



Victorian Women's Trust

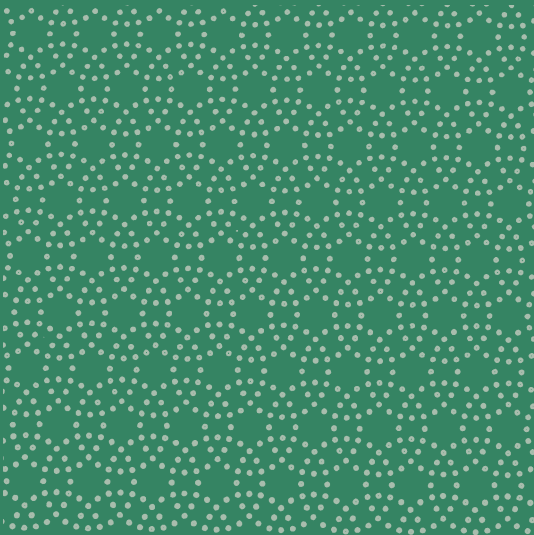
Annual Report

2010/2011



COVER: TWEDDLE CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE:
Empowering Somali Mums Project
PHOTO: Ponch Hawkes

We want to see a socially
just world where women
achieve their potential,
live safely and enjoy full
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Create a better world for
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our vision

We want to see a socially just world where women achieve their potential, live safely and enjoy full participation as citizens. Create a better world for women - and everyone benefits.

The Victorian Women's Trust started in 1985, an independent body with a mandate to improve conditions for women in practical and lasting ways.

We:

- invest in women & girls for positive social change
- research issues which affect their lives
- work in key arenas ranging from violence prevention to environmental sustainability
- create opportunities that spark ideas, engagement & debate
- advocate for reforms that improve conditions for women & girls
- make sure the public record better reflects their contribution and impact

We aim to make a difference in everything we do.

our actions

The Trust remains deeply committed to the core values that have underpinned all our initiatives: the value of social justice, empowerment, participation, tolerance, diversity and equality. These values are promoted in the Trust's advocacy and policy development that directly target systemic disadvantage and discrimination. As a philanthropic body, the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust has granted over \$3.5 million dollars to over 400 projects designed and run by Victorian women. Our funding program provides women with opportunities to develop their capacities, to share their skills and knowledge, and to establish relationships that enhance women's participation in the economic, social, political and cultural life of their communities.

directors



Dur-e DARA OAM
(CONVENOR)

Dur-e describes herself as Indian by race, Malaysian by birth and Australian by choice. She worked in youth welfare, before focusing on her passion for music and developing successful restaurant ventures. Equality for women and environmental sustainability are also issues high on her agenda. She became a Director of the Victorian Women's Trust in 1991 and has been Convenor since 1993.



Mary CROOKS

Mary has been the Executive Director of the Victorian Women's Trust since 1996. She has an extensive background in public policy and a passionate commitment to social justice. In her role as Executive Director Mary has undertaken extensive research and advocacy on crucial issues for women, and has designed and led some ground-breaking initiatives including the Purple Sage Project, Ordinary Women Extraordinary Lives, and the *Watermark* Australia project, an exceptional example of a nationwide, community engagement project based around issues of water sustainability.



Diana BATZIAS

Diana trained as a social worker. She counts policy and community development work, and casework as career highlights over three decades. Diana especially enjoyed her work with immigrants and refugees at the Ecumenical Migration Centre. Further highlights include her role in the development and implementation of the SAAP and HACC programs in Victoria, and management of the Melbourne Juvenile Justice Centre. She is also on the Board of Whitlion and President of International Social Services Australia.



Nicky FRIEDMAN

Nicky is the Head of Pro Bono and Community Programs at Allens Arthur Robinson. Before joining Allens, Nicky worked in various social and legal policy roles, including at the Victorian Law Reform Commission, where she worked on the review of Victoria's sexual assault laws. Nicky has a long relationship with the Trust both as a researcher on the Purple Sage Project and as a member of the Grants Committee.



