Government initiative that brought together a number of government and non-government agencies to address economic development, education and integration of services in the region, it concluded in 2015, however project work is ongoing.



Students from Robinvale P-12 School work with Phunktional to create an original interpretation of 'Romeo and Juliet' using hip-hop and physical theatre.

Grants made in Robinvale through the place based approach in the 2014–15 year are:

Robinvale District Health Service Towards Advancing Country Towns	\$20,000
Robinvale District Health Service Towards Robinvale Playgroups	\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Phunktional Towards Stories from Beneath the Vale engaging young people through the arts	\$120,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Robinvale Network House Towards 'Nachos' program focusing on ethnic cooking as a form of community building	\$30,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

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

Tomorrow:Today Foundation

The Education Benalla program

\$330,000 (2015–17) COLLABORATION

This cross-sector partnership aims to support children and young people in this disadvantaged region to achieve educational success. In 2015 the Trust continued its Collaboration with the Foundation for another three years, taking the total funded since 2012 to \$515,000.

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 in the region.

The program's four long-term aims are that:

1. All Benalla children start school ready to learn
2. Literacy and numeracy measurably improve
3. Student-assessed levels of wellbeing improve to moderate or high
4. Family and community raise expectations for students to go on to tertiary education or training.

The Ross Trust has supported the program from its conceptual stages since 2009. The program began in 2010, and is being implemented in two five-year phases (2010–2015 and 2016–2020).

In 2014–15, the Tomorrow:Today Foundation is successfully delivering programs itself, partnering with others and embedding the Education Benalla Program's objectives in existing institutional systems. The Program is actively supported by over 120 partnerships involving local schools, day-care centres and preschools, service groups, clubs, businesses, local government, health authorities, other not-for-profits, funders and more than 90 registered volunteers.



Students try their hand at blacksmithing as part of the Connect9 Student Wellbeing Program.

Also in 2014–15, a book funded by the Trust in 2012 to tell the story of the programs' evolution, *The Story of Tomorrow Today*, was published. It is hoped that the book will give insight into the Program's journey and stimulate discussion about possibilities elsewhere.

Finally, an evaluation of Phase one by the University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Education was completed in June 2015. The report concludes that the Program represents 'Best Practice' in the area of philanthropy-driven collective impact community intervention.



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

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

Small Grants for Rural Communities Program

\$375,000(2014–16) PROGRAM

This program offers not-for-profit community groups in regional and remote Australia the opportunity to access up to \$5,000 in grants. In 2013–14 the Ross Trust committed another three years of funding to the program – taking the total funded since 2002 to \$1,422,000.

This program recognises that small rural, remote and regional communities have a low capacity to raise funds due to their small population size and reduced opportunities for business sponsorship. They also often find it hard to access philanthropy and pro bono support.

The grants support projects delivering positive local education, environment, social welfare and community wellbeing, health, arts and culture outcomes in such communities. In doing so, they contribute to stronger, more resilient and more sustainable regions.

In 2014–15, the Program distributed its 25th and 26th bi-annual funding rounds. It received more than 300 applications from Victorian community groups. The Trust was able to support 37 projects, investing a total of \$112,000. This was a significant contribution toward the total value of the projects supported, which was \$608,567.

FRRR's Acting CEO, Natalie Egleton, says that the Small Grants for Rural Communities program provides support that helps to create the change that communities aspire to achieve.

"Small rural communities often find it very challenging to raise funds locally, but they have great ideas. They find all sorts of innovative ways to make their projects happen and this year, for every dollar contributed by the Trust, groups were able to leverage another five dollars towards their projects.



A volunteer tends the community garden in Clunes, which contributes to a community diners program in the town. The garden was funded by the Trust, through its partnership with FRRR.

We consistently see locally-developed projects achieve lasting outcomes, and each grant enables another community to achieve a solution to a pressing issue," says Ms Egleton.

"The collaboration within communities is particularly inspiring. It's wonderful to see community groups coming together to support a project. Outcomes from the two most recent rounds have included increased social and economic capital, increased organisational capacity, increased community infrastructure, amenity and connectedness, as well as enhanced networks and community participation – helping to develop vibrant and adaptive communities."

