



ANNUAL REPORT

2015–16



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 purposes in Victoria.



Roy Everard Ross

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

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

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

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

Trustees

Mr John L C McInnes

Mr Ian A Renard

Mrs Eda N Ritchie

Ms Jenny 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 (until November 2015)

Ms Pam Mitchell
Finance Manager (from October 2015)

Ms Louise Kuramoto
Program Manager

Ms Venetia Taylor
Program Manager

Production details

Writer: Bigtalk 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.



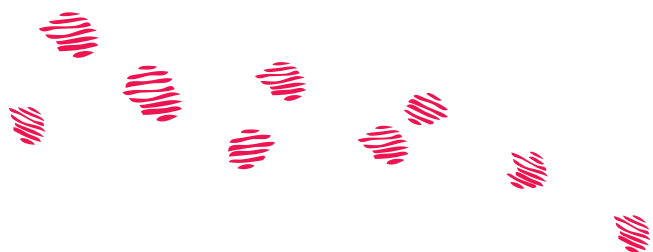
THE
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TRUST

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Trustees' Report

The past twelve months have been a time of reviewing our priorities, and asking whether they should be changed or refined. The Trust has decided to increase its priority towards four areas of high need – Family Violence, Homelessness, Educational Disadvantage, and to the Mornington Peninsula. These four areas will receive special attention within the Trust's traditional overall priority areas of disadvantaged Victorians, young people, public education, and the environment.

In March 2016 the Trust held a special Strategy Day, inviting outside topic-experts and fellow grant-maker Trustees and CEOs, and CEOs of funded organisations, to join us in conversation. We focussed on Family Violence, Homelessness and Educational Disadvantage to raise our priority on these important (and difficult!) areas of need. It was a good process to give us new energy and to provide us with collaboration opportunities in these directions. The breadth of contribution from the engagement of a broad group of stakeholders has created a rich context for the Trust's future work.

Additionally, it was decided to intensify our attention to disadvantage on the Mornington Peninsula, as our next place-based focus area of Victoria.

The Trust's granting has continued at a similar level to prior years, utilising the funds available from dividends from the subsidiary company, Hillview Quarries, and from the income derived from investment of the Corpus. Trustees are pleased to report that 166 grants totalling \$3,947,727 were paid during the year. 141 of these 166 grants were of two- and three-year duration, since the Trust believes that multi-year grants provide greater security and planning capacity to the recipients.

In addition to these grants, the Trust expanded its Impact Investment portfolio to three investments, totalling \$900,000. We are pleased to support philanthropy in this way, believing such investments can frequently make a more major impact than simple granting. In each case, the social returns are augmented by a modest financial return.

Trustees farewell fellow trustee John McInnes OAM, who retired on 30 June 2016, after service of 10 years to the Trust. He guided the financial affairs of the Trust over that time, and leaves it with a very sound financial base. Importantly, he also served as the Chairman of the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary, Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd, for that period, where he guided the growth of the business through capital investments, and operating improvements. The quarry provides about 73% of the revenue of the Trust.

The Trust seeks to be a leader within the philanthropic sector, and this year we supported fellow trustee, Jenny Stephens, in her nomination to the Council of Philanthropy Australia, the peak body for the sector, where she was elected for a three year term.

Trustees also welcomed Geoff Nicholson as a new trustee on 1 July 2016, and we look forward to working with him – he has extensive experience in the homelessness and other sectors.

I wish to thank my fellow Trustees for their committed and active service throughout the year. Their enthusiastic attention to the grants made by the trust, and to the policies and processes of the trust's administration, ensures a high level of quality outcomes is achieved. I also wish to thank John McInnes for his work as chairman in 2014-2015.

In closing, I wish to thank the staff at the Ross Trust, led by CEO Sylvia Admans, for their thorough and diligent work on behalf of the Trust.

Ian Vaughan, Chairman 2015–16



Trustee 2016 Highlights



Ian Vaughan, Trustee:

We held a special Strategy Day this year, inviting outside topic-experts and fellow grant-maker Trustees and CEOs to join us in conversation. We focused on family violence, homelessness and educational disadvantage to raise our priority on these important (and difficult!) areas. It was good to give us new energy and collaboration opportunities in these directions.



Eda Ritchie, AM, Trustee:

I particularly enjoy reading the progress and final reports in grants which bring to life the work of the many wonderful organisations and people we support. Learning how many have exceeded our expectations and have shown us a successful new way of doing things, reaffirms to me the importance of our work.



John McInnes, OAM, Trustee:

The flexibility of the R E Ross Trust funding in terms of providing support for programs for more than one year and the fact that our staff assist organisations achieve their objectives makes for more effective outcomes.



Jenny Stephens, Trustee:

We live in an increasingly inequitable and complex society. Due to the generosity and public spiritedness of Mr R E Ross, we as Trustees and staff can join with other philanthropic organisations in working with communities, social change agents, outstanding individuals and thinkers to try and affect some positive impact. This is really a huge privilege.



Ian Renard, AM, Trustee:

No matter how long the Trust operates, there are always new ways of achieving more effective results. Embracing new technology, taking risks in supporting applicants with new ideas, and sticking with organisations through bad times as well as good times are all important factors in achieving the Trust's long-term goal.



CEO's Report

The Trust remains future focussed and this year has been no exception.

Embracing new technology has been a feature this year, with the Trust receiving grant applications online from January 2016 and moving to electronic meeting papers and retaining more and more information only online. Planning for the move to a new office, after 36 years at Albert Road, South Melbourne, has given additional impetus to transitioning to a more electronic form of working. Of course the core business of the Trust is making charitable grants within Victoria and during the year 75 new grants were approved totalling \$2,672,696. These grants are to be paid over one to three years

In November 2015, the Trust farewelled Mr Paul Read, who had been Finance Manager for more than nine years. I sincerely thank him for his service and his careful approach to managing the Trust's finances. His retirement created an opportunity to appoint Ms Pam Mitchell as Finance Manager in October 2015, and we welcome her.

The 2016 Ross Trust Strategy Day, held in March, took a new form and involved Trust staff undertaking detailed analysis of specific topics to inform a Conversation which was held with invited guests at The Abbotsford Convent. The Chairman, Mr Ian Vaughan, enthusiastically led this new approach and the results shall emerge through the Trust's work over the ensuing years. Trust staff continue to be active within the sector, participating in funders' groups, undertaking the place based work the Trust is so committed to. The potential to work more collaboratively on the Mornington Peninsula is progressing through the leadership of the George Hicks Foundation. I had the opportunity to promote the Trust's early work in social impact investing by presenting as part of panels in the NAB/Philanthropy Australia's national series on Unlocking Your Corpus: Investing for Impact.

Trustees – Ian, Ian, John, Eda and Jenny and Staff – Dina, Pam, Venetia, Louise and Margarita – thank you so very much for making the Ross Trust the trusted and respected organisation it is today. 46 years on the Trust continues to quietly and in an engaged manner, go about its work of creating impact in the lives of Victorians and their communities. This is only possible because of the many wonderful organisations into which the Trust is able invest its philanthropic resources.

I commend this report to you. We have taken the opportunity to update the style of the annual report giving greater focus to the wonderful leaders we support through our granting, using a question and answer style of interview accompanied by full page images of them, as well as showcasing a small number grants. I hope you will enjoy this refreshed format and welcome any feedback readers may have.

Sylvia Admans, Chief Executive Officer



Staff 2016 Highlights



Ms Sylvia Admans, Chief Executive Officer

During the year there have been many highlights though what stood out for me was the opportunity to promote the Trust's work as a social impact investor as a presenter across the Philanthropy Australia/NAB series of national workshops, How to unlock your corpus for impact. The Trust's practice was an accessible example to share with a broad audience of workshop attendees across Australia. It also afforded me the opportunity to hear firsthand of the work of many others doing in social impact investing and grow the Trust's networks in this space. This emerging field is all the stronger for sharing and learning from our practice.



Ms Pam Mitchell, Finance Manager

The highlight for me was joining the Ross Trust in October 2015 and being involved with the great work done by the Trust for the many organisations and people in Victoria which we assist.



Ms Louise Kuramoto, Program Manager

Managing the creation of the annual report each year is always a highlight for me as it allows time to reflect on the inspiring individuals and organisations the Trust has the privilege of supporting. I particularly enjoy thinking of new ways to tell these stories which are interesting and meaningful.



Ms Margarita Sagris, Grants and Office Manager

After 36 years in our South Melbourne office the Trust was preparing for an office relocation. This was a very exciting time for all staff and especially me as the manager of the logistics and fitout of the move.



Ms Venetia Taylor, Program Manager

Attending the inaugural Impact Investing conference in Sydney allowed me to stay abreast with the Australian interest in this emerging market plus learn from global parties who have been in this space for a while. The Ross Trust's early investment in this area is an example of our focus on continuing to achieve meaningful and impactful support of organisations, one I find exciting and forward thinking. It's great to be part of the future of the Ross Trust.



Ms Dina Vlanes, Grants, Administration and Executive Assistant

Our database, GIFTS online, brings new ways of doing things and makes me think about my work more deeply. I am enjoying problem solving through doing things in new ways.

The Ross Trust Approach to Granting

The Ross Trust mission is to direct its resources to areas of the highest priority need where there is the greatest potential for impact towards projects and other activities that address disadvantage and inequity; encourage and promote social inclusiveness, community connectedness, health and well-being; and protect and preserve Australian flora and fauna.

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

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

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

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

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.

Value adding

The Trust seeks to add value to grant recipients in a number of ways in addition to financially, through opening up networks, providing advice and expertise and sitting on governance committees.

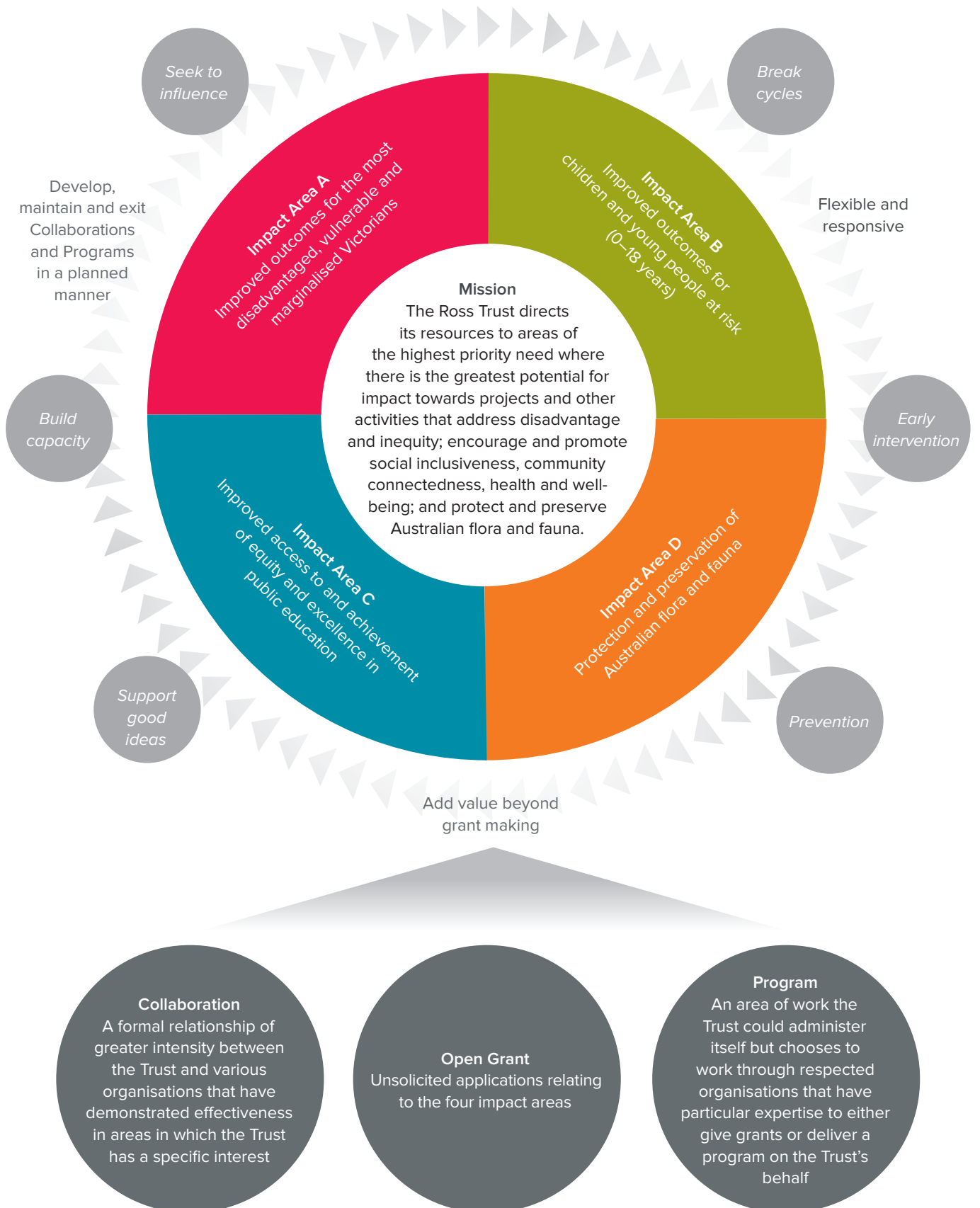
Capacity building

The Trust invests in building the general operating capacity of organisations because of the firm belief that investing in organisational capacity creates the conditions for program success and therefore protects the Trust's best interests as a funder seeking social change.

Granting limitations

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

Ross Trust Granting Strategy



Facts and Figures

The Trust accepted 110 applications for grants in the 2015–16 year. Of these, 75 (68 per cent) were approved, totalling \$2,671,696. The grants were made in three ways: Open Grants, Collaborations, or Programs across one of four impact areas, Vulnerable Victorians; Children at risk; Education, Arts and Culture and Australian Flora and Fauna.