Alana JOHNSON

Alana Johnson is a farmer and rural consultant. She was the Victorian Rural Woman of the Year for 2010. Alana has worked extensively on behalf of rural women in Australia and internationally. She is currently the Chair of the Women's Advisory Panel to the Victorian Minister for Agriculture.



Debra KNIGHT

Debra runs her own business and has a background in the financial advisory, banking and insurance sectors. She has worked in a voluntary capacity with various women's organisations for many years. She also sits on the Melbourne Grammar School Council, as well as the school's Finance and Planning Committee and is the Chair of the Monash Gallery of Art.



Leanne MILLER

Leanne is Executive Director of Koorie Women Mean Business. Leanne also serves as a board member on Women's Legal Service Victoria, Family Law Legal Service Incorporated and is chair of the working party of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Gathering. She has an extensive advocacy background working in the indigenous and women's sectors.



Padmini SEBASTIAN

Padmini is Manager of the Immigration Museum, Museum Victoria and is responsible for the strategic leadership and operational management of this multi-award winning museum. She has worked extensively in the cultural and community sector and has established national and international partnerships and networks. She has also established a number of initiatives that profile the role that cultural participation can play in fostering diversity and building cohesive societies.



Teresa TJIA

Teresa is the Director, Student Administration and Deputy Academic Registrar at the University of Melbourne. She has been involved in community activism in Perth and Melbourne for over twenty years. Teresa is involved with the Trust's granting program. Her community and professional involvements include President of a local primary school Council; founding committee member of the Moving Galleries, a public art and poetry on public transport project; and the Committee for Melbourne's Future Focus Group alumni.

staff /full-time



Mary CROOKS
Executive Director
(full-time)



Sarah CAPPER
Policy, Advocacy and
Communications
(full-time)



Wilfredo ZELADA
Financial management,
Technology Infrastructure
Management
(full-time)

staff /part-time



Liz McALOON
Community Engagement
Co-ordinator
(part-time)



Janya CLEMENS
Events Co-ordinator
(part-time)



Anne PAUL
Grants Program and
Fundraising Support
(part-time)



**Allyson OLIVER-
PERHAM**
Project Materials Design
(part-time)



Lieu LE
Reception & personal
Assistant to ED
(part-time)



Stephanie MONCUR
Events and Project Support
(full-time Internship)



Crystal BRUTON
Be The Hero!
Support
(part-time)



Paul ZAPPA
Be The Hero!
Project Officer
(part-time)



Nancy RYAN
Be The Hero!
Project Researcher
and Co-ordinator
(part-time)

our volunteers

Every year we welcome new volunteers into our team, some staying for a brief period between jobs and others who become long-term contributors to the work of the Trust.

Nancy Ryan began in October 2010 and developed an extensive resource of statistics on women and girls in Victoria for background use by the Trust across our broad range of initiatives.

In December 2010 **Julia Elcock** began volunteering with us and in February 2011 **Rosemary Geer** also joined us. Rosemary and Julia joined up with volunteer **Anne Strong** and are currently part of an internal Trust Research Team looking at the experiences of separated families, particularly primary carers (the majority of whom are women) exploring possible ways to mitigate social and economic disadvantage.

Bryony Green commenced in Dec 2010 and has been compiling a broad register of women experts in their field, which will eventually become a resource able to be accessed via the internet for anyone organizing conferences and forums, and wanting speakers for events.

Lisa McLean also started volunteering with us in December 2010. Lisa developed some research on the effects on children of violence in families. This piece of research provides valuable background information for the Trust's range of initiatives around violence against women.

Caetlyn Davis joined us in 2011 and has been doing some background support work for a Trust partnership event with the University of Melbourne to mark 50 years of the Contraceptive Pill.