Projects funded by the Trust over Rounds 25 and 26 of FRRR Small Grants for Small Rural Communities included:

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation Inc (Ballan)	\$4,000
Professor On Call: Raising literacy standards in Indigenous children through one-on-one tuition	
Clunes Neighbourhood House Inc (Clunes)	\$4,250
Community Food for Community Dinners: Extend community garden to increase participation, connection and healthy eating	
Poolajelo Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee (Poolajelo)	\$550
Rodent Resistant Renovation! Kitchen refurbishment of well used community hall	
Rivergum's District (Scout Assoc of Aust. Vic Branch) (Echuca & Moama)	\$3,852
Clean up the Murray! Three day camp to clean up rubbish along the Murray River	
Warracknabeal East Conservation Farmers (Sheep Hills)	\$464
Warmth and refreshments produces socially connected farmers: Portable eskie and gas heater for CFA members and farmer groups	
Wintringham (Benalla)	\$3,520
Our Home is our Sanctuary: Fencing for low income housing for elderly who are homeless or at risk of homelessness	

Clunes Neighbourhood House

Community Food for Community Dinners

The Clunes Neighbourhood House runs the Community Food for Community Dinners program. Volunteers cook meals for just \$5, which nearly covers the cost of ingredients. But it's always a challenge to fund the gap.

The group gained access to a run-down community garden, which they saw as an opportunity to start producing their own ingredients. Anna Phillips from the House explains that a major issue was the quality of the soil, as the land was an old mine site.

"We had the project, we had the labour, we invested what we could afford to make a start, however, we lacked the finances to realise the entire plan," says Anna.

The grant enabled the group to purchase and install a water tank for irrigation, partially install micro irrigators, renovate the chook shed and run, and construct six raised vegetable beds.

"We are now producing our own ingredients. This helps to lower our costs and provides a purposeful placement activity for six volunteers."