110 
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED

75 
APPLICATIONS
APPROVED

68%
APPROVAL
RATE

\$2,671,696
IN GRANTS APPROVED

\$3,947,727 
IN GRANTS PAID

\$23,294
MEDIAN GRANT
AMOUNT APPROVED

\$2,200-\$300,000
RANGE OF GRANTS APPROVED

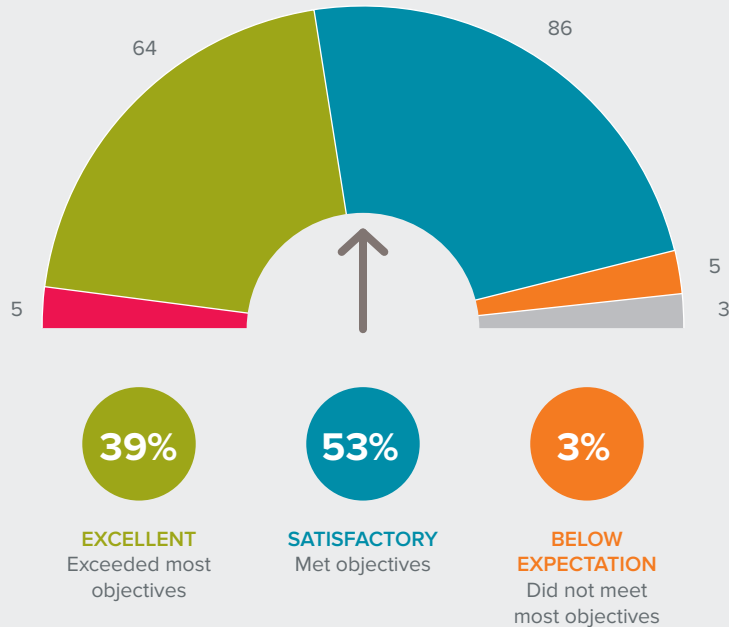
Grants made by Ross Trust since inception

The R E Ross Trust has been granting to the Victorian community since 1971. In this time grants made have totalled \$101, 887, 340.

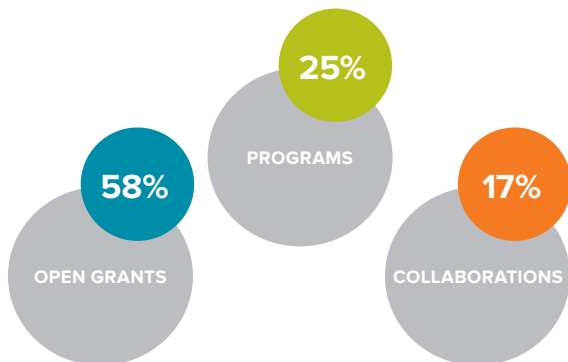


Outcomes reports

In recent years the Trust has begun to allocate a rating to progress and final reports received. This system allows us to take a holistic view of the Trust's grantmaking outcomes and draw out key learnings and themes as to why some grants exceed objectives and others fail to meet objectives. In the 2015-16 year the Trust assessed 163 reports, 95% of these were rated satisfactory or above.



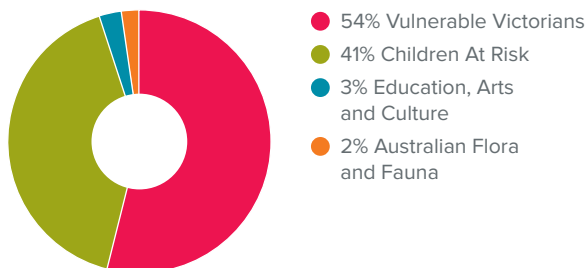
Distribution of funds across grant types in 2015-16



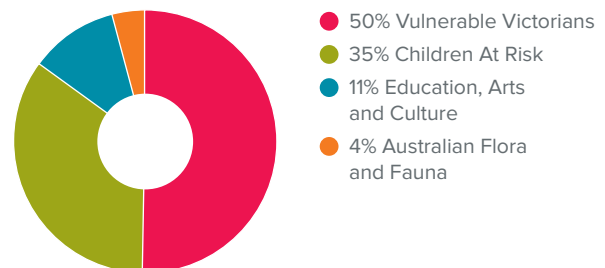
Population groups assisted across all impact areas (approved Grants)

- 30% Asylum seekers, CALD, immigrants & refugees
- 19% Disengaged young people
- 16% Disadvantaged or low income
- 9% Indigenous Australians
- 9% Mental health
- 3% General population
- 3% Families and community building
- 3% Homelessness
- 3% Criminal offenders and juvenile justice
- 3% Out of home care
- 2% Small or remote regional communities

Grants approved in each impact area 2015-16



Grants paid in each impact area 2015-16



Impact Area A

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



During 2015-16 the Trust maintained its focus on providing grants to support those experiencing personal, social or financial disadvantage.

Priority was given to applications that assist:

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

The Trust continued to support projects that: meet the immediate and basic needs of the most disadvantaged

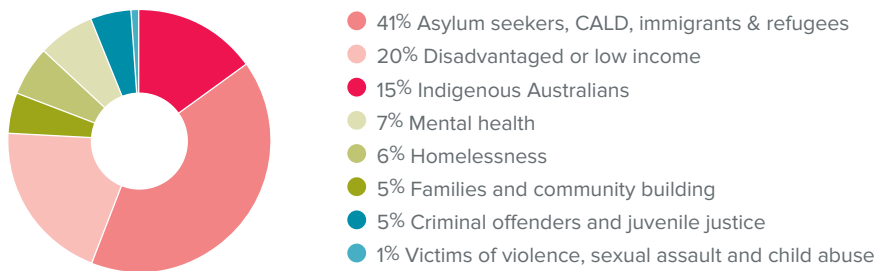
and vulnerable; provide early intervention; invest in long-term efforts to overcome disadvantage; and seek to understand the causes and contributing factors to social and economic disadvantage.

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

In 2015–16, the Trustees approved 43 grants totalling \$1,439,220 under Impact Area A, some of which may be paid over a period of up to three years.

In 2015–16, the Trust paid 92 grants totalling \$1,994, 933, some of which were approved in prior years.

Grants approved under Impact Area A



Location of approved grants



Grants approved by the Trust in 2015-2016 under Impact Area A

Asylum seekers, CALD, immigrants and refugees

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)
\$125,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
General capacity of Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Barwon Community Legal Service
\$60,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Temporary protection visa applications support for Asylum seekers project

Bendigo Baptist Community Care Inc
\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Empowering Karen Refugees in Small Business

Carringbush Adult Education
\$22,049
Sustainable Pathways to Work for Migrants and Refugees

Diversitat
\$11,000
Women Together Friendship Circles Project

Justice Connect
\$60,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Temporary Protection Visas for Asylum Seekers

Kensington Neighbourhood House
\$11,510 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Family Literacy Program

RAW – Resilient Aspiring Women
\$10,000
Capacity Building Leadership

RISE (Refugee Survivors & Ex-detainees)
\$72,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
RISE Driving Program

SisterWorks
\$55,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
SisterWorks Sisters Coordination

VICSEG New Futures
\$65,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Refugee Family Mentoring – Empowering Parents Empowering Children

Williamstown Community and Education Centre
\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)
Grow, Cook, Create and Share

Total: \$591,559

Criminal offenders and juvenile justice

Auspicious Arts Projects Inc
\$10,000
The Chat

Women and Mentoring – WAM Limited
\$60,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Women and Mentoring – Yarra and the West

Total: \$70,000

Disadvantaged or low income

Community Hub
\$6,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Colac Otway L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program

Creativity Australia
\$15,000
Creating Inspiring Community Leaders

Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS)
\$25,000
Urban Food Programme

FareShare
\$10,000
FareShare Feeds Gippsland

Green Collect
\$75,000 (over three years)
Operating expenses while building trading capacity

Hope Springs
\$15,000
Hope Springs Women's Access Project

Human Rights Law Centre
\$25,000
Human Rights Law Centre website development

Kinfolk Café
\$20,000 (over two years)
Kinfolk Volunteer Program

Lifeline Gippsland
\$30,000 (over two years)
Gippsland Crisis Care Call Service

Lord Somers Camp and Power House
\$10,000
Volunteer Online Training and Capacity Development Program

Sacred Heart Mission
\$40,000 (over two years)
Sacred Heart Mission's Hands on Health Clinic

St Kilda Community Housing Ltd
\$2,200
Social Inclusion through Social Meals

The Queen's Fund
\$10,000
General operating costs (in recognition of John McInnes's service as Trustee of The R E Ross Trust)

Total: \$283,200

Families and community building

Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre

\$4,000

Development of new logo and website to update IT system

Habitat for Humanity Australia (VIC) Inc

\$10,000

Capacity Building through Strategic Fundraising

Yarra Glen & District Living & Learning Centre

\$18,700

Deepen Growth and Keeping our Community Connected

Jirrahlinga Koala & Wildlife Sanctuary

\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

General operational costs

Total: \$77,700

Homelessness

Uniting Care Ballarat

\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

BreezeWay Meals for Homeless and Marginalised People

Way Community (The)

\$45,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Employment of worker to staff the residential service

Total: \$90,000

Indigenous Australians

Ganbina

\$25,000

Ganbina Program Longitudinal Evaluation

Healesville Indigenous Community Services

Association

\$60,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Taking it to the next level project

SNAICC – Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

\$90,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Preventing and Responding to Family Violence Training and Support Program

The Lowitja Institute

\$10,000

Developing an investment prospectus to raise research funds to address Aboriginal Health

Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association

\$28,800

Gathering Place Coordinator

Total: \$213,800

Mental Health

Getting Ahead Working Group

\$18,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Getting Ahead...

Mental Health Legal Centre Inc (MHLC)

\$75,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

Effective Advanced Statements for Improved Recovery Journeys

PSMyFamilyMatters

\$9,994

Strengthening support for carers in Macedon Ranges

Total: \$102,994

Victims of violence, sexual assault and child abuse

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria

\$9,967

Promoting the SmartSafe+ App state-wide to enhance safety for women

Total \$9,967

Total Impact Area A: **\$1,439,220**



First Step Legal

Employment of a Legal Case Manager

CURRENT GRANT: \$61,131 (2014–2017)

PURPOSE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

POPULATION SERVED: ADDICTION AND ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: VICTORIA STATEWIDE

When he was 18, David* became a client of First Step Legal, which is embedded in First Step, a drug and alcohol treatment centre in St Kilda. Tania Wolff is the Principal Lawyer at First Step Legal. She worked with the Legal Case Manager on David's case, and represented him at Court.

TANIA WOLFF, PRINCIPAL LAWYER

What are the aims of First Step Legal?

First Step Legal is a health justice partnership with First Step, which is a multidisciplinary mental health and addiction treatment centre. First Step's aim is to help people overcome drug and alcohol addiction and the associated mental health and social issues. First Step Legal aims to provide quality legal advice and representation to clients engaged in treatment, and a more integrated and holistic service offering.

What does The Ross Trust's funding help to enable?

Since 2014, the Ross Trust has part-funded a Legal Case Manager, who works three days a week. The Legal Case Manager is an essential component of our unique service offering.

How does First Step Legal support its clients?

Myself and another lawyer, Janine Perlman, work closely with the Case Manager to regularly liaise and coordinate with the client and their health professionals to better support the client leading up to and beyond their court appearance. We also try to facilitate a court outcome that will support their ongoing recovery.

What do you hope or plan for the future of the Legal Case Manager's role?

The Legal Case Manager role has become integral to First Step Legal, and we hope that it is a role we can fund the role on a full-time basis in 2017. The Legal Case Manager has enabled us to assist in far more matters than would have otherwise been possible.



First Step
03 9537 3177
firststep.org.au

DAVID, FIRST STEP LEGAL CLIENT

What made you eligible for support from First Step and First Step Legal?

I started drinking and smoking weed just after I turned 15. By the time I was 17 I was smoking ice every day. I was referred to First Step by hospital staff after an overdose. First Step referred me to First Step Legal after the police raided my house, and I was arrested for drug possession.

When did you know you needed to get some help?

People speak of rock bottoms – I've had a few, like getting kicked out of home, or having an intervention order issued against me. But nothing fazed me. Even when I was facing drug trafficking charges and jail. I thought jail would be cool! For my first month or so in rehab, I didn't think I had a problem. I thought when I left I'd be able to use drugs again and be fine. But after a while the messages started getting through. Drugs were ruining my life; jail would have ruined my life.

What changes has First Step Legal helped you to make?

At first I really disliked Tania! She kept telling me I had to go to rehab, and I just didn't want to hear it. But once the fog had cleared she became my lifeline. I'd call her and tell her I didn't want to be in rehab. She'd help me think through the positive and negatives of my options and make the right decisions. I stayed in rehab for eight months.

What are you focusing on now?

I'm studying a Bachelor of Science with a major in Biochemistry, and working part-time in a car wash. It feels good to be clean, and working towards a positive future for myself.

**Not his real name*

*Left page: Tania Wolff, Principal Lawyer, First Step Legal
Photo: Anna Carlile*

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Building organisational sustainability and capacity

CURRENT GRANT: \$125,000 (2015–17)

PURPOSE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

POPULATION SERVED: ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: VICTORIA STATE WIDE

GRANT HISTORY: \$1,657,464 (2003–17)

As part of its strategy to achieve social and economic participation for its 3,000 members seeking asylum, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) established three social enterprises, staffed by its members. One of these is ASRC Cleaning, which currently provides employment, training and stable income to 10 people.

“People seeking asylum face unique challenges, from barriers such as language to the lack of local work experience and support networks,” says Flor Sedighi, ASRC Cleaning Manager who has recently been granted asylum by the government.

Flor came to Australia from Iran in March 2014. A business manager with extensive experience in sales, customer service and relationship management, she has been managing ASRC Cleaning for a year, with the goal of increasing its profitability and sustainability. Since then, she has managed to grow revenue for the social enterprise by 71 per cent and expand the client-base to include nearly 400 individuals and businesses across Melbourne.

“Our work is important because it gives people seeking asylum the opportunity to support themselves, gain Australian work experience and connect them to the broader Australian community,” says Flor.