Hilary Irwin and **Susan Powell** have continued their work on the Trust's Paradox of Service initiative, Hilary as Project Co-ordinator. Working in partnership with Catholic Religious Australia, Susan and Hilary's work involves on-going advocacy for former members of religious orders.

Our longest serving volunteer **Fiona McKean** continues to develop the Trust's online library catalogue and assist in the myriad of administrative tasks thrown her way.

We thank them all for their endeavours, their enthusiasm and their willingness to work along side us through an office re-location, challenging project timelines and in an environment of lean resources.



Nancy Ryan



Bryony Green



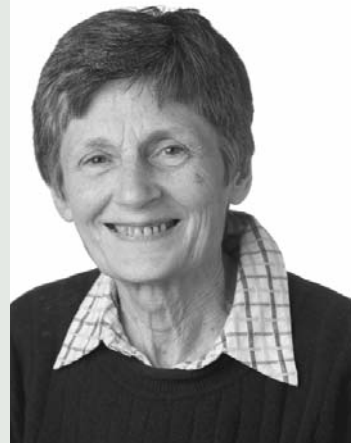
Julia Elcock

Rosemary Geer



Hilary Irwin and Susan Powell

Fiona McKean





Dur-e DARA

convenor's report

Our donors have come on a long journey with us over the past 25 years, from supporting grants in our annual funding round, to getting behind major special initiatives to now coming full circle – by putting loved one's names in the creation of Sub-Funds. They have put their trust in us (trust in the Trust) to offer circuit-breaking solutions to long-standing issues around discrimination.

As is evidenced in some of our Sub-Funds, they are acknowledging women from generations before them – by naming a Sub-Fund after a passed loved one and basing the Sub-Fund's areas of concern on this person's life interests and passions. For example, the Essie Burbridge Sub-Fund promotes community tolerance and combats racism, paying tribute to Essie's long-standing commitment to living by these aims; inviting migrants into her Footscray home, teaching them English.

This is where philanthropy has been heading – through participatory giving – active decision making around the distribution of funds; collaborating with us as partners and grant recipients to ensure a more targeted granting experience. Just like the inaugural Con Irwin Sub-Fund grant to Community Connections Warrnambool, who partnered with the Country Fire Authority – to pilot the first mentoring program for female CFA volunteers – a project so successful it is now being considered as a Statewide program.

Anyone can start a Sub-Fund. These large donations have a double benefit – contributing to both the corpus of the work we do, as well as at a personal level, with an annual grant allocation, all the while celebrating the actions of loved ones in the past and carrying on their wishes. Within the Sub-Funds, people with less money can still donate. By giving to a specific existing Sub-Fund, they can dedicate the donation to their own loved one and this will be specially acknowledged in the Annual Report and other Trust publications.

I thank our diverse Board of Trustees – made up of wonderful women who bring their time, energy and much-appreciated skills to the table – I congratulate you for overseeing this important evolution in the way we give. **I also celebrate that our staff represent our commitment to the girls of all ages not just through their work, but through themselves for being women that shape the characteristics of the Trust.** To Mary Crooks, our Executive Director – your tireless efforts in creating a better world for women and girls never cease to amaze me. I thank you, as I thank the other staff at the Victorian Women's Trust – over 25 years we have not had a high turnover! – for their continued commitment to helping steer this organisation onwards and upwards.

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Mary CROOKS

executive director's report

Engaging Volunteers and Interns: 10 Golden Rules in Brief!