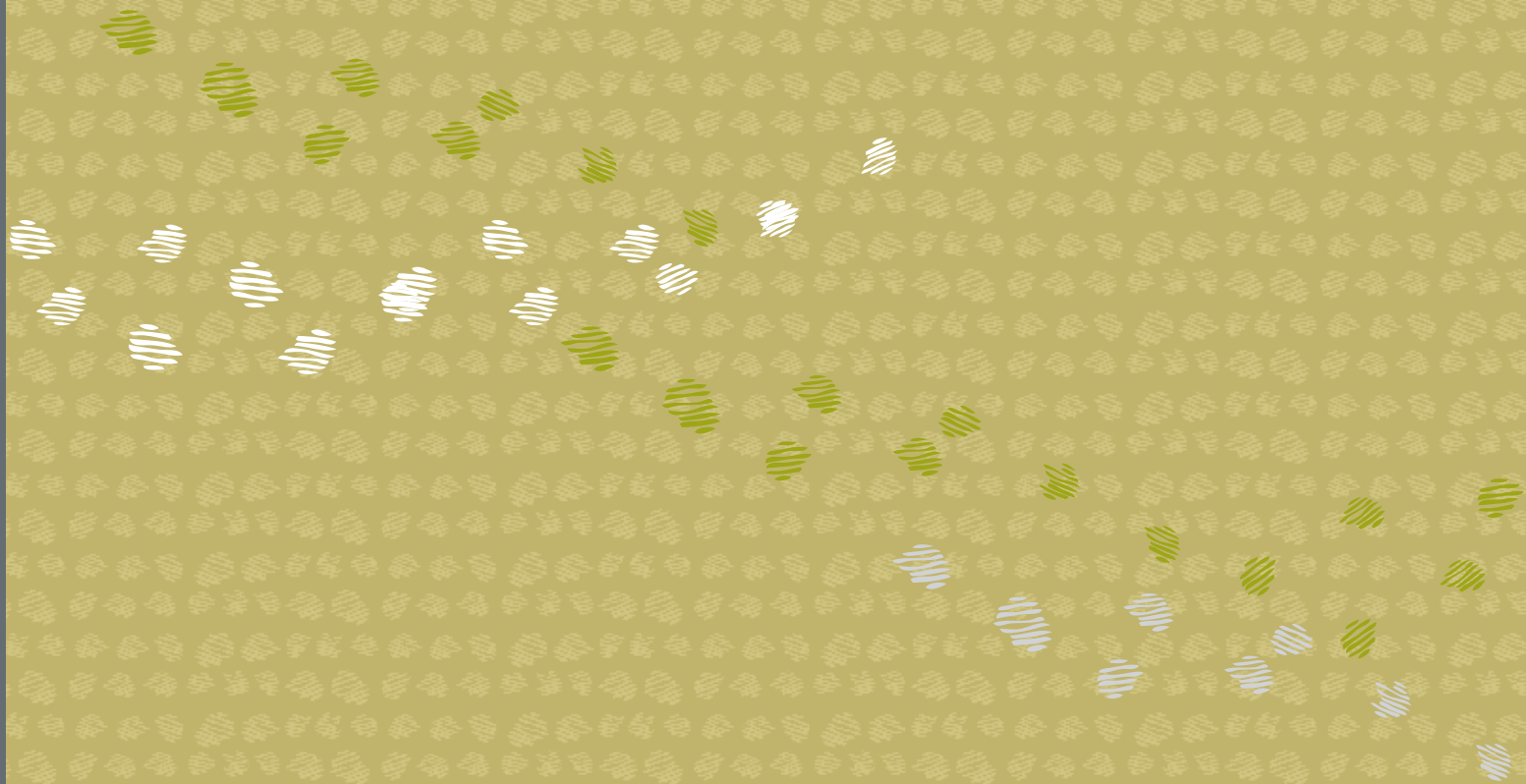


FRRR

1800 170 020

frrr.org.au

Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd



Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd

Giving to the Mornington Peninsula and beyond

Hillview Quarries is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust. One hundred per cent of its net profits are distributed to community organisations through the Trust's granting strategy. It also provides financial assistance and quarry product to local organisations on the Mornington Peninsula.

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. 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 for more than 47 years.

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. 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 Quarries Head Office



Hillview Quarry



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

In the 2014–15 year quarry product donations with an estimated value of \$20,000 were made to:

Balnarring Pre-School	Presentation Family Centre Red Hill & District Memorial Preschool
Bittern Primary School	Red Hill Consolidated School
Dromana Primary School	Red Hill Junior Football Club
Habitat for Humanity	Red Hill Op Shop
Main Ridge Pony Club	Rosebud Secondary College
Mornington Baseball Club Inc	Rosebud Secondary College (Hands on Learning)
Mornington Peninsula Shire	Rye Primary School
Mornington Peninsula Youth Enterprises Inc	Somers School Camp
Mornington Secondary College	The Scout Association of Australia (1st Red Hill Group)
Peninsula Specialist College	Tyabb Railway Station Primary School

In the 2014–15 year financial donations or sponsorships were provided to:

Boneo Cricket Club	
Sponsorship of 2014–15 season	\$1,200
Clothes 4 U	
Funding to assist with running costs	\$2,500
Coast Guard Western Port	
To replace electrical GPS Radar on rescue vessel	\$5,000
Dromana & District Historical Society	
Funding to repair stone cairns on Arthurs Seat Tourist Road	\$1,510
Dromana Art Show / Dromana Rotary	
Sponsorship of 2014 Art Show	\$1,500
Dromana Cricket Club Inc	
Sponsorship of 2014–15 season	\$1,500
Dromana Football & Netball Club	
Sponsorship of 2015	\$12,000
Dromana Pre-School Centre Inc	
Funding towards social evening fundraiser	\$1,000
Dromana Secondary College	
Funding towards the 2015 Scholarship Program	\$2,000
First National Real Estate (Neilson Partners - Pakenham)	
Sponsorship of Ride To Conquer Cancer	\$2,000
Light up Autism Foundation	
Sponsorship of 3km Family Fun Run	\$500
Main Ridge Bowls Club	
Entrance signage	\$500
Main Ridge Cricket Club	
Sponsorship of 2014–15 season	\$200
Mornington Peninsula Schools' Environment Week Committee Inc	
Sponsorship of Indigenous Program	\$2,000
Mornington Peninsula Shire	
Naming rights & sponsorship of 2015 Australia Day Parade	\$5,000
Mornington RSL Sub-Branch Inc	
Financial support to assist with building rotunda in Mornington Park	\$1,500
Mornington Youth Club	
Funding to assist with the cost of new equipment for Gymnastics Club	\$1,000