ASRC Cleaning was established as a social enterprise of the ASRC to provide much-needed employment to people seeking asylum, as well as to create an ongoing income stream for the ASRC by providing professional and reliable cleaning services to commercial and domestic clients.



ASRC Cleaning enables asylum seekers to support themselves and gain work experience.

Owned and run by a community of volunteers and supporters, the ASRC is upheld by over 1,300 volunteers. More than 90 per cent of its income is sourced from the community via philanthropic trusts like the Ross Trust and individual donors.

Many of the 29,000 people who are seeking asylum in Australia are forced to live below the poverty line while their refugee claims are being processed, which can sometimes take many years. More than 50 per cent of the 550 people who rely on the ASRC’s Foodbank each week do not have the right to work or other financial support. Most do not have Medicare, and all are ineligible for Healthcare Cards. Government-funded English language and employment training programs are limited. Organisations like the ASRC play a vital role in providing access to essential services that support the mental, physical and social well-being of people seeking asylum.



ASRC Cleaning
03 9274 9880
asrc.org.au

Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program

CURRENT GRANT: \$1,465,620 (2014–2017)
PURPOSE: FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES
POPULATION SERVED: DISADVANTAGED OR LOW INCOME
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: VICTORIA STATEWIDE
GRANT HISTORY: \$9,536,616 (2000–2017)

The Trust's Emergency Relief and Material Aid (ER&MA) Program supports a range of agencies providing ER&MA to people affected by poverty and adverse circumstances, and targets geographic areas and population groups where funding is most needed and will have maximum impact.

The Mornington Community Information & Support Centre (MCISC) is one of 18 agencies that received support in the program's 2014-2016 triennial funding cycle.

MCISC is a community run, not-for-profit service that provides general community information and crisis support. Over the past 12 months, the \$30,000 grant has assisted 48 families, 47 single people, four aged pensioners and one community group.

"We provide food parcels, food, petrol and phonecard vouchers, and help with paying for travel fares, emergency accommodation, rent, utility and pharmacy bills and basic school supplies. In recent years, we've introduced SecondBite's Free Fresh Food & Community Meals program to complement our emergency food and food voucher relief," says Lisa Elliott, the Centre's Manager.

Lisa has been with the Centre since 2010. In that time, she's noticed that requests for housing and homelessness related assistance, domestic violence crisis support, and help paying education related costs have all increased.



Staff and volunteers at MCISC with a small collection of fresh produce and pantry items available from the centre daily.

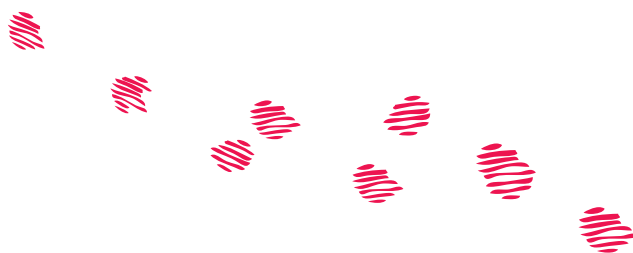
"Our Ross Trust Crisis Fund changes lives in so many ways. We were visited by an aged pensioner whose movement was severely restricted because his feet hurt. The Fund enabled us to purchase orthotics and shoes for him; seeing his joy at being able to move more comfortably was a touching moment."

It also provides for us in moments of high-risk client needs, for example, a young woman who we were able to put into a safe motel for a weekend; I believe this action saved her life," recalls Lisa.

For a full list of organisations funded in this program please refer to the Ross Trust website.



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



Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault Inc

Towards the Sexual Assault Prevention Program in Secondary Schools

CURRENT GRANT: \$48,540 (2015–2018)

PURPOSE: SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

POPULATION SERVED: VIOLENCE PREVENTION

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: BARWON

The Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) is partnering with secondary schools in Geelong to deliver a program that draws on social context and a whole-of-school approach to aid in the prevention of sexual assault.

“It’s exciting to be working alongside teachers in schools introducing such important messages to the students and encouraging their insights and discussion. The program enables students to see how their relationships will be healthy, nurturing and joyous when gender respect is an intrinsic part of how they’re conducted,” says Pamela Bjork-Billings, Project Officer for the Prevention of Violence Against Women at Barwon CASA.

Barwon CASA Sexual Assault Prevention Program in Secondary Schools (SAPPSS) was developed in response to research demonstrating that prevention programs must address the social context in which violence against women occurs. SAPPSS addresses a range of social norms that perpetuate violence against women, and promotes cultural shifts towards respect and equality.

The program had been successfully embedded into the curricula of four Geelong Schools. The Ross Trust Grant enabled SAPPSS to be introduced to an additional two large secondary schools.

Barwon CASA has a rigorous process of assessing school readiness to roll out the SAPPSS in their school. This includes the completion of a readiness checklist and an interview process with Helen Bolton, Barwon CASA CEO, before training is provided to the teachers who co-present the program with Barwon CASA.



Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault Inc

03 5222 4318

barwoncasa.org



Principals Michelle Crofts (Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College, left) and Alison Murphy (Bellarine Secondary College, right) worked with CEO of Barwon CASA, Helen Bolton (centre), to create the program.

Classes are separated according to gender to enable more open discussion among the students about the negotiation of consent in sexual relationships and to address these issues in ways that is culturally specific and relevant.

“We know that developing respectful relationships has always been a challenge for young people but in an age where the messages coming from many forms of media are conflicting, it is even more difficult. The professional training provided to our staff will ensure the messages from the program are embedded in the school and are supported across the college. Our goal is for Bellarine students to develop as respectful and resilient individuals and this program will certainly support that,” says Alison Murphy, Principal at Bellarine Secondary College.

Croydon Hills Baptist Church

Eleven41 Cleaning Enterprise

CURRENT GRANT: \$9,000 (2013–14)

PURPOSE: FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES

POPULATION SERVED: ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: EASTERN METRO

Croydon Hills Baptist Church has established a cleaning social enterprise to provide employment and training opportunities for newly arrived migrants from the Karen community in Burma.

“Eleven41 is a social enterprise that was piloted in Bendigo in 2011 with the aim of reducing social exclusion and poverty among refugees living across Victoria by offering them long-term, sustainable employment,” says Jacqui Harvey, Karen Support Coordinator.

“The initiative aims to empower the Karen to learn basic business skills, create new networks and build on their English skills, enabling them to support their families and lead a hopeful and dignified life.”

The Karen people are an ethnic minority group who have a long history of persecution in Burma. Confidence in operating within an Australian context can sometimes be an issue, mainly due to limitations in language skills.

The Croydon Hills Baptist Church enterprise followed a successful model developed by the Bendigo Baptist Church. The training is specifically designed to cater for participants’ language and skill levels and most importantly, to build their confidence in their new community.

Eleven41 offers window cleaning and lawn mowing services, and employs nine Karen staff including a team leader and bookkeeper.

Way Moo Thomas was a teacher in her own country, but struggled to find work in Australia. She has been involved in Eleven41 since its inception, and was nominated to job share an administration role with the aim of ultimately taking full responsibility for its management.



Eleven41 provides much-needed employment and training opportunities for Karen migrants

“I have been involved since the beginning of the project. At the beginning there were three cleaners, now there are eight. I liaise with clients and staff, and check equipment and supplies,” says Way Moo.

The Trust’s funding enabled the church to train Way Moo in basic administration with a view to being able to manage quotes and oversee hours worked by the cleaners.

“Having a Karen person like Way Moo in a leadership role is giving Eleven41 stability by creating a bridge between the Karen staff and the clients. She is able to help iron out any concerns, communicate schedule changes and explain the jobs in detail to the other Karen staff. It would be difficult for the enterprise to operate efficiently without her input,” says Jacqui.



Eleven41 Cleaning Enterprise

03 9876 4503

bizhubmaroondah.com.au/business/profile/844088654/Eleven41-Cleaning-Enterprise-CROYDON-HILLS-BAPTIST-CHURCH/Croydon-Hills

Impact Area B

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



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

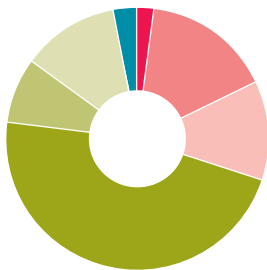
Priority is given to applications addressing:

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

In 2015–16, the Trustees approved 25 grants totalling \$1,107,677, some of which will be paid over a period of up to three years.

In 2015–16, the Trust paid 57 grants totalling \$1,372,053 some of which were approved in prior years.

Grants approved under Impact Area B



- 47% Disengaged young people
- 16% Asylum seekers, CALD, immigrants & refugees
- 12% Disadvantaged or low income
- 12% Mental health
- 8% Out of home care
- 3% Small or remote regional communities
- 2% Indigenous Australians

Location of approved grants



Grants approved by the Trust in 2015–2016 under Impact Area B

Asylum seekers, CALD, immigrants and refugees

Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights

\$50,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Parenting for Peace Project for Muslim Mothers

Centre for Multicultural Youth

\$30,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Pathway to Opportunity

North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House

\$23,294 (OVER TWO YEARS)

The Multicultural Facilitated Playgroup and Parent Support Program

Polyglot Puppet Theatre Ltd

\$75,000 (OVER THREE YEARS)

5678: Polyglot Theatre middle-years transition model project

Total: \$178,294

Disadvantaged or low income

Australian Schools Plus

\$20,000

Strengthening Community Connections

Save the Children Australia Trust

\$25,000

Children's Wellbeing Project -- East Gippsland

Eureka Mums

\$57,566 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Every Baby Project

Kurunjang Primary School

\$14,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Learning and Playing Together Playgroup - Language Experience Book Program

Pam Gunn Memorial Axedale Trust

\$15,000

Funding 3rd day per week for Student Well-Being Worker

Total: \$131,566

Disengaged young people

Robinvale District Health Service

\$25,000

Robinvale Employment Network

Berry Street Victoria

\$30,000

Making Morwell a Good Childhood Place: Creating Community Conversations

Concern Australia

\$20,000 (over two years)

Staying Connected

Hands on Learning Australia

\$300,000 (over three years)

Core Capacity Support

Jesuit Social Services

\$10,000

Fitzroy Soccer Lions Program

Melbourne Citymission

\$18,900

Youth Mentoring Assisted Pathway Program

Ocean Grove Neighbourhood Centre Inc

\$20,000 (over two years)

Drop In program to engage at risk young people

Warrnambool East Primary School

\$30,000 (over three years)

Nurturing Room

Youth Insearch

\$45,000 (over two years)

Victorian Empower Youth

Zoe Support Australia

\$20,000

Zoe Support Trifecta: reducing barriers to education, increasing access to education opportunity and childcare places

Total: \$518,900

Mental health

Rosebud Secondary College

\$78,957 (over three years)

Wellness Program

Reach Foundation (The)

\$25,000

Changing Perceptions - Secondary School Workshops.

Satellite Foundation

\$30,000 (over two years)

Fundraising and Communication Coordinator

Total: \$133,957

Indigenous Australians

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

\$20,000 (over two years)

Western Victoria Aboriginal Youth Literacy Program

Total \$20,000

Out of home care

Mirabel Foundation Inc

\$84,960 (over three years)

Building Hope Youth Engagement Program – Rural and Regional Victoria

Total: \$84,960

Small or remote regional communities

Regional Arts Victoria

\$40,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Regional Secondary Schools Targeted Support Program

Total: \$40,000

Total Impact Area B: \$1,107,677

cohealth Ltd

The Sisters and Brothers Project

CURRENT GRANT: \$45,000 (2012–15)
PURPOSE: FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES
POPULATION SERVED: ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: WESTERN MELBOURNE
GRANT HISTORY: \$142,999 (2003–15)

Empathy building is a key feature of the award-winning Sisters and Brothers Project, which worked with children to reduce discrimination and emphasise diversity and commonality through an innovative music program.

“Sisters and Brothers addresses race-based discrimination from the vantage point of lived experience. We believe in the importance of owning who we are as people of different cultures and different backgrounds, but also acknowledging that we are one race,” says Geskeva Komba, one of the project’s lead facilitators.

Sisters and Brothers is delivered by cohealth’s Arts Generator which works with children aged eight to 12 through an innovative music program to emphasise commonality and diversity, and promote dialogue around diversity and race-based discrimination. In 2015, it won the VicHealth award for Improving Mental Wellbeing.

Over the last five years, the program has engaged 1,600 children through storytelling, collaborative song-writing, musical rhythms from diverse cultural traditions, and role-play, with young CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) artists from MASSIVE Hip Hop Choir who have been mentored and trained by cohealth.

“The fact that the project is delivered by teams of young people from the communities we have been targeting is a clear reason for the project’s high level of success. This kind of ‘embodied’ practice — where the health messages are coming from young people that the children directly identify with and relate to, has proved incredibly powerful,” says Liss Gabb, cohealth Arts Generator Coordinator.



Children reported feeling greater empathy and a better understanding of racism after the program.

Program results show that 95 per cent of children reported their school was a safer place after the project. Teachers also reported a higher level of empathy in the classroom environment afterwards, and a 40 per cent increase in children’s willingness to respond to and intervene in a situation of race-based discrimination.

The program has been just as beneficial for the facilitators running the project. Artists report that it has positively contributed to their employability and contributed to their personal growth, while expanding personal and professional networks.

“Racism is a strong topic that touches everyone in some form or another,” says Carla Olea, Primary Welfare Officer at Dinjerra Primary School.

“Sisters and Brothers teaches kids so many social skills and is a program that should be supported, acknowledged and shared amongst many communities, especially when the message is delivered in such an engaging manner by talented, young leaders.”



cohealth Ltd
03 9362 8877
cohealth.org.au, sistersandbrothersproject.org



New Stars Association

Study Hall and Ball

CURRENT GRANT: \$90,000 (2013–16)
PURPOSE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY
POPULATION SERVED: DISENGAGED YOUNG PEOPLE
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: EASTERN MELBOURNE

The New Stars Association provides expert training and competition in basketball for over 300 young people from 27 nationalities on the condition they attend 'Study Hall' – a program that helps them with schoolwork, and provides life skills programs and ongoing personal and family support. Nicholson Hay, 14, has been part of the program since 2014.