The Victorian Women's Trust has been working with volunteers and Interns in two main ways over the past twenty-five years. First, there are usually as many Volunteers and Interns in the internal office of the Women's Trust as there are paid staff. Second, we have initiated two major consecutive projects that have revolved around a process of community dialogue – the Purple Sage Project and the *Watermark Australia* project. Both of these have seen the very successful engagement of hundreds of volunteer Group Leaders and thousands of group participants giving of their time, experience, knowledge and wisdom, to our work. This dual experience leads me to identify what I see as the **10 Golden Rules** for engaging volunteers and Interns:

1. Mutual respect, trust and decency underpin office and project practice.

- 1. Mutual respect, trust and decency underpin office and project practice.**
- 2. The lived experience and wisdom of people is acknowledged and appreciated.** The question then is how best to harness and integrate this experience.
- 3. Reciprocal value adding.** The Volunteers and Interns need to value-add to the organisation; the organisation needs to value-add to the personal and professional experience of the Volunteers and Interns.
- 4. Real work, real tasks, real application that is purposeful and rewarding.** Volunteers and Interns are not confined to menial jobs.
- 5. A 'creative fit' is sought and found between the volunteers and Interns and the organisation.** It requires close listening, discussion of interests and background and imaginative allocation to tasks. This also means supporting them with good orientation and where appropriate, training.
- 6. Volunteers and Interns are constructively supported into working semi-autonomously.** Time and again we see self-confidence increase, along with the honing of skills and broadening of experience. It is crucial that they are not inadvertently set up to fail or not unduly burdened by tasks and expectations.
- 7. Volunteers and Interns should not be placed in positions or on tasks within the organisation that places them under a management or decision-making responsibility or liability.** We like to think we strike the balance between challenging, stimulating projects, and good staff support with clearly defined lines of responsibility.
- 8. Trust the common sense and capacity of volunteers and Interns and work to their best sides.** In our view working as a professional means enabling volunteers and interns to flourish in an exciting and stimulating workplace, where their contributions build a better outcome. It does not mean that we know best.
- 9. Volunteers and Interns need to genuinely feel that they are part of the show.** They only sit in the reception foyer on the first meeting. Our younger volunteers in particular have regularly commented on how much they appreciate being treated as a professional and as one of the staff.
- 10. Remember that the greatest asset of an organisation is its people – and Volunteers and Interns are part of this asset base – worthy of investment.**

In reaching the fabulous milestone of a twenty-five year old Victorian Women's Trust, we would like to pay special tribute to all those women (and the few good men!) who have volunteered with this unique organisation. Hundreds of events and grants, project initiatives, exhibitions, concerts, choirs, launches, tours, expos, campaigns, meetings upon meetings, from one end of the state to the other, and mail-outs en masse, have all been achieved because volunteers worked alongside us. Thousands of hours of priceless value-adding.

Thank you all. You become further testimony to the fact that the Victorian Women's Trust is in good (lots of them) hands!

Annual Grants Program 2010-2011 Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust

In delivering this years Annual Grants Program, we are pleased to see our Sub-Fund's continuing to grow alongside the steady progress of our General Grants.

In funding 22 projects, we are extremely grateful for the generosity of our wonderful women donors. We extend our sincere thanks for their commitment and loyalty in helping support and extend our work.

In conducting the Program, we appreciate the guidance and careful consideration of Trustees of the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust, along with the advice and support of Directors Teresa Tjia, Diana Batzias and Executive Director Mary Crooks, throughout the assessment process.

GENERAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Prevention of violence against women and girls has been a constant theme of the Trust's 26 years of grant making. This year our Trustees approved a focus on safety for women and girls, through projects that tackle violence and sexual assault.

The majority of our General Grants directly address this focus, with several building on last year's focus on disability. Our largest grant of \$43,000 was made to Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service to fully support their project *A Right to Safety – Planning for Disability Access to Women's Domestic Violence Services*.

The General Grants Program has also continued to support projects for women and girls from migrant and refugee backgrounds as well as making several grants to regional Victoria, particularly to support Indigenous women's groups.

A short description of each project is provided on the following pages.

Thank you, for making it possible for young women having difficulties to make positive changes to their stories, before 'at-risk' becomes genuine, life-shaping disadvantage for generations to come. In making sure these young women have the best chance, we are investing in the future as they become confident, positive adults.