Mt Martha Bowls & Social Club Diary Advertising 2014–15	\$90
Oak Hill Gallery Sponsorship of Little Archies / Archibald Event	\$500
Pearcedale CFA Sponsorship of 12th Community Golf Day	\$150
Peninsula Summer Music Festival Sponsorship of 2015 music festival	\$1,000
Red Hill Community Association Funding towards the Red Hill War Memorial	\$500
Red Hill Show Sponsorship of 87th Red Hill Show	\$5,000
Rosebud Bowls Club Sponsorship of 2013–14 season	\$300
Rosebud Bowls Club Inc Sponsorship of 2014–15 season	\$300
Rosebud Football Netball Club Sponsorship of the 2015 season	\$500
Rosebud Heart Soccer Club Inc. Sponsorship of the 2015 season	\$3,000
Rye Beach Community Centre Sponsorship of 2014 Carols on the Park	\$200
Rye Football Netball Club Sponsorship of 2014 season	\$700
Rye Football Netball Club Inc Sponsorship of 2015 season	\$700
Rye Pre School Funding towards improving the kindergarten	\$1,895
Rye Sports & Social Club Sponsorship of 2015 Rye Gift	\$1,500
Rye Tennis Club Sponsorship of 2015 Australia Day Tournament	\$200
Safety Beach Golf Club Syllabus advertising	\$50
Sorrento Bowls Club Sponsorship of 2014–15 season	\$250
Sorrento Bowls Club Inc Sponsorship of 2015–16 season	\$250
Sorrento Football & Netball Club Sponsorship of 2015 season	\$500
The Studio @ Flinders Gallery Sponsorship of Teapot Exhibition	\$200
Tootgarook Netball Club Sponsorship of 2014–15 season	\$200
West Rosebud Bowling Club Inc Sponsorship of the 2014–15 season	\$500
Western Port Festival Sponsorship of 2015 festival	\$2,500
Westernport Secondary College Sponsorship of Human Powered Vehicles Program	\$1,000
Total cash sponsorships and donations	\$62,895

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 12 scheduled meetings of the Trust including the annual Strategy Day and four meetings of the Investment Committee. Eleven meetings of the Directors of Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd and five meetings of Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd, including the annual Strategy Day were held as well as three 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 2015, 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 2015. 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 and Deputy Chair, Mutual Trust Pty Ltd Group
- Director, Haoma Mining NL Group
- Director, Assetco Management Pty Ltd Group
- Director and Chair, Castlegate James Australasia Pty Ltd Group

Ian Renard, AM, Trustee:

- Director, Ausnet Services Group (until July 2015)
- Chair, Archives Advisory Board, University of Melbourne (until March 2015)
- Member, Collections Committee, State Library of Victoria (until June 2015)

Eda Ritchie, AM, Trustee:

- Member, Council of The University of Melbourne (until December 2014)
- Chairman, Victorian College of the Arts Foundation
- Board Member, Melbourne Recital Centre

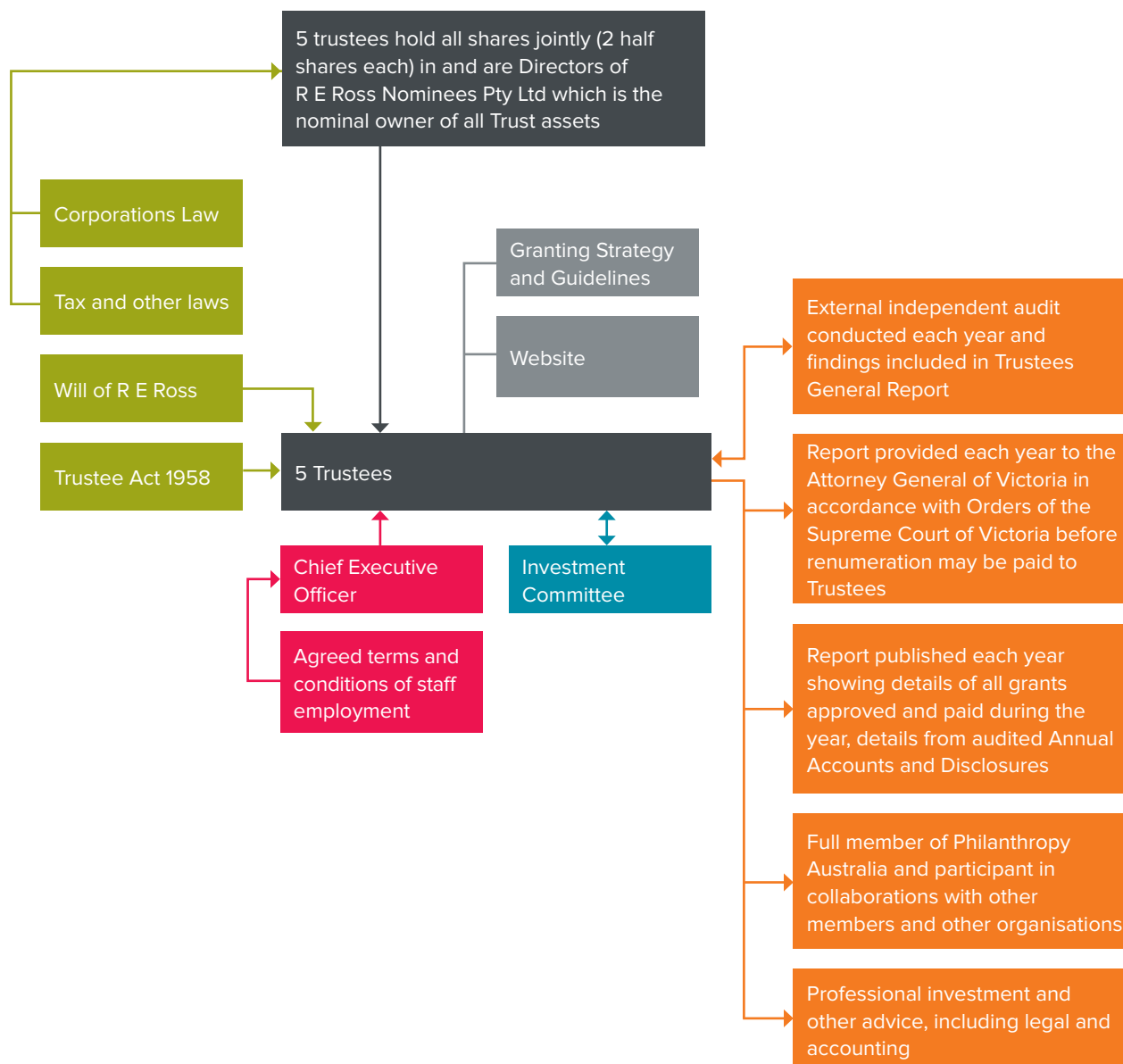
Ian Vaughan, Trustee:

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

Jenny Stephens, Trustee:

- Director, Clifton Hill / North Fitzroy Community Bank, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd
- Director, Tanjable 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, 20% of income was withheld.

The Trust is a tax concession 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 2014–15 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. The Investment Manager has 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 and reviewed in April 2015.

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 2015 were:

- Aristocrat Leisure Limited
- Betfair Group plc
- Crown Resorts Limited
- Echo Entertainment Group 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. All Trustees serve as the Directors of Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd. The Trust owns the land used for quarrying operations. During the financial year ended 30 June 2015, Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd (with the consent of the shareholders of that entity) lodged an application with Australian Securities and Investment Commission to deregister the entity. The notice of deregistration was effective from 8 July 2015.

Investment performance

Gross income for the year totalled \$5,901,607 an increase of 18.0% on the previous year.

At 30 June 2015 the book value of the net assets of the Trust was \$47,801,011 represented by:

- \$35,855,457 Residuary (corpus) funds
(an increase of \$1,358,804 on the prior year)
- \$10,873,742 Reserves of accumulated income
(up to 20% withheld from distribution)
- \$1,071,812 Accumulated surplus
(a decrease of \$157,882 from the prior year).

The total estimated Market Value of the investments was \$36.3 million, compared with the previous year's end value of \$35.1 million.

Financial Information and Reporting

For the year ended 30 June 2015, 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 2014 to 30 June 2015.

Payment of income as grants

Income paid as grants during the year totalled \$3,942,695 (2014 \$3,785,178). Grants refunded by previous recipients amounted to \$47,000 (2014: \$39,636).

Approval was given during the year for 88 new grants with a total grant value of \$4,038,407. Some of these grants were approved for payment in instalments over a number of years. 188 grant payments totalling \$3,942,695 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 2015, the R E Ross Trust has made grants totalling \$104,581,834 – of these \$90,010,208 have been made by the Trust directly and \$14,571,626 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 2015

Revenue	Note	2015 (\$)	2014 (\$)
Revenue from continuing operations	3	5,901,607	5,001,882
Less: expenses			
Employee benefits expense		(611,604)	(597,051)
Depreciation expense		(18,217)	(13,505)
Other expenses		(593,454)	(555,960)
Write off of development expenses associated with waste management project		(6,067)	(499,172)
		(1,229,342)	(1,665,688)
Operating surplus prior to granting		4,672,265	3,336,194
Grants paid during the year		(3,895,695)	(3,745,542)
Profit/(Loss) from continuing operations		776,570	(409,348)