What is your background?

My family is from Cambodia. We came to Australia eight years ago to get away from the war. Life has been quite difficult due to my parents being very strict and it has been hard for me to adapt to the cultural differences in Australia.

How did you become involved in the New Stars program?

I played a lot of sports in Cambodia when I was younger, and then in Australia I played soccer, tennis, and football. I started basketball when I was 12 because many people recommended I play because of my height and my potential. A friend recommended me to join New Stars. I have been in New Stars for over a year now and I am enjoying being part of the program.

Has doing the program changed anything for you personally?

Yes, I have grown more confidence and have gotten in better shape due to playing basketball a lot. Training has made me more competitive in everything I do. I pay more attention in class also and try to get the best grade possible. If I didn't join New Stars, I would be at home not doing much.

Can you describe what you do in the program?

First I practise with my basketball team; we go through individual drills and team-oriented drills as well. Once we have practised, I get changed and study and complete homework, or work on my projects with the help of the tutors at New Stars.

Does New Stars give you a sense that you belong to a community?

I have met many new people at New Stars, and made some really good friends. New Stars has given me a sense that I belong; it's where I can be myself. Nobody makes feel like I'm different. My family is not involved because they are so busy with work. So New Stars is a second home and a second family.

Do you have a big dream for the future?

My dream is to become an engineer, and being part of New Stars has made me aware that it is possible. The tutors help me and guide me in what subjects to do and to work hard everyday. I now know what I want to do and so I am working everyday to achieve it.



New Stars Association
03 9798 7429
newstars.net.au

*Left page: Nicholson Hay, Study Hall and Ball participant, New Stars Association
Photo: Anna Carlile*

Hands on Learning

Expanding the HOL method

CURRENT GRANT: \$300,000 (2016-19)
PURPOSE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY
POPULATION SERVED: DISENGAGED YOUNG PEOPLE
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: VICTORIA STATE WIDE
GRANT HISTORY: \$659,700 (2010-19)

Hands on Learning Australia is an innovative learning program that aims to inspire students at risk of early leaving to stay at school with a more hands on approach. It helps students to build skills, self-confidence and community participation.

Hands on Learning is committed to preventing the harm of early school leaving. It engages vulnerable school students aged 11-15 years in meaningful projects which provide real-life applications of learning by connecting them with artisan-teachers who act as mentors, and giving them a sense of purpose and achievement by aiding the wider community.

“We play a crucial role in supporting partner schools to deliver an effective preventative intervention which enables schools to better cater for all kids, not just the academically talented,” says Cameron Wiseman, Executive Director of Finance at Hands on Learning.

The program creates opportunities at school for young people to discover their talents and experience success. Reports show that attendance rates of these young people significantly increased, vocational and academic pathways improved, and youth unemployment was reduced after involvement with the program.

“When we are painting we need to work out how many tins of paint we need. In normal maths it’s too hard for me because I can’t see it visually,” says Brooke, a Year 9 student of the program at Hawkesdale P-12 College. “It makes you feel pretty good when other kids come up and thank us for what we have done. Doing Hands on Learning keeps us happier at school— and if you are happier you can do way more stuff.”



Artisan-teachers go into schools one day a week to teach children new skills.

Hands on Learning currently has active partnerships with over 60 Victorian schools, and plans to expand to a total of 100 schools by the end of 2018, as well as partnering with Monash University to improve the learning experience for a greater diversity of students in the future. It also collaborates with local communities, philanthropic foundations, and businesses to enable schools to contribute to community infrastructure projects.

“Some of our kids go their whole school lives without shining, but in Hands On Learning it’s their time to feel part of something special, to show what they can do, and you literally see them feeling proud. It’s the highlight of their school week,” says Jimmy Peart, Grade Five Coordinator at Dromana Primary School.



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

The Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders

Supporting Kids and Youth

CURRENT GRANT: \$300,000 (2016-19)
PURPOSE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY
POPULATION SERVED: DISENGAGED YOUNG PEOPLE
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: VICTORIA STATE WIDE
GRANT HISTORY: \$1,456,030 (1978-2017)

Supporting Kids and Youth (SKY) project counsellors provide intensive individual and family counselling, liaison and referrals for children and young people with a parent or significant adult family member in the Victorian Adult Criminal Justice System.

“Michelle* lived with her dad while her mum spent four different occasions in prison. She had been exposed to adult drug misuse and violence from friends of her parents,” says Romy Same, SKY counsellor.

“Nine-year-old Michelle and her mother were referred to SKY by a drug and alcohol service, who advised they were seeking support to re-establish their fractured relationships. Our goals were to stabilise parental boundaries and enable Michelle to be a child again.”

Michelle and both her parents attended weekly counselling sessions with SKY. The sessions focussed on building trust and slowly establishing appropriate rules and boundaries in the family unit. At the concluding session for 2015, the family reflected that Michelle was more confident. Nervous behaviours had decreased and she had improved academically to the point that she was performing at class level. Michelle’s mum celebrated her first Christmas with her daughter last year and has been substance free since leaving prison.

Michelle was one of 60 children supported in nearly 180 counselling sessions provided by the Victorian Association for the Care Resettlement of Offenders (VACRO)’s SKY program in the 2015 calendar year. Many caregivers effected by contact with the criminal justice system have complex histories of family



Children engaged with SKY counselling utilise Therapeutic Play to explore emotions and heal trauma.

violence, trauma, mental health and substance use, which can all impact on a child’s healthy development.

The SKY program works with whole family systems to provide a safe, healing environment for family members to rebuild their relationships and support each other. Ultimately this makes the whole community safer, as family connection is a vital factor in reducing offender recidivism.

“SKY’s clients report increased confidence and closeness between parents and their children, while we observe children having less trauma symptoms,” says Romy, who received the Dr Leonie Naughton Scholarship for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Best Practice Exploration Project.

The SKY program has been so in demand that prospective clients have had to be waitlisted, with many saying they’d prefer to wait for SKY than to take a place in a more generic program being offered elsewhere.

* Not her real name.



VICTORIAN
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE CARE &
RESETTLEMENT
OF OFFENDERS
LIFE CHANGING

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

Impact Area C

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



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

Priority was given to applications contributing to:

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

The Trust considered applications from a range of organisations including:

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

In 2015–16, the Trustees approved six grants totalling \$74,799 in Impact Area C, some of which will be paid over periods of up to three years.

In 2015–16, the Trust paid 16 grants totalling \$429,916, some of which were approved in prior years.

Grants approved by the Trust in 2015–2016 under Impact Area C

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art
\$9,599
ACCA GO Program: Education Workshops

Bendigo Science & Technology Museum
\$12,500
Re-Launching Discovery

Cambridge Primary School
\$20,000
Culturally Inclusive Classroom Libraries

Children’s Book Council of Australia Victorian Branch
\$13,200 (OVER THREE YEARS)
Author In Schools Program

East Gippsland Network of Neighbourhood Houses
\$4,500
Cann River governance training

Substation Inc (The)
\$15,000
Everyday People project

Total Impact Area C: **\$74,799**

Location of approved grants



- 1 grant had Victoria statewide reach
- 1 grant had metro Melbourne reach



Centre for International Child Health

R E Ross Trust Regional Fellowship

CURRENT GRANT: \$354,300 (2014-17)
PURPOSE: SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES
POPULATION SERVED: OVERSEAS STUDENTS
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: PACIFIC ISLANDS
GRANT HISTORY: \$1,116,250 (2005-17)

Since 2005, the Trust has worked with The Centre for International Child Health to run a Regional Fellowship program for doctors and nurses working in child health in Papua New Guinea. Trevor Duke, Professor of International Child Health at the University of Melbourne, leads the Program.

When did you first begin working in PNG?

I first came to work in PNG in 1997, as the paediatrician in Goroka, a town in the Eastern Highlands where I lived for over 3 years. Since 2001 I have been Adjunct Professor of Child Health at the University of PNG.

Can you give us a snapshot of child health in PNG at that time?

Child health in the highlands was poor with 1 in 10 children dying before reaching the age of 5 years. There had been a decline in child health outcomes in the previous 10 years, for many reasons.

How have you seen things change for child health since you first began working in PNG?

There has been a major increase in the number of trained paediatricians who are treating children and providing leadership in child health in their provinces. In 1997 there were only 5 provinces outside the national capital which had paediatricians, now there are 18. Thirty three paediatricians have graduated in the last 15 years. There are now more coordinated programs for child health. More children are attending and completing school, new vaccines are preventing common illnesses, and HIV is under much better control. However in the last decade there has also been increasing urbanisation, and in many of the unplanned urban settlements it is difficult for parents to provide a healthy environment for their children. Malnutrition, enteric diseases and tuberculosis are preventable causes of childhood illness and death in many such communities.

Child neglect and maltreatment are also sadly common, and the long-term effects of poor nutrition on growth and intellectual development affect children throughout their entire lives. But awareness of these problems is growing, and the Fellowship will support the training of more PNG paediatricians in these areas of prevention and social paediatrics.

What are the aims of the Program?

The Program aims to develop 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.

What did the Trust's funding enable in the 2015-16 year?

This year the program has continued its focus on training. Three paediatricians completed their training in 2015, two will complete in 2016 and many others are in earlier stages of their training. The Fellowship has also assisted these doctors to complete research projects, by providing small project grants and assistance on project design, research and analysis.



Centre for International Child Health University of Melbourne, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and The Royal Children's Hospital
03 9345 5968
rch.org.au/cich

Left page: Dr Trevor Duke,
Professor of International Child Health,
Centre for International Child Health
Photo: Anna Carlile

The projects are on common problems faced in PNG such as diagnosing tuberculosis, teaching children about HIV infection, child sexual abuse, ear infections, malnutrition and infant feeding. The findings of these projects were then presented at an annual paediatric conference and will most likely be published in peer reviewed journals.

Why is it important for Australia to support public health in PNG?

Many reasons. Fundamentally, because we are neighbours, and neighbours should help each other. The people of PNG were very good to Australia during the 2nd World War, many Australian soldiers' lives were saved by their assistance. Australia is a fortunate and wealthy country and we ought to contribute to raising the overall standard of living for people across Oceania. Our sense of egalitarianism, so often considered a part of the Australian identity, should not be confined by national borders or other artificial barriers that we use to separate humanity. Providing more support to neighbouring countries would cost Australia very little, it would impinge minimally on our standards of living, but it would address serious inequalities and lack of opportunities. And it would improve the chances of long-term regional peace and stability. There is much we can learn from each other, and linkages at all levels - government and civil society help this. Finally, there are common diseases, including TB and HIV, that have been virtually eradicated in Australia, but which PNG still struggles to control, and there are emerging infectious disease threats, such as Zika and Influenza. If we help PNG improve public health the spread of these diseases across Oceania is less likely.

How many weeks or months a year do you spend in PNG?

I stay in PNG for about 8 weeks a year, and overall spend about a third of my time on child health in PNG and the region.

How does your work in PNG complement or intersect with your other work in Melbourne?

There are many intersections. Supporting young doctors and nurses to build their skills and careers is a common focus. And improving the quality of paediatric care requires similar ingredients in PNG or Melbourne: training, epidemiological data, research, leadership. I have always considered that in treating children good clinical skills are far more important than expensive tests, and this applies to whether I am in the intensive care unit in Melbourne or a remote hospital in PNG. PNG is a low resource setting, but by far the greatest resource is her people, and there is no reason why PNG people should not have similar opportunities to improve their lives as we in Australia.

What kind of personal reward or satisfaction do you take from your work?

I greatly value the friendships I have with paediatricians and trainees in PNG, and I enjoy learning about the Pacific, its history, society and culture. I have been pleased to see the development of young trainees into paediatricians providing leadership for child health in their provinces, and seeing their increased ability to care for sick children, including those with complex diseases. And seeing the significant reduction in child mortality rates over the last 15 years signals to me that progress is truly taking place.

Do you have a particular story you can share that illustrates a positive impact or outcome for a trainee doctor or nurse?

I have been particularly proud of Dr Gwenda Anga since she came to Melbourne to learn about childhood cancer treatment in 2014. Gwenda now leads the paediatric cancer ward in Port Moresby, has written the national protocols on childhood cancer, provides guidance on the care of children with cancer in hospitals throughout the country, and has trained many nurses and junior doctors. The benefit of her experience extends beyond cancer treatment, and I see the care of children with other complex diseases improving because of her influence and leadership. Gwenda has high expectations and provides an outstanding role model for young doctors.

Do you have a particular story you can share that illustrates a positive impact or outcome for a patient/child?

When I worked in Goroka I saw several children die from pneumonia due to lack of oxygen, which was scarce in those days. In the last few years we have a program for putting small machines which make oxygen into health centres, run by solar power. Since then I have seen many infants whose mothers brought them to the health centres with very low oxygen levels and hours from dying, improve dramatically when given oxygen. The mothers are very relieved, and the nurses are often emotional too. This oxygen work has also been supported by the RE Ross Trust Fellowship.

What do you hope to achieve with the Program in the future?

There is so much to be done. We set a plan in place in 2009 for Child Health up to 2020, and this has many elements, involving all the things I've discussed and more. The key is developing people, and the Program supported by the RE Ross Trust has enabled this. With this type of work you have to have long-term thinking, consistency and flexibility, and I am very grateful for The Trust's unwavering support.

Museums Australia (Victoria) Inc

Connecting Community Museums

CURRENT GRANT: \$150,000 (2014-17)
PURPOSE: SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES
POPULATION SERVED: SMALL REGIONAL COMMUNITIES
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: VICTORIA STATE WIDE

Museums Australia (Victoria) is working with regional and remote Victorian museums to create a 'culture of collaboration' that aims to improve sustainability and functionality and engage participants in a state-wide accreditation program. The program recently celebrated the participation of 100 organisations.