Paul STOLZ, CEO Evolve



MIGRANT INFORMATION
CENTRE, BOX HILL:
Many Stories, One Voice

PHOTO: Ponch Hawkes

**YOUTH PROJECTS LIVING ROOM
PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICE:**

**Creative Arts Project
for Women \$9,000**

Pilot to involve vulnerable women, through creative art, in positive psycho-social interventions aimed at improved engagement with the health services provided by Living Room and the Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA).

The project builds on the work of the only Melbourne CBD located Primary Health Service to provide a safe, dedicated place for women with complex needs, including homelessness, alcohol and substance abuse and mental health issues.

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WOMEN'S
COLLECTIVE & WRISC FAMILY VIOLENCE
SUPPORT SERVICE BALLARAT:**

**Women's Private Rental
Access Partnerships
\$10,000**

Work collaboratively with real estate agents to increase access to safe, affordable private rental accommodation for women and children forced to re-establish housing as a result of family violence.

The project will engage local real estate agents to actively assist women to access private rental, including encouraging landlords to offer tenancy, as well as training community workers about the private rental market and the best way to support women to gain and maintain tenancy.

**MONASH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
CRIMINOLOGY / DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
RESOURCE CENTRE:**

***Blood on Whose
Hands 2* – the killing of
women and children in
domestic homicides
\$20,000**

Update and expand the original book *Blood on Whose Hands?*, a key resource on domestic homicide.

First published in 1994 with Women's Trust support, this book had wide-reaching influence and use as an advocacy tool for social change. Planned as a two year project, the work will provide a comprehensive picture of the nature and scope of domestic violence, including analysis of policy and law reform. It will allow critical reflection and encourage fresh debate on law reform, improve community education and promote greater media accuracy in reporting domestic violence.

Thank you to Elisabeth Scott and a private donor for their generous support of this project.



Thank you for supporting our work. Improving access to private rental for women and children experiencing family violence will help minimise the harmful impacts and increase their capacity to recover.

Gayle FULFORD,
Family Violence Support Worker WRISC

This project has been fully supported by Anne Miller and we sincerely thank her for her generosity and consideration.

**THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE:**

**Rural Bubs on Board
\$17,000**

Deliver specialist training in women's refuges in rural Victoria, to help address the impact of family violence on mothers and their infants/children.

The training will provide therapeutic intervention skills for refuge staff in dealing with the mental health needs of infants/children and help them attend to the impact of trauma on the mother/child relationship.

The project builds on the successful Bubs on Board pilot and the work of the Peek-a-Boo Club aiming to bring sustainable programs for infants and children into rural refuges, as well as providing specialist training for staff working in rural communities.

The Grosvenor Foundation has been an ongoing supporter of the RCH Mental Health Service and we sincerely thank them for their full support of this project.



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE
AUSTRALIA:**

**Domestic Violence &
International Parental
Child Abduction
–Evidence and
Advocacy \$10,000**

Research the connection between international parental child abduction and domestic violence.

Currently there is minimal research available on the multiple factors involved in international parental child abduction, though the incidence is increasing. Support agencies recognise it is more likely to occur where domestic violence is present in bi-national families, especially as women are often unaware of safer local alternatives.

The grant will fund research to provide quality information on the incidence of child abduction in the presence or risk of family violence. It will form the basis for advocacy and education so that women are aware that seeking local support for domestic violence provides a safer and more stable option than the drastic step of abduction.

This grant enables us for the first time to begin to examine the links between international parental child abduction and family violence. Though there is clear anecdotal evidence of a link, it has proved very difficult to obtain the funding necessary to examine it properly, and the Trust's grant is the breakthrough we needed!

Fionn SKIOTIS, Executive Director ISSA

WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS SERVICE VICTORIA:**A Right to Safety –
Planning for Disability
Access to Women's
Domestic Violence
Services \$43,000**

Develop a Disability Action Plan for the Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service to:

- address gaps and existing discrimination in the Service,
- implement a system that ensures equal access for all women.