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015

Current assets	Note	2015 (\$)	2014 (\$)
Cash and cash equivalents	4	3,413,470	2,703,365
Receivables	5	3,334,812	3,204,786
Investments	6	33,157,886	31,978,757
Other assets		208,200	3,813
Total current assets		40,114,368	37,890,721
Non-current assets			
Receivables		5,432,592	5,432,592
Other financial assets	6	164,011	164,011
Property, plant and equipment		2,530,307	2,546,386
Total non-current assets		8,126,910	8,142,989
Total assets		48,241,278	46,033,710
Current liabilities			
Trade & Other Payables	7	354,152	304,655
Provisions		38,206	19,682
Total current liabilities		392,358	324,337
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions		47,909	43,716
Total non-current liabilities		47,909	43,716
Total liabilities		440,267	368,053
Net assets		47,801,011	45,665,657
Trust funds			
Residuary estate funds		35,855,457	34,496,673
Other Reserves		10,873,742	9,939,290
Accumulated surplus		1,071,812	1,229,694
Total trust funds		47,801,011	45,665,657

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 that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are therefore tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might 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.

Where the future economic benefits of an asset are not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and where the economic entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, the recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the asset's depreciated replacement cost which is defined as the current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost.

(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

Revenue from the sale of quarry products is recognised when goods have been dispatched to a customer and the associated risks have passed to the carrier or customer.

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.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity under the heading of revaluation surplus. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease of the same class of asset previously recognised in profit or loss, the increase is recognised in profit or loss. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same class of asset are recognised in other comprehensive income under the heading of revaluation surplus; all other decreases are charged to profit and loss.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

(h) Leases

Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and benefits incidental to ownership.

Finance leases

Leases of fixed assets, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are transferred to the economic entity are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised, recording an asset and a liability equal to the fair value or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. The interest expense is calculated using the interest rate implicit in the lease and is included in finance costs in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income. Leased assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the economic entity will obtain ownership of the asset, or over the term of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Operating leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Lease incentives received under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(i) 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.

(j) 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.

(k) 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 2015 and 30 June 2014 have not been recognised as liabilities at 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2014 respectively because the Trust can vary or terminate the approved grants prior to payment.

(l) 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(c)). The transfer in the 2015 year was 20% (2014: 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.

(m) 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 (c).

(n) 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 consolidated 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	2015 (\$)	2014 (\$)
Royalties and fees from Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd	991,037	873,747
Other Revenue		
Dividend income	3,054,423	2,330,148
Interest income	869,104	838,963
Imputation credits refunded	987,043	959,024
Total revenue	5,901,607	5,001,882

Note 4: Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash on hand	64	70
Cash at bank	41,328	67,040
Cash on deposit	3,372,078	2,636,255
	3,413,470	2,703,365

Note 5: Receivables

Current

Trade debtors	1,068,702	1,001,891
Other receivables	2,266,110	2,202,895
	3,334,812	3,204,786

Note 6: Investments

Current

Investment portfolio	33,157,886	31,978,757
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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 \$36,309,672 (2014: \$35,072,300).

Non Current

Private company shares	164,011	164,011
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Note 7: Payables

Current

Unsecured liabilities

Trade creditors	240,259	205,651
Sundry creditors and accruals	113,893	99,004
	354,152	304,655



PITCHER PARTNERS

ACCOUNTANTS • AUDITORS • ADVISORS

Level 19
15 William Street
Melbourne
Victoria 3000

Level 1
80 Monash Drive
Dandenong South
Victoria 3175

Postal Address:
GPO Box 5193
Melbourne Vic 3001
Australia

Tel: +61 3 8610 5000
Fax: +61 3 8610 5999
partners@pitcher.com.au
www.pitcher.com.au

J BRAZZALE
R BIGONI
G M RAMBALDI
D A KNOWLES
M C HAY
V A MACDERMID
P A JOSE
M J HARRISON
T SAKELL
G I NORRISH
A T DAVIDSON
C D WHATMAN
A E CLERICI
P MAURONE
A D STANLEY
D C BYRNE
P B BRAINE
R I MOCKE
F V RUSSO
M R SORRIGO
S J DALL
D W LOVE
A SULEYMAN

A R FITZPATRICK
M W PRINGLE
D A THOMSON
M J LANGHAMMER
S SCHONBERG
S DAHN
A R YEO
P W TONER
D E VASUDEVAN
B J BRITTEN
K L BYRNE
S D WHITCHURCH
D J HONEY
G J NIELSEN
N R BULL
A M KOKONOS
G A DEBONO
E H SHRAPNEL
T G HAIR
A T CLICSTON
M G JOZVAK
B POWERS

Ref: BJB: ad

26 November 2015

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 2015.