The Museum Accreditation Program (MAP) is a peer review program that aligns museums with the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries. "The network of participating organisations exists to share best practice, from ideas about museum and gallery operations to resources. This culture of collaboration is embedded in our values and is vital to sustain the sector," explains Laura Miles, Executive Director of Museums Australia (Victoria).

As part of the program, staff identify skills gaps and promote the resources and professional development available to address these needs. Model documents and templates from museums that have achieved accreditation are shared with other museums as an exclusive benefit of the program. Training and workshops are given on a variety of topics like collection policies, preventative conservation, and public programming.

A formalised support network connects museums with other accredited cultural organisations. Of the 700 grassroots museums across Victoria, 72 are now MAP accredited, with an additional 176 being supported to become ready to start the accreditation process. The grant from the Ross Trust enabled rural and regional museums participation in this process.



Training volunteers in preventative conservation as part of the program.

"We've received invaluable support in the form of MAP visits, advice and opportunities to participate in a wide range of training programs. The MAP managers' extensive expertise and knowledge, coupled with the outstanding training and support programs our staff have attended, play a pivotal role in achieving accreditation," says Ian Marshall, Secretary of the Daylesford & District Historical Society.

Victorian museums and galleries rely on volunteers. As part of the program, a selection of MAP museums and galleries are offering structured short-term projects for handpicked Deakin University students.

"The student placement program provides valuable experience for emerging professionals, and supports museums by providing help for structured, short-term projects aligned with the National Standards. We're so pleased that through us, the Trust has supported thousands of volunteers and staff who care for over 19 million cultural treasures," says Laura.



Museums Australia (Victoria)
03 8341 7344; 1800 680 082
mavic.asn.au

Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service

Storytime on Wheels

CURRENT GRANT: \$45,000 (2013-16)
PURPOSE: SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES
POPULATION SERVED: DISADVANTAGED OR LOW INCOME
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: NORTHERN MELBOURNE

The Storytime on Wheels program delivered a pop-up library to the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service's community via a specially equipped van. A staff member trained in early literacy facilitated reading sessions designed to empower vulnerable families through a 4 or 6-week story-sharing program.

"It's been really valuable to be able to get out into the community, as we have a number of new parents, and families who are geographically and economically isolated and find it difficult to travel to their nearest library," says Donna Derons, the Library's Reading Rover Coordinator and the person who is, quite literally, behind the wheel of the van.

"Early literacy skills have a significant positive impact on children's development. Research shows that these skills give children a head start in their education, which lasts right up until secondary school and beyond. The simple act of sharing a story with a child can also send the child the message that they are loved. This is particularly crucial for some of the groups we work with, which include foster families, parents with substance abuse issues and victims of family violence. The program aims to bring stories to life for these children, giving families some simple tips that will help them to support their child's literacy journey."

During its three years in operation to date, the program reached more than 400 families in the cities of Banyule, Whittlesea and the Shire of Nillumbik. One hundred and twenty-six new library memberships were issued, and program participants borrowed nearly 2,000 books. A strong network of community partners supported the program.



During its three years in operation, Storytime on Wheels reached more than 400 families.

"Part of my role was working with parents and helping them to learn ways to adapt reading activities in response to their child's interests and unique needs," says Donna.

One parent's testimonial says it all.

"My child has attention deficits and we've found sitting down to read very challenging, and frustrating for both of us. It had begun to be a bit of a battle. But now that I've changed the focus to active language activities like acting out stories, and singing fun nursery rhymes, we're both enjoying this time together much more. Before I felt like I was failing [my child], but now I feel like I am supporting her strengths."



Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service
03 9408 7888
yprl.vic.gov.au

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company

Ilbijerri Capacity Building

CURRENT GRANT: \$150,000 (2014–17)

PURPOSE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

POPULATION SERVED: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: VICTORIA STATE WIDE

Connecting with community is paramount for ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, a professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theatre company that was formed in 1990. Funding from The Trust has recently enabled the dynamic company to employ a second Producer in Community Engagement.

“Part of my work has been looking for ways to connect with community and have them engage with the company on an ongoing basis. We have senior established artists working with emerging artists and community, and I hope to be able to establish more professional pathways for young people in the community,” says Naretha Williams, ILBIJERRI Creative Producer.

ILBIJERRI’s works explore a range of complex and controversial issues from a uniquely Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective. Its creative process is deeply reliant on the stories that emerge out of collaborative relationships with communities and artists.

Naretha produces community programs and manages touring to schools, justice facilities, rural locations and community centres that might not have the chance to see their productions.

“I think it’s really important as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander company that we have the capacity to engage with our community. The difference between ILBIJERRI and other theatre companies is that innate connection and responsibility to community,” says Lisa Parris, Associate Producer.



*ILBIJERRI Theatre Company explored themes relevant to young people in its production North West of Nowhere.
Photo credit: James Henry*

Relationships with organisations such as the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) has enabled ILBIJERRI to liaise with local health workers in developing performances that communicate health messages to Victorian Aboriginal communities.

Their recent production, North West of Nowhere, was developed to raise awareness of sexual health and the importance of respectful sexual relationships. Written specifically for secondary school audiences, North West of Nowhere toured to 27 schools, prisons and communities across Victoria. Performances were followed by a question and answer session with the cast, ILBIJERRI’s Aboriginal Health Worker and nurses and youth workers from VACCHO and local Aboriginal health services.



ILBIJERRI Theatre Company
03 9329 9097
ilbijerri.com.au

Impact Area D

Protection and preservation
of Australian flora and fauna



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

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

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 \$520,000 in practical environmental grants to small Victorian communities.

In the 2015–16 year the trustees approved one grant totalling \$50,000 in this impact area, this grant will be paid over two years.

In the 2015–16 year the trust paid 7 grants totalling \$151,030, some of which were approved in prior years.

Grant approved under Impact Area D

Museum Victoria

Catching the Eye: wildlife image capture project
\$50,000 (OVER TWO YEARS)

Location of approved grants





Trust for Nature

Conservation finance and partnerships

CURRENT GRANT: \$50,000 (2016-18)
PURPOSE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY
POPULATION SERVED: GENERAL POPULATION
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: VICTORIA STATE WIDE
GRANT HISTORY: \$2,869,000 (1973-2018)

Trust for Nature is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping people protect biodiversity on private land. Support from the Trust has aided the purchase of significant wetland in Victoria, ecosystem services research, partnership building, a carbon assessment and capacity building. Marnie Lassen is the Strategic Projects Manager at Trust for Nature.

How long have you been working with Trust for Nature, and what does your role involve?

For 40 years Trust for Nature has focused on conserving land by purchasing it or working with individual landowners to protect it with conservation covenants. I've been working with the Trust for three years, my role is to look for opportunities that aren't 'business as usual' by thinking of different ways of doing things and different partners to work with.

What are the aims of Trust for Nature?

Trust for Nature aims to conserve Victoria's most threatened native plants and wildlife for future generations. The remaining habitat for many of Victoria's most threatened animals and plants is on private land, so it's critical that we protect it. We work with private landowners to permanently protect their land so that its natural values will remain there forever.

What did the Trust's funding enable Trust for Nature to achieve in 2015-16?

With The Ross Trust's support we commissioned a carbon assessment that estimated the amount of carbon dioxide equivalents stored in Trust for Nature's conservation reserves and covenanted properties at over 12 million tonnes. This is more than the total amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the Australian commercial services and construction sector in 2013.



**TRUST FOR
NATURE**

Trust for Nature
03 8631 5888
trustfornature.org.au

The R E Ross Trust and NAB helped us to investigate the value provided by our conservation programs in three discrete areas of Victoria. We found that Trust for Nature's permanent protection of natural systems delivers significant value to Victoria in terms of climate regulation, erosion control, waste treatment, and moderation of extreme events. It also supported the purchase of a property, Long Swamp, a 200-ha deep freshwater marsh in the Moolart Plains wetland in central Victoria. Importantly, the funding enabled us to build our capacity in these fields.

What have you been working on recently?

Lately I've been working with Bank Australia, which offsets the carbon and biodiversity impacts of some of its loan business by owning and maintaining a 900+ hectare covenant-protected Conservation Reserve in the West Wimmera. We recently won a contract in partnership with Greening Australia to manage the Conservation Reserve and do a strategic refresh of the Bank's approach.

It's been incredibly refreshing for me to see a business invest in things its customers care about while still being successful. The bank staff are passionate about what they do and want their efforts to have a genuine impact. It shows businesses can take tangible action to address issues like climate change and biodiversity loss.

What do you hope to achieve with your work for the Trust in the future?

Trust for Nature has just developed a new Strategic Plan that calls for a significant uplift in the amount of private land to be protected by us and our partners over the next five years. I will be using all my prior and current learning to deepen and broaden our partnerships, with the ultimate aim of securing significant conservation land for us, and our future generations.

*Left page: Marnie Lassen, Strategic Projects Partner, Trust for Nature
Photo: Anna Carlile*

Bush Heritage Australia

Securing Orchids for the Future

CURRENT GRANT: \$20,000 (2015–18)
PURPOSE: SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES
POPULATION SERVED: GENERAL POPULATION
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: LODDON MALLEE
GRANT HISTORY: \$245,000 (2005–18)

Bush Heritage Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that works to preserve biodiversity. In Victoria, the Trust's support has enabled it to engage with local Indigenous people to eradicate rabbit populations and protect and reintroduce local orchid species in the Kara Kara-Wedderburn area.

"Since 2015 was an exceptionally dry year, with rainfall only one third of the long term average, it was important to keep overall grazing pressure to a minimum to protect the small proportion of orchids that emerged," says Jeroen van Veen, Bush Heritage's Victorian Reserves Manager.

The first step to protect threatened orchids, which include the White-Lipped Spider Orchid (*Caladenia xanthochila*) and the Northern Golden Moth Orchid (*Diuris protena*), was to eradicate the rabbit populations that had been decimating new orchid growth.

To achieve this, all rabbit havens in the Nardoo Hills and John Colahan Griffin Reserves were treated and the rabbits destroyed. The enterprise arm of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation were contracted to fumigate rabbits on the southeast side of Wedderburn, as the rabbits were directly impacting a nearby population of White-Lipped Spider Orchid.

Despite the period's low rainfall, plant populations show that the control of grazing threats has provided tangible benefits for most of the threatened orchids at Nardoo Hills and John Colahan Griffin Reserves.

There were other successes during the year too. A substantial population of Robust Greenhood (*Pterostylis valida*), which is listed as threatened on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, was discovered on a private property near Mt Korong Nature Conservation Reserve. An undescribed species of Leek Orchid



Rare orchid Robust Greenhood is making a comeback with reduced rabbit numbers.

found at Nardoo Hills is awaiting taxonomic identification by the Victorian Herbarium and orchid experts to decide if it is a distinct species or a hybrid of other known species. Further rabbit control work was contracted at two private properties at Stuart Mill near St Arnaud, where a population of the threatened Lowly Greenhood (*Pterostylis despectans*) was under threat from browsing.

"This newly emerged stand of Lowly Greenhoods adds to the few known populations elsewhere in the Kara Kara Range in Central Victoria. Work to control rabbits there is a big contribution to securing the future of this species, which is endemic to Central Victoria," says Jeroen.



Bush Heritage Australia
1300 NATURE (1300 628 873)
bushheritage.org.au

Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprise

Mt Barker Property Preservation Project

CURRENT GRANT: \$30,000 (2013-15)
PURPOSE: SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES
POPULATION SERVED: ABORIGINAL POPULATION
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: LODDON MALLEE

Dja Dja Wurrung people worked with the Bendigo Young Indigenous Men's Pathway program to restore a culturally significant site at Mt Barker through weed management and regeneration of local flora.

"Mt Barker has one of the largest and most complex stone arrangements in Australia, and is significant to my people for a number of reasons. It was a place of gathering and ceremony, and to honour this we recently renamed the property 'Yapenya', meaning place to sing and dance," says Rodney Carter, Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owner.

Mt Barker is 30 kilometres south of Bendigo, and covers approximately 46 hectares. To restore the site, Dja Dja Wurrung Indigenous Rangers and Field Officers focused on removing rabbit populations and eradicating weed infestations. Connecting Country, a community-operated not-for-profit organisation that works to restore and enhance biodiversity in central Victoria, were engaged to support Dja Dja Wurrung staff in repairing damaged fences to prevent sheep from grazing on newly planted trees and damaging cultural sites.

A revegetation project was undertaken with the Bendigo Young Indigenous Men's Pathway program, which enabled 15 young Indigenous men to work alongside Dja Dja Wurrung Rangers and Field Officers. Volunteers from the broader local community worked with Dja Dja Wurrung staff to deliver a tree-planting day on which 8,500 trees were planted.



Field Officers maintaining vegetation on site.

Dja Dja Wurrung Rangers and Field Officers were extremely positive about the project. "Our staff felt a great sense of pride in being able to restore such a culturally significant site. This was particularly true for the Dja Dja Wurrung members who are working to heal their traditional Country," says Danni Taylor, Project Manager for the Preservation Project.

"The works funded through The Ross Trust including pest plant and animal control, promotion of natural regeneration and supplementary planting. It has assisted us to restore some of the natural environment to better access our beautiful land. As a Traditional Owner I appreciate support like that of the Trust in making our Country healthy again," Rodney says.



Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprise
03 5444 2888
djadjawurrung.com.au

Norman Wettenhall Foundation

Small Environmental Grant Scheme

CURRENT GRANT: \$165,000 (2014-17)
PURPOSE: SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS
POPULATION SERVED: GENERAL POPULATION
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: VICTORIA STATE WIDE
GRANT HISTORY: \$520,000 (2008-17)

The Trust has partnered with the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to distribute over \$520,000 in small environmental grants to Victorian communities since 2008. In 2015-16, the Foundation distributed eight such grants on the Trust's behalf, with a total value of \$54,895.