The Project will identify barriers in the Service that may result in discrimination for women with disabilities and strategies to eliminate them. As the central domestic violence service for Victoria, including providing emergency housing and coordinating refuge referrals, this work has the potential to lead to significant systemic change. It will enable the formation of collaborative partnerships and influence the broader sector to improve access for women with disabilities.

Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity – we are very excited to be able to focus on supporting women with disabilities and ensuring their right to access.

Deb BRYANT, CEO



Full support for this project has been provided through the generosity of the Grosvenor Foundation and the Bokhara Foundation and we wish to express our deep gratitude for their considerable support.

**HOUSING RESOURCE AND SUPPORT SERVICE:****Women with Disabilities
Empowering Service
Providers to Respond
to Family Violence
\$6,000**

Pilot an education and training program within the Service, supporting a group of women with disabilities to develop skills to conduct training sessions on family violence, for direct care workers employed in the Service.

Utilising a gender lens to better understand disability and family violence, the project will work to develop a model for response to family violence by disability support services, with a view to collaborative workforce development across the disability services sector.

We wish to thank the Paterson Family Fund, a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation, for providing \$4,000 partnership funding for this project.

FEDERATION COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES VICTORIA:**Making Rights a
Reality for Sexual
Assault Victims with
Cognitive Impairment
\$10,000**

Extend the protection of the law to sexual assault victims with cognitive impairment, through increased reporting, prosecution, protection and deterrence.

This project responds to the low level of reporting and prosecution for sexual assault in this group. It will support the establishment of a multi-disciplinary pilot in Melbourne's South East region, providing holistic crisis, legal and disability support for some of the most vulnerable women in the community. The grant partners into a larger project which will be conducted with a focus on data collection and evaluation, with a view to expand the program across Victoria.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of a private donor in funding this project.

**GUNDITJMARA ABORIGINAL
CO-OPERATIVE WARRNAMBOOL:****Peeneeyt
Ngarrakeeton Woon
(Strong Family Camp)
\$10,000**

Promote strong family relationships and inform Indigenous mothers and younger children of their rights, healthy and unhealthy relationships and options for safety and well-being, in a culturally sensitive setting.

Supported by the local Centre Against Sexual Assault, the Camp aims to help address the prevalence of violence within the local community, through delivery of learning in a supportive and accessible way.

These strong women and children will be able to tell their stories in a safe, nurturing and healing environment.

Anita McKENZIE,
Regional Indigenous Family Violence Support Worker

We are grateful for the generosity of Fleur Spitzer and thank her for providing full support for this project.

AUSPICIOUS ARTS / HOLDING ZONE**Lock Up \$5,000**

Support the development phase to create three interlocking plays about women and girls, around incarceration and physical and emotional violence.

The writers will consult key Victorian women's organisations and through live theatre, aim to stimulate cultural change by challenging the dominant representation of women and girls, as well as reflecting issues that are given little space in mainstream theatre.

Plays will be set in the old Northcote Lock-up and will also help address the lack of opportunity for women writers and directors, and add to the debate on female under representation in the theatre industry.

**YMCA PORTLAND / SOUTH WEST
ALTERNATIVE MEDIUM PROJECT
(SWAMP):****Sew Simply Sewing
\$8,700**

Build on a volunteer program that provides participants, mostly Indigenous women with an alternative approach to self reliance, by teaching sewing and offering informal health and well-being workshops, in a culturally safe learning environment.

The sessions have helped reduce barriers to mainstream services and decrease contact with the criminal justice system as well as creating support networks beyond the classes and across cultures.

SWAMP have recently formed a partnership with YMCA Portland and the grant will help employ a part-time community worker/tutor to coordinate the program and better structure workshops and referrals to health and family violence support services.