This is to confirm the financial information presented on pages 55 to 61 of the R.E. Ross Trust Annual Report 2015 has been extracted from the R.E. Ross Trust's 2015 Special Purpose Financial Report dated 22 September 2015.

The 2015 Special Purpose Financial Report was audited by Pitcher Partners and was not subject to audit qualification.

We have reconciled the extracted information presented of pages 55 to 61 of the R.E. Ross Trust Annual Report 2015 to the R.E. Ross Trust's 2015 Special Purpose Financial Report, noting no exceptions.

Yours faithfully
PITCHER PARTNERS

B J BRITTEN
Partner

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List of grants Paid by the Ross Trust in 2014–15

Organisation	Amount
ACT on it: Mindfulness for Teens Inc	\$10,000
Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd	\$10,000
African Aust Multicultural Employment & Youth Service	\$20,000
Angel Light Link	\$14,500
Anglicare Victoria	\$33,000
Anglicare Victoria	\$15,000
Arabic Welfare Inc	\$10,000
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Inc	\$20,000
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Inc	\$100,000
Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network	\$5,000
Australian Multicultural Foundation	\$10,000
Australian Red Cross	\$25,297
Back to Back Theatre	\$12,500
Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House	\$28,775
Ballarat Secondary College	\$23,300
Baltara School	\$5,000
Banksia Gardens Community Services	\$10,000
Baptcare	\$20,000
Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault	\$23,040
Beacon Foundation	\$12,500
Bendigo Family & Financial Services Inc	\$28,106
Bendigo Foodshare Inc	\$10,000
Bereavement Assistance Ltd	\$10,000
bestchance Child Family Care	\$27,000
Big West Festival	\$20,000
Bridgingworx	\$30,000
Brimbank/Melton Local Learning and Employment Network	\$23,000
Brotherhood of St Laurence	\$27,000
Bush Heritage Australia	\$10,000
Centre for International Child Health	\$118,100
Centre for Non-Violence	\$40,000

Circus Oz	\$10,000
City of Whittlesea	\$14,000
Clontarf Foundation	\$30,000
cohealth	\$15,000
Community Music Victoria	\$8,517
Community Support Frankston	\$15,000
Corryong Neighbourhood Centre	\$29,247
Council of Single Mothers & their Children	\$37,000
Cranbourne Information & Support Service	\$27,000
Cultural Infusion	\$15,000
Dandenong Neighbourhood House Inc	\$8,000
Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Services Inc.	\$10,000
Dinjerra Primary School	\$4,000
Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre	\$13,650
Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises	\$15,000
Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria	\$9,700
East Grampians Health Service	\$30,000
Eastbourne Primary School	\$30,000
Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning	\$10,000
Endeavour Ministries Inc	\$10,000
Family Life	\$18,160
Family Life	\$15,000
Family Life	\$30,000
Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre	\$30,000
First Step Program Ltd	\$19,680
Fitted for Work	\$20,000
fortyfive downstairs	\$16,000
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	\$45,540
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	\$125,000
Friends of Castlemaine Library	\$8,800
Gateway Health	\$20,000
Gippsland Carers Association Inc	\$29,120
Gippsland Lakes Community Health	\$30,000
Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre	\$10,000
Hands on Learning	\$50,000

Hands on Learning	\$100,000
Hanover Welfare Services	\$40,000
Hello Sunday Morning	\$20,000
Ilbjerri Theatre Cooperative	\$50,000
Inclusion Melbourne	\$16,828
International Social Service - Australian Branch	\$20,000
Jesuit Social Services	\$10,000
Jika Jika Community Centre	\$10,000
Jirrahlinga Wildlife Sanctuary	\$15,000
Kara Kara Conservation Management Network	\$3,570
Kids' Own Australia Inc	\$10,000
Kids Thrive	\$10,000
Kildonan Uniting Care	\$30,000
Kildonan Uniting Care	\$28,820
King Valley Childrens Services	\$7,500
Koorie Heritage Trust Inc	\$30,000
Koorie Youth Council (Youth Affairs Council of Victoria)	\$10,000
L2R Gen Inc	\$9,880
Lancefield Neighbourhood House	\$10,000
Living & Learning Inc	\$30,000
Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	\$14,812
MacKillop Family Services	\$33,000
Manangatang P-12 College	\$9,000
Marist Youth Care	\$20,000
McAuley Community Services for Women	\$7,770
Melbourne Writers Festival	\$8,800
Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group	\$8,530
Mornington Community Information & Support Centre	\$30,000
Multiple Birth Volunteer Support Foundation	\$6,660
Museum Victoria	\$20,000
Museums Australia (Victoria)	\$50,000
New Hope Foundation	\$20,000
New Stars Basketball Association	\$30,000
North Melbourne Language & Learning	\$25,465
Odyssey House Victoria	\$20,000