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, research and approve small grants of under \$10,000 on its behalf. In turn, the partnership also builds the capacity of the sector by increasing the reach of the Norman Wettenhall Foundation's existing environmental grants programs.

The Foundation selects projects that are innovative; practical in nature; 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.

2015-16 marks the eighth year of the program. Grants made on the Trust's behalf are outlined below and one detailed over the page.

Geelong Performing Arts Centre

"Extinction" by Hannie Rayson
\$5,000

Friends of Wilson Reserve

Bat box citizen science: a long term mark-recapture study
\$8,295.00

Conservation Ecology Centre

Otways threatened species network – solving the most urgent wildlife conservation issues in the Otways
\$10,000

Wombat Forestcare

Wombat forest research project
\$3,000

Australian Platypus Conservancy

Conservation of the Australian Water rat
\$7,000

ANGAIR

Improving ANGAIR's Propagating Group's biodiversity
\$1,600

Goongerah Landcare

Goongerah Landcare citizen science threatened species project
\$10,000

Wild Melbourne

Engaging people with the conservation community
\$10,000





The Rakali live in burrows on the banks of lakes and streams.

Australian Platypus Conservancy Conservation of the Australian Water-Rat

The Australian Platypus Conservancy is undertaking a community-based assessment program to gather reliable information about the distribution and habitat usage of the Australian Water-Rat, or Rakali.

“The Water-Rat is one of Australia’s least-studied mammals. It is a difficult species to study in the wild and has traditionally attracted little research funding,” says Beth Mellick, Executive Director of The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

“Reliable information about population trends is inadequate, making assessment of its conservation status impossible.”

The Rakali, or Water-Rat, is an aquatic predator which resembles a small otter. Rakali are believed to have arrived in Australia around 5-10 million years ago, after swimming or rafting from New Guinea. They live in burrows on the banks of rivers, lakes and estuaries and feed on aquatic insects, fish, crustaceans, mussels, snails, frogs, birds’ eggs and water birds.

The Australian Platypus Conservancy is utilising Facebook and social media alongside workshops and public talks to educate local communities about the Rakali and encourage reporting of sightings so that data can be built up about its distribution and habitat usage. This information will be added to existing data to facilitate a comprehensive analysis of the conservation needs of the species across the state.

The main outcome of the project will be the formulation of a practical tool for planning the future conservation of water rats in Victoria and a model that can be applied to other parts of the species’ range. The Norman Wettenhall Foundation hopes this initial survey will provide information that will encourage government funding and conservation of this rare animal.

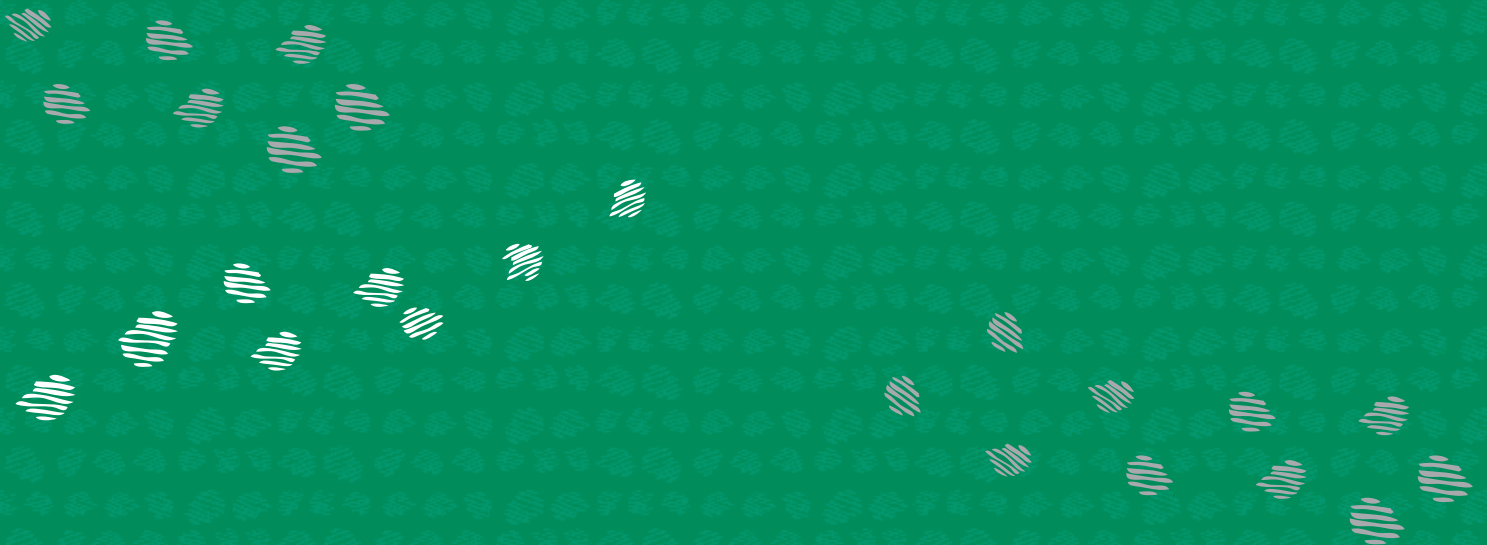
“Currently there is no government data-collection program for the Rakali so government bodies rely heavily on data collected by the community and conservation groups such as the Australian Platypus Conservancy. This data will feed into government funding for conservation of waterways in the future,” says Beth.



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

Place-based Grant Making

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



Since, 2002 the Ross Trust has adopted a place-based approach to its granting. Since this date almost \$4.5 million has been approved for projects across the Gippsland Region, Loddon Mallee (Robinvale), Benalla and through the Foundation of Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR) Small Grants program.

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

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

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

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

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

Location of place-based initiatives





Tomorrow:Today Foundation

The Education Benalla program

CURRENT GRANT: \$330,000 (2014–17)
PURPOSE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY
POPULATION SERVED: SMALL REGIONAL COMMUNITIES
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: BENALLA
GRANT HISTORY: \$750,000 (2010–17)

The Trust has invested \$750,000 in this cross-sector partnership since 2010, which helps children and young people in the disadvantaged region of Benalla to achieve educational success. Executive Officer Pat Claridge has led the Education Benalla Program since 2011.

What led you to pursue this kind of work?

While my children were growing up I spent a lot of time as a volunteer in schools and pre-schools, sporting clubs and other local groups – it was just what people did. However, after becoming a Councillor for Benalla Rural City I began to fully comprehend the importance of volunteers to our social fabric and the power of community to bring about positive change. Local Government inevitably moves slowly and cautiously, which became a real source of frustration to me. I leapt at the chance to work for Tomorrow Today because I could see that they were responsive to community needs and could be a powerful agent of change.

What are the aims of the Education Benalla Program?

The program aims to improve educational outcomes for Benalla's children. The four objectives we pursue to support this are: that all Benalla and district children start school ready to learn; literacy and numeracy levels are measurably improved; student-assessed levels of wellbeing improve to moderate or high; and family and community raise expectations for students to go on to tertiary education or training.

Why is this work important?

The 2007 and 2015 Dropping Off the Edge (DOTE) reports by Prof Tony Vinson place Benalla in the top 40 most disadvantaged communities in Victoria. We need to break this cycle of disadvantage in Benalla by ensuring that our children get off to a positive and healthy start in life; by making them feel safe and

valued in our community; and by giving them the skills to succeed at school so they can find satisfying and fulfilling careers.

What kinds of changes do you see in the young people taking part in the program?

I often drop into the early years program; it's amazing to watch the little ones as they develop their language and numeracy skills and learn to socialise. It is also hugely satisfying to see the growth and development in their parents as they learn from each other, share ideas and strategies for parenting and form social connections. With the older children, it is the growth in their confidence that is so heart-warming. Learning to believe in themselves and their ability to succeed is often the crucial turning point.

What did the Trust's funding enable the program to achieve in 2015-16?

The R E Ross Trust has been a trusted and valued supporter of the Education Benalla Program since its inception in 2010. In the 2015-16 year, the Trust's funding was a major contributor to our early years program, which supports parents to build their skills and confidence as their child's first and most important educators.

Ross Trust funding is critical in allowing me to nurture and cement relationships with the 120 community partners and 80 volunteers who work with us to ensure the success of the Education Benalla Program.

What kind of personal satisfaction do you take from your work?

My job is incredibly satisfying because we are making a difference in the lives of Benalla's children. My hope is that in the not too distant future all Benalla children will have access to the opportunities they deserve; I'd like to do myself out of a job!



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

*Left page: Pat Claridge, Executive Officer,
Tomorrow:Today Foundation
Photo: Anna Carlile*

Gippsland Collaboration

The Smith Family

Kurnai Education Hub

CURRENT GRANT: \$80,000 (2015–17)

PURPOSE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY AND SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

POPULATION SERVED: SMALL REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: GIPPSLAND

GRANT HISTORY: \$1,240,595 (2012–17)

The Gippsland area has the lowest rate of students accessing higher education in Victoria. Since 2012 the Trust has committed a total of \$1,240,595 to projects in Gippsland primarily in the areas of education, health and well-being and in the 2015-16 year, three grants were approved with a combined total of \$85,000.

One of the programs funded in Gippsland, is the Kurnai Education Hub Project (KEHP). The KEHP aims to tackle low levels of educational attainment in the Latrobe Valley through a collaboration between The Smith Family, Kurnai College and various community partnerships, to keep students engaged in school and learning. It was developed by The Smith Family in partnership with Monash University and the Gippsland Education Precinct.

“The KEHP supports our college to make connections with business, industry, local government and community agencies to attract resources and assistance to aid the work of our learning community. The team work across the five campuses of Kurnai in the areas of student wellbeing, pathways, parental engagement and supporting improved learning,” says Anthony Rodaughan, Principal at Kurnai College.

One of the programs greatest successes has been the Kurnai Young Parents Program (KYPP), which enables parents under the age of 21 to achieve the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning and other qualifications. The program connects students to community agencies and resources, and provides opportunities to engage with school outside traditional hours. It also supports school staff by coordinating and promoting community and parental engagement strategies.



Celebrations at Kurnai College as part of NAIDOC week.

The KYPP program is now in its third year with a proven track record of young parent re-engagement with education, and successful moves to further education and the workforce. “This initiative has changed the lives of many mums and their children,” says Anthony.

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.



The Smith Family
1300 326 459
thesmithfamily.com.au

Robinvale Collaboration

Robinvale District Health Service

Robinvale Playgroups

CURRENT GRANT: \$40,000 (2014–16)
PURPOSE: SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES
POPULATION SERVED: SMALL REGIONAL COMMUNITIES
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED: ROBINVALE
GRANT HISTORY: \$1,277,619 (2002–17)

Since 2008, the Trust has focused resources in the town of Robinvale, which was ranked Victoria’s 10th most disadvantaged area by the Australian Bureau of Statistics data in 2011.

The Trust and has built relationships with organisations including Swan Hill Rural City Council, Robinvale District Health Service and the Robinvale P-12 School, with the aim of effecting positive social impact and change through a variety of avenues. Since 2008 the Trust has committed \$1,277,619 to various initiatives within the town and in the 2015-16 year, two projects with a combined value of \$50,000 were approved.

Robinvale is a town on the Murray River in northern Victoria, between Swan Hill and Mildura with an official population of approximately 2,200 however due to the transient nature of employment such as fruit picking in the community the population is estimated at least double the official figure. A town of varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds, its Indigenous community comprises 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.

Over the past year, some data has emerged that shows the work of The Trust and its collaborators have been having a positive impact in Robinvale.

In the 2015 Australian Early Years Development Census (AEDC) data, indicators of early development and school readiness have either stayed steady or improved across all indicators.



Parents and children enjoying nursery rhymes.

“There is no doubt that the Ross Trust involvement and funding directed toward the early years; particularly funding for the Early Years Network Program Coordinator position from 2011-2013 and the facilitated playgroups through Robinvale District Health Service has contributed to this improvement,” says Glenn Stewart, former Strategic Programs Manager and Project lead of the Robinvale Euston Advancing Country Towns Initiative.

Following the conclusion of the Robinvale Euston Advancing Country Towns Initiative in 2015, the Swan Hill Rural City Council was awarded \$840,000 to build on previous work with the initiation of the Robinvale Employment Network. This funding will go toward a four year employment project that will directly benefit the Robinvale community and is expected to achieve 100 employment outcomes in Robinvale alone.



Robinvale District Health Service
03 5051 8111
rdhs.com.au

Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal

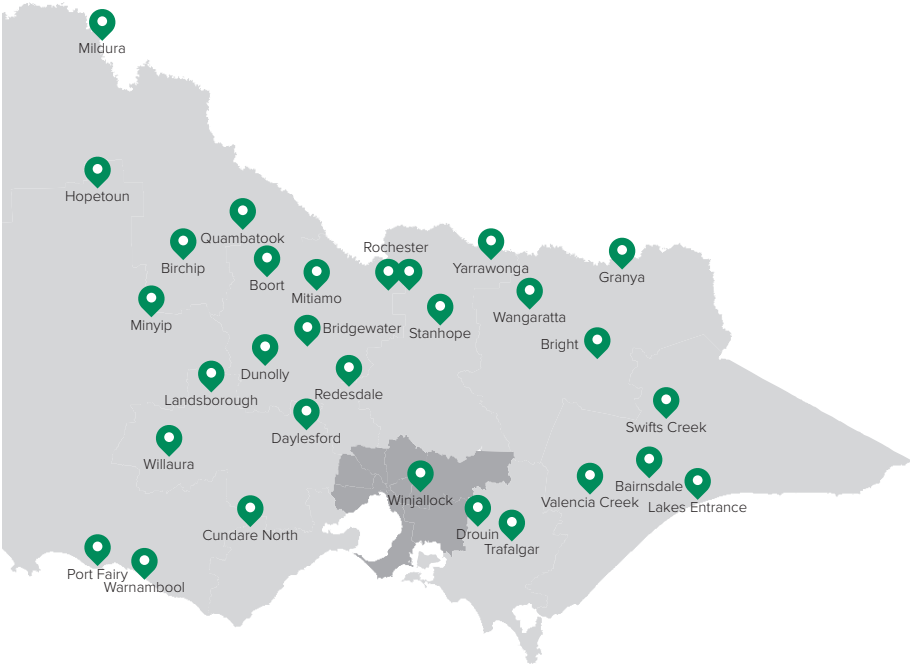
This Program, delivered through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), offers not-for-profit community groups in regional and remote Australia access to grants of up to \$5,000 in value. The Trust has committed a total of \$1,758,620 to the Victorian element of the Program since 2002.