To be honest SWAMP has helped me heaps with keeping my mind busy and feeling good about myself ... I feel happy and confident with all the things I have learnt ... I like it when we all sew together, everyone is very friendly and we support each other ... I can sew on an overlocker now and love to learn to make new things ... I now can sew for myself and my grandchildren ... I love using up all the scraps of fabric and making them into quilts ... We help each other all the time!

Comments by Charmaine, Michelle, Cynthia, Gayle and Sylvia – all SWAMP participants


We wish to thank the Grosvenor Foundation for their support of this regional project.



AUSPICIOUS ARTS/HOLDING ZONE:
Lock Up

PHOTO: Ponch Hawkes





MIGRANT INFORMATION
CENTRE, BOX HILL:
Many Stories, One Voice

PHOTO: Ponch Hawkes

CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH:
Girl Space \$14,700

A pilot project to help young refugee and migrant women negotiate the complex cultural values around gender, sexual health and relationships.

The project will operate in the outer South East of Melbourne. It will work with 20-30 diverse young women to develop strategies and practical knowledge to help negotiate cultural complexities and assist in accessing mainstream support services. Participants will be encouraged to engage with their mothers, as well as acting as role models in their community.

Project learning's will be communicated to other service providers to encourage its extension, so that young people from diverse cultural backgrounds have every opportunity to succeed in Australian society.

This grant was possible due to the support of the Bokhara Foundation, the Peninsula Women's Fund, the 6A Foundation and a private donor and we sincerely thank them all.

WOMBAT HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

Maribyrnong Youth Accommodation Program \$5,300

Educate homeless young women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, using Maribyrnong Youth Accommodation Program on healthy relationships, safe sex, pregnancy and parenting.

Many clients of the service are single mothers, pregnant, at risk of sexually transmitted disease and assault and often have no formal education. The program will provide information about support services, family planning and informed decision making, including sessions for young men on their responsibilities and respectful relationships.

We thank Fleur Spitzer for her support in fully funding this project.

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE:

Equity & Access for Asylum Seeker Women through Education \$10,000

Provide micro-credit loans for 100 asylum seeker women students to cover educational expenses.

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre administers the Vocational Education Training Access Initiative for Skills Victoria, created in 2010 to allow 300 asylum seekers to have access to funded vocational education in TAFE courses. Supporting the women to gain training will assist them to secure employment and help overcome the destitution and isolation so prevalent among asylum seekers.



The smallest things can make an enormous difference. This grant will provide many vulnerable women with the basic materials they need, like pens and notebooks, to undertake vocational training. It will help them take their first steps toward achieving self sufficiency in their new community
 Robyn, Project Worker ASRC

This project has been funded through the generosity of Anne Meehan and the Bokhara Foundation and we extend our thanks to them.

THE ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE CELEBRATED THEIR 10TH BIRTHDAY IN JUNE 2011, WORKING ON MANY LEVELS TO ASSIST SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

HOTHAM MISSION:

Asylum Seeker Women's Group Enhancement Project **\$9,000**

Help asylum seeker women to set educational goals and make choices about training courses.

This project will broaden the Asylum Seeker Women's Groups work to include activities to equip women to take advantage of the Vocational Education and Training Access Initiative (described in ASRC project). It will assist them to gain confidence to enrol and undertake their training. The Group will also continue its activities to support and empower asylum seeker women.

The Asylum Seeker Women's Group celebrated their 10th birthday in July 2011, with approximately 100 women and their children from over 20 countries participating in the program each year.

We sincerely thank Fleur Spitzer and a private donor for their support to fully fund this project.

FITTED FOR WORK:

Women from CALD Backgrounds Entering Mainstream Employment **\$5,000**

Pilot to assist culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women to enter the mainstream workforce and find sustainable employment and financial independence

The Project will work with 15 women, to test whether one-on-one work with specially trained volunteers will enhance their employment capacity. This will include clothing and career advice, curriculum vitae preparation and building interview confidence.

It will also help develop the confidence of