Operation Stitches	\$15,000
Orbost Neighbourhood House	\$10,000
Outer Urban Projects	\$20,000
Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd	\$20,000
Penington Institute	\$13,400
Peninsula Mindfulness Inc.	\$11,250
Phunktional	\$20,000
Phunktional	\$50,000
Playgroup Victoria	\$25,000
Port Phillip Housing Association	\$6,800
Preston Reservoir Community Education PRACE	\$12,367
Project Respect	\$30,000
Red Hills Secondary College	\$30,000
Reinforce Inc	\$2,510
RISE - Refugees, Survivors & Ex-Detainees	\$20,000
River Nile Learning Centre	\$20,000
Robinvale District Health Service	\$20,000
Robinvale District Health Service	\$20,000
Robinvale District Health Service	\$23,530
Robinvale Network House	\$10,000
Sacred Heart Mission	\$16,000
Safe Futures Foundation	\$10,000
Sale Combined Kindergartens Inc	\$5,000
Saltbush Community Initiatives Inc	\$2,500
Save the Children	\$15,000
SecondBite	\$20,000
SHAKTI Migrant & Refugee Women's Support Group Melbourne	\$10,000
Shine For Kids	\$30,000
SisterWorks	\$10,000
Skilling Australia Foundation	\$10,000
Social Security Rights Victoria	\$5,000
Social Ventures Australia	\$20,000
Somebody's Daughter Theatre Inc	\$20,000
South Port Uniting Care	\$11,072
Southern Peninsula Community Support & Information	\$30,000

Sports Challenge Australia	\$10,000
Springvale Rise Primary School	\$5,000
St Kilda Gatehouse	\$30,000
St Mark's Community Centre (Anglicare Victoria)	\$13,000
St Mary's House of Welcome	\$10,000
State Library of Victoria	\$50,000
Stawell Neighbourhood House	\$20,360
Tarwin Lower and District Primary School	\$7,600
The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne	\$10,000
The Link Centre	\$25,000
The Norman Wettenhall Foundation	\$55,000
The Smith Family	\$50,000
The Smith Family	\$40,000
The Water Well Project	\$10,000
Thomastown Primary School	\$15,000
Tomorrow Today Foundation	\$110,000
Trust for Nature	\$65,000
Uniting Care Ballarat	\$15,000
Victorian Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders	\$100,000
VICSEG New Futures	\$30,000
Victorian Deaf Society	\$15,000
Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc	\$20,000
Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council	\$5,400
Vietnamese Community in Australia/Victoria	\$10,000
Wedderburn Community House Inc	\$10,000
Wellsprings for Women	\$15,000
Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment	\$9,180
Western Port Community Support	\$30,000
Western Port Secondary College	\$18,200
Women's Health in the South East	\$10,000
Whittlesea Community Connections Inc	\$20,000
Wingate Avenue Community Centre	\$28,119
Wombat Forestcare Inc	\$6,240
Women and Mentoring WAM	\$15,000
Women's Health West	\$10,000

Women's Mental Health Network Victoria Inc	\$10,000
Woor-Dungin	\$25,000
Worktrainers	\$30,000
Wyndham Legal Service	\$20,000
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service	\$15,000
Youthlaw	\$15,000
Zoe Support Australia	\$15,000
Total	\$3,942,695

Amount Refunded

Clunes Country Women's Association of Victoria	\$ (10,000)
Robinvale District Health Service	\$ (30,000)
Lancefield Neighbourhood House Inc	\$ (7,000)
Total Net Distributed	\$3,895,695





The R E Ross Trust
Level 7, 24 Albert Road
South Melbourne Victoria 3205
Telephone (03) 9690 6255
www.rosstrust.org.au