The Small Grants for Rural Communities 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 towns and regions, like Quambatook in northern Victoria.

In 2015-16, the FRRR distributed its 26th and 27th bi-annual funding rounds. It received 311 applications from Victorian community groups. The Trust was able to support 30 projects, investing a total of \$112,500 – 39 per cent of all Victorian projects supported by FRRR.

Location of approved grants



Quambatook Community Development Association

Projecting Quambatook into the future

Movies projected onto an old grain silo in the Quambatook town centre at the 'Silo Cinema' are part of a scheme to unite and reinvigorate the small community located 300 kilometres north of Melbourne.

"Projecting Quambatook into the future aims to keep our residents active through exercise, and mentally healthy through the social activity of gathering to watch a movie together," says Laura O'Dwyer, Quambatook Development Committee member.

"Like a lot of towns in rural Australia, Quambatook has a declining and aging population and it is getting harder and harder to attract people to our small town and keep businesses and community-owned facilities running."

Australia's Creative Rural Economy artist-in-Residence Dave Houston provided the original inspiration for the Silo Cinema with a 2014 project showcasing local arts and culture, which was projected onto the silo in the centre of the town.

In April 2016, the Quambatook Community Development Association (QCDA) joined with the Gannawarra Youth Council to screen their first movie on the silo as part of National Youth Week.

The projector was purchased with funding from The Trust to host regular movie nights and provide fundraising for community events. Sales of tickets and snacks help to fund local projects.

As part of its initiative to promote health and exercise, the QCDA have been projecting exercise videos onto a portable screen or walls around town so that locals can join in and shape up. During summer, aqua aerobics classes will be projected at the pool, with keen locals of all ages and abilities able to follow suit, cool down and socialise during the hot Mallee summer.



Quambatook Silo Cinema's inaugural movie was Labyrinth.

Facebook has been a useful way to keep the community updated about the project and provide an opportunity to vote on upcoming movies. The scheme is beginning to draw interest and visitors from the wider community, with people from Ballarat planning to book into the local caravan park for the weekend to watch the upcoming Halloween movie.

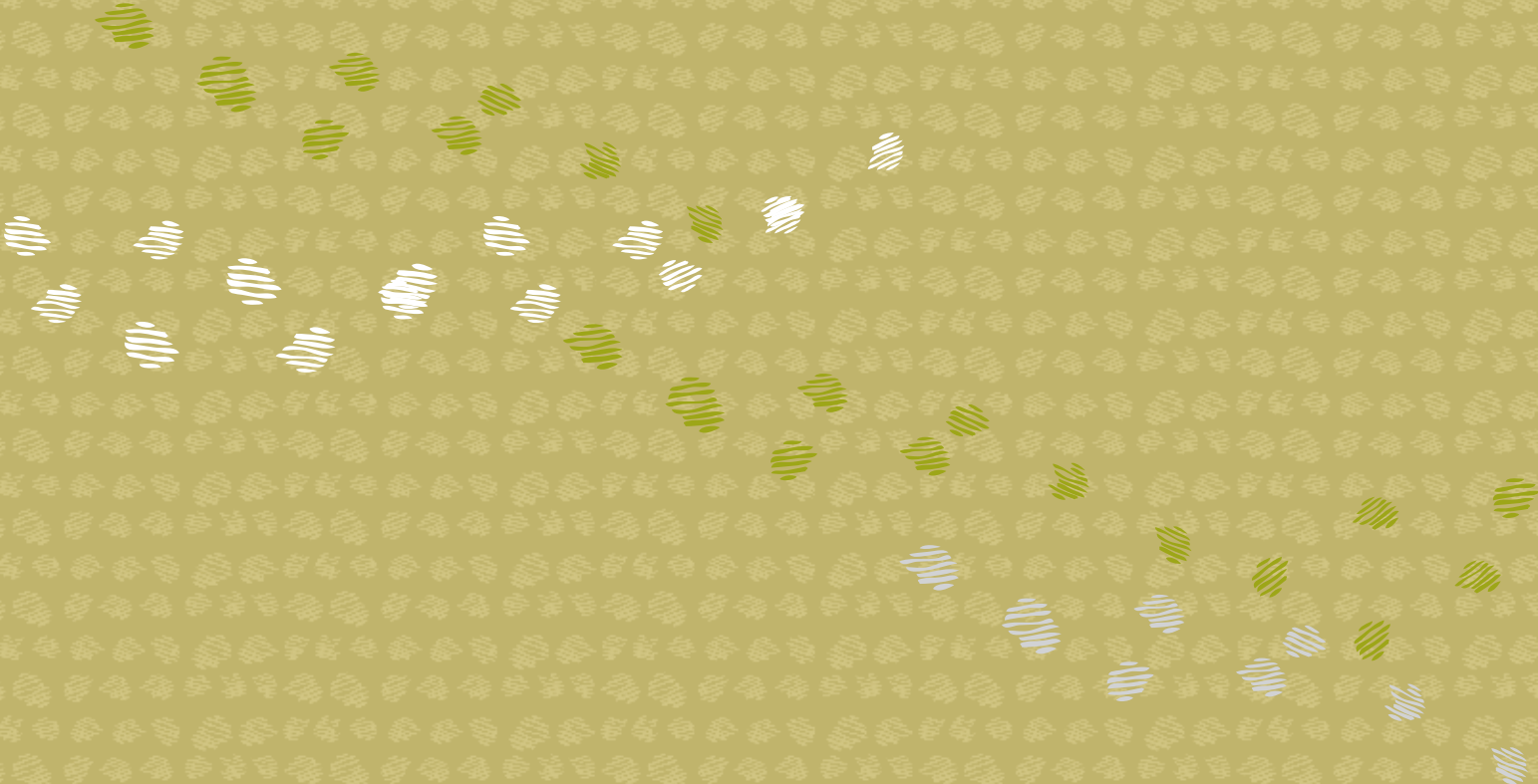
"We hope it will attract people into our small town for a few nights a year or more permanently, to experience something unique and bring a small economic boost that will allow us to keep our town and clubs running in the future," says Laura.



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

Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd

Giving to the Mornington
Peninsula and beyond



Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd

Giving to the Mornington Peninsula and beyond

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

Hillview Quarries is located in Dromana on the Mornington Peninsula, on the Arthur's Seat escarpment and adjacent to the Arthur's Seat State Park. For over 40 years, it has supplied superior brown and grey granite products to local, state and federal government authorities, and to private contractors, retail garden supply outlets and the public.

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



Hillview Quarries Head Office



View from Hillview Quarry toward Melbourne



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

In the 2015–16 year quarry product donations, estimated value over \$26,000 were made to the following organisations:

Balnarring Pre-School	Red Hill Consolidated School
Dromana Pre-School	Red Hill Junior Football Club
Inghams Growers Association	Red Hill Scouts
Lord Somers School Camp	Rosubud Secondary College
Main Ridge Pony Club	Rotary Club of Dromana
Moorooduc Primary School	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Mornington Rose Garden	Westernport Railway Society
Pearcedale Football & Netball Club Portsea	Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association
Petanque Club	

In the 2015–16 year financial donations or sponsorships were provided to the following organisations:

CFA - Pearcedale Fire Station	
Sponsorship of "13th Community Golf Day"	\$200
Crib Point Football Club	
Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$600
Dromana Australia Day Parade	
Sponsorship of Australia Day Parade	\$999
Dromana Bowls Club	
Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$800
Dromana Football & Netball	
Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$2,000
Dromana Football & Netball Club	
Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$9,091
Dromana Primary School	
Sponsorship of 2015 School Fete	\$909
Dromana Tennis Club	
Financial assistance to replace light tower	\$5,000
International Cool Climate Wine Show	
Sponsorship of Wine Show	\$1,500
Main Ridge Bowls Club	
Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$500
Main Ridge Mens Shed	
New Men's Shed in former Main Ridge Fire Station	\$5,000
Main Ridge Tennis Club Inc	
Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$182
Mornington Peninsula Schools	
Sponsorship of Environment Week	\$2,000
Mt Martha Bowls & Social Club	
Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$90
Mt Martha Bowls & Social Club	
Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$82
Red Hill Agricultural and Horticultural Show	
Sponsorship of Annual Red Hill Show	\$5,000
Red Hill Football Club	
Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$500

Rosebud & McCrae Life Saving Club Funding towards purchase of new ATV	\$4,681
Rosebud Bowls Club Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$273
Rosebud Football Netball Club Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$500
Rosebud Heart Soccer Club Sponsorship of 2016 Season	\$3,000
Rosebud Toy Library Funding for large vinyl shapes and gym toys	\$4,500
Rotary Club of Dromana Dromana Art Show	\$1,500
Rye Sports and Social Club Sponsorship of 2016 Rye Gift	\$1,500
Safety Beach - Dromana Men's Shed Funding towards new shed	\$4,545
Sorrento Bowls Club Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$250
Sorrento Football & Netball Club Sponsorship of 2015/2016 Season	\$500
Total	\$54,902

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 was Assistant Company Secretary until October 2015 and Ms Pam Mitchell from November 2015.

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 and Hillview Quarries 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 five meetings of the Investment Committee. Eleven meetings of the Directors of Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd as well as five 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 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 2016, 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 July 2016. It is monitored in twice yearly reviews.

Auditors

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

Disclosures

John McInnes, OAM, Trustee:

- Director and Deputy Chair, Mutual Trust Pty Ltd Group
- Director, Assetco Management Pty Ltd Group
- Director and Chair, Castlegate James Australasia Pty Ltd Group

Ian Renard, AM, Trustee

Eda Ritchie, AM, Trustee:

- Chair, Victorian College of the Arts Foundation
- Board Member, Melbourne Recital Centre

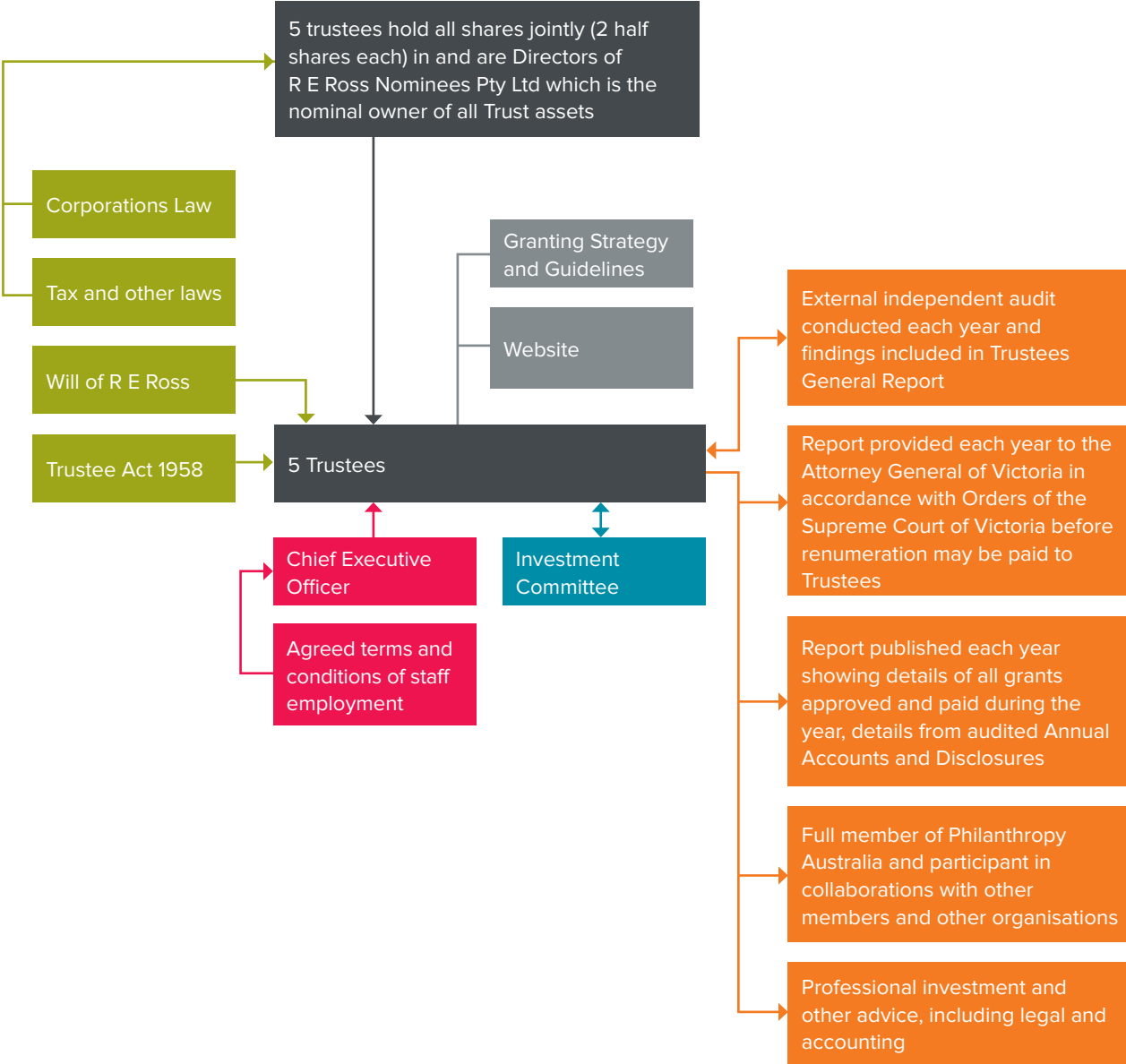
Jenny Stephens, Trustee:

- Director, Clifton Hill / North Fitzroy Community Bank, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited
- Director, Tanjable Pty Ltd
- Council member, Philanthropy Australia.

Ian Vaughan, Trustee:

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

Summary of Governance Arrangements



Governance Framework

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

Investments and financial report

Framework

The will of Roy Everard Ross provides 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 2015-16 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 2016 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

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. Peninsula Waste Management Pty Ltd deregistered with effect from 8 July 2015.

Investment performance

Gross income for the year totalled \$6,850,743 an increase of 16.0% on the previous year.

At 30 June 2016 the book value of the net assets of the Trust was \$50,240,600 represented by:

- \$36,940,163 Residuary (corpus) funds (an increase of \$1,084,706 on the prior year).
- \$11,975,164 Reserves of accumulated income (up to 20% withheld from distribution)
- \$1,325,273 Accumulated surplus (an increase of \$457,961 from the prior year).

The total estimated Market Value of the investments was \$38.4 million, compared with the previous year's end value of \$36.3 million.

Financial information and reporting

For the year ended 30 June 2016, the Trustees prepared a special purpose financial report (Annual Report) on The R E Ross Trust and its controlled entity, Hillview Quarries 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 2015 to 30 June 2016.

Payment of income as grants

Income paid as grants during the year totalled \$3,947,727 (2015 \$4,100,195). Grants refunded by previous recipients amounted to \$21,375 (2015: \$47,000).

Approval was given during the year for 75 new grants with a total grant value of \$2,671,696. Some of these grants were approved for payment in instalments over a number of years. 173 grant payments totalling \$3,969,102 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 2016, the R E Ross Trust has made grants totalling \$116,513,868 – of these \$101,887,340 have been made by the Trust directly and \$14,626,528 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.

Net profit

Net profit before grants for the year was \$5,507,110 an increase of 18% on the previous year.

Financial reporting

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2016

Revenue and other income	Note	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Revenue from continuing operations	3	6,850,743	5,901,607
Less: expenses			
Employee benefits expense		(649,824)	(611,604)
Depreciation expense		(17,727)	(18,217)
Other expenses		(676,082)	(593,454)
Write off of development expenses associated with waste management project		0	(6,067)
		(1,343,633)	(1,229,342)
Operating surplus prior to granting		5,507,110	4,672,265
Grants paid during the year		(3,947,727)	(4,100,195)
Net profit/loss from continuing operations		1,559,383	572,070

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016

Current assets	Note	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,874,577	3,413,470
Receivables	5	4,050,042	3,334,812
Investments	6	37,009,973	33,157,886
Other assets			208,200
Total current assets		42,934,592	40,114,368
Non-current assets			
Receivables		5,432,592	5,432,592
Other financial assets	6	164,008	164,011
Property, plant and equipment		2,514,955	2,530,307
Total non-current assets		8,111,555	8,126,910
Total assets		51,046,147	48,241,278
Current liabilities			
Trade & Other Payables	7	725,156	558,652
Provisions		59,634	38,206
Total current liabilities		784,790	596,858
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions		20,757	47,909
Total non-current liabilities		20,757	47,909
Total liabilities		805,547	644,767
Net assets		50,240,600	47,596,511
Trust funds			
Residuary estate funds		36,940,163	35,855,457
Other Reserves		11,975,164	10,873,742
Accumulated surplus		1,325,273	867,312
Total trust funds		50,240,600	47,596,511

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 the economic entity is not a reporting entity. The R E Ross Trust and controlled entity 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 124: Related Party Disclosures
- AASB 137: Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
- AASB 139: Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement
- AASB 140: Investment Property

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) Change in accounting policy

During the year ended 30 June 2016, the trust changed its accounting policy with respect to the recognition of grants in order to provide more relevant information around the commitments of the entity and to better demonstrate the effect of grants approved during the reporting period.

Grants are recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income when approved by the trustees and when the grant is due and payable within one year. Where grants approved by the trustees are due and payable after more than twelve months from year end, the expense and equivalent liability will not be recognised as the execution of these payments are dependent upon the satisfaction of the conditions of the granting arrangement.

Prior to the change in accounting policy, grants were recognised as a liability where there existed a present obligation which the entity had no realistic alternative but to settle. Accordingly, grants approved which had not been settled at the end of the reporting period, were not recognised as liabilities because the Trust reserved the right to vary or terminate the approved grants prior to payment.

A change in accounting policy must be applied retrospectively, and as such, the accounting policy change has been applied to comparative figures. As a result of the change in accounting policy described above, additional grants of \$204,000 have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2015.

(e) 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.

(f) 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.

(g) 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).

(h) 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 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.

(i) 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 of 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.

(j) 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.

(k) 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.

(l) Grants

During the year, the trust changed its accounting policy with respect of recognition of grants, the details of which are set out in note 1(d).

Grants are recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income when approved by the trustees and when the grant is due and payable within one year. Where grants approved by the trustees are due and payable after more than twelve months from year end, the expense and equivalent liability will not be recognised as the execution of these payments are dependent upon the satisfaction of the conditions of the granting arrangement.

(m) 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 2016 year was 20% (2015: 20%) 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.

(n) 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.

(o) 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	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Royalties and fees from Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd	1,050,351	991,037
Other Revenue		
Dividend income	3,775,548	3,054,423
Interest income	670,548	869,104
Imputation credits refunded	1,354,296	987,043
Total revenue	6,850,743	5,901,607

Note 4: Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash on hand	32	64
Cash at bank	34,339	41,328
Cash on deposit	1,840,206	3,372,078
	1,874,577	3,413,470

Note 5: Receivables

Current

Trade debtors	1,445,321	1,068,702
Other receivables	2,604,721	2,266,110
	4,050,042	3,334,812

Note 6: Investments

Current

Investment portfolio	37,009,973	33,157,886
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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 \$38,420,182 (2015: \$36,309,672).

Non Current

Private company shares	164,008	164,011
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Note 7: Payables

Current

Unsecured liabilities

Trade creditors	275,446	240,259
Sundry creditors and accruals	449,710	318,393
	725,156	558,652



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P W TONER
D R VASUDEWAN
B J BRITTEN
K L BYRNE
S D WHITCHURCH
D J HONEY
G J NIELSEN
N R BULL
A M KOKKINOS
G A DEBONO
F V RUSSO
M R SONEGO
S J DALL
D W LOVE
A SULEYMAN
D R DOHERTY

R RIGONI
G A RAMBALDI
D A KNOWLES
M C HAY
V A MACDERMID
P A JOSE
M J HARRISON
T SAKELL
G I NORRIS
A T DAVIDSON
C D WHATMAN
A E CLERICI
P MURONE
A D STANLEY
D C BYRNE
P B BRAINE
R I MCKE
T G HARR
A T CLUGSTON
M G JOZWIK
B POWERS
K J DAVIDSON

6 December 2016

The Trustees
The R E Ross Trust
Ground Level
Suite 2, 43 Agnes Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Trustees

EXTRACTS OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE R.E. ROSS TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2016.

This is to confirm the financial information presented on pages 59 to 66 of the R.E. Ross Trust Annual Report 2016 has been extracted from the R E Ross Trust's 2016 Special Purpose Financial Report dated 20 September 2016.

The 2016 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 59 to 66 of the R.E. Ross Trust Annual Report 2016 to the R E Ross Trust's 2016 Special Purpose Financial Report, noting no exceptions.

Yours faithfully
PITCHER PARTNERS

B J BRITTEN
Partner



An Independent Victorian Partnership ABN 27 975 255 196
limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Pitcher Partners is an association of independent firms
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Grants paid by the Trust in the 2015–16 year

Organisation	Amount
Aboriginal Literacy Foundation	10,000
African Aust Multicultural Employment & Youth Services	20,000
Angel Light Link	14,500
Anglicare Victoria	33,000
Anglicare Victoria	15,000
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	20,000
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	75,000
Auspicious Arts Projects	10,000
Australian Centre for Contemporary Art	9,599
Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network	5,000
Australian Multicultural Foundation	10,000
Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights	25,000
Australian Red Cross	30,000
Australian Schools Plus	20,000
Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House	28,775
Ballarat Secondary College	19,300
Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault	17,600
Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre	4,000
Bendigo Baptist Community Care	30,000
Bendigo Family & Financial Services Inc	27,379
Bendigo Science & Technology Museum	12,500
Berry Street Victoria Inc	30,000
bestchance Child Family Care	25,800
Big West Festival	20,000
Bridgingworx	28,000
Brotherhood of St Laurence	27,000
Brotherhood of St Laurence	22,000
Bush Heritage Australia	30,000
Bush Heritage Australia	6,000
Cambridge Primary School	20,000

Carringbush Adult Education	22,049
Centre for International Child Health	118,100
Centre for Multicultural Youth	15,000
Centre for Non-Violence	40,000
Children's Book Council of Australia Victorian Branch	4,400
Circus Oz	10,000
Clontarf Foundation	30,000
Community Hub	2,000
Community Music Victoria	8,517
Community Support Frankston	15,000
Concern Australia	10,000
Council of Single Mothers & Their Children	37,000
Cranbourne Information & Support Service	27,000
Creativity Australia	15,000
Cultural Infusion	15,000
Dandenong Neighbourhood House Inc	8,000
Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Services	10,000
Darebin Information Volunteer & Resource Centre	25,000
Diversitat	11,000
Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre	16,562
Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria	9,967
Eastbourne Primary School	30,000
East Gippsland Network of Neighbourhood Houses	4,500
Family Life	10,000
FareShare	10,000
Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre	30,000
First Step Program	20,369
Fitted for Work	20,000
fortyfive downstairs	16,000
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	45,540
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	125,000
Ganbina	25,000
Getting Ahead Working Group	6,000

Gippsland Carers Association	29,120
Good Beginnings Australia	70,880
Green Collect	30,000
Habitat for Humanity Victoria	10,000
Hands on Learning	100,000
Hanover Welfare Services	40,000
Healesville Indigenous Community Service Association	30,000
Hope Springs	15,000
Human Rights Law Centre	25,000
Ilbjerri Theatre Cooperative	50,000
Jesuit Social Services	10,000
Jirrahlinga Wildlife Sanctuary	15,000
Justice Connect	30,000
Kensington Neighbourhood House	4,890
Kids Thrive	10,000
Kildonan Uniting Care	29,972
Kinfolk Cafe	10,000
Koorie Heritage Trust Inc	30,000
Kurunjang Primary School	7,000
Lord Somers Camp & Power House	10,000
Lifeline Gippsland	15,000
Mackillop Family Services	33,000
Marist Youth Care	20,000
Melbourne City Mission	18,900
Melbourne Writers Festival	8,800
Mental Health Legal Centre	25,000
Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group	8,530
Mornington Community Information & Support Centre	30,000
Museum Victoria	25,000
Museums Australia (Victoria)	50,000
New Hope Foundation	20,000
New Stars Basketball Association	30,000
North Carlton Railway Station Neighbourhood House	11,097

North Melbourne Language & Learning	18,662
Ocean Grove Neighbourhood Centre Inc	10,000
Orbost Neighbourhood House	10,000
Outer Urban Projects	20,000
Pam Gunn Fund	15,000
Peninsula Mindfulness Inc.	11,280
Phunktional	20,000
Phunktional	40,000
Playgroup Victoria	10,000
Polyglot Puppet Theatre Ltd	25,000
Preston Reservoir Community Education	12,367
PS My Family Matters	9,994
RAW - Resilient Aspiring Women	10,000
Red Cliffs Secondary College	30,000
Regional Arts Victoria	20,000
RISE - Refugees, Survivors & Ed-Detainees	24,000
River Nile Learning Centre	20,000
Robinvale District Health Service	25,000
Robinvale District Health Service	20,000
Rosebud Secondary College	27,119
Sacred Heart Mission	20,000
Sale Combined Kindergartens Inc	7,500
Satellite Foundation	15,000
Save the Children	25,000
SecondBite	15,000
Shine For Kids	30,000
SisterWorks	25,000
Skilling Australia Foundation	10,000
SNAICC - The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care	30,000
Social Ventures Australia	20,000
Southern Peninsula Community Support & Information	30,000
Sports Challenge Australia	10,000
St Kilda Community Housing	2,200

St Kilda Gatehouse	30,000
St Kilda Mums (Eureka Mums)	27,778
St Mark's Community Centre (Anglicare Victoria)	13,000
St Mary's House of Welcome	10,000
State Library of Victoria	50,000
Tarwin Lower Primary School	7,500
The Centre: Connecting C'ty in Nth & West Melb	10,000
Link Centre (The)	25,000
Lowitja Institute (The)	10,000
Mirabel Foundation (The)	28,120
Norman Wettenhall Foundation (The)	55,000
Queen's Fund (The)	28,000
Queen's Fund (The)	10,000
Reach Foundation (The)	25,000
Smith Family (The)	40,000
Substation (The)	15,000
Water Well Project (The)	10,000
Way Community (The)	15,000
Tomorrow Today Foundation	110,000
Trust for Nature	15,000
Uniting Care Ballarat	15,000
VACRO - Victorian Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders	75,000
VICSEG New Futures	25,000
Warrnambool East Primary School	10,000
Wedderburn Community House Inc	10,000
Wellsprings for Women	10,000
Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment	30,000
Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment	9,180
Western Community Legal Centre	20,000
Western Port Community Support	30,000
WHISE Women's Health in the South East	10,000
Whittlesea Community Connections Inc	20,000
Williamstown Community Education Centre	20,000

Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association Inc	28,800
Wingate Avenue Community Centre	28,961
Wombat Forestcare Inc	6,500
Women and Mentoring	30,000
Woor-Dungin	25,000
Worktrainers	30,000
Yarra Glen Living & Learning Centre	18,700
Yarra Plenty Regional Library	15,000
Youth Insearch	25,000
Zoe Support Australia	20,000
Zoe Support Australia	15,000
Total	3,969,102

Amount Refunded

Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House	21,375
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Total Net Distributed	3,947,727
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The R E Ross Trust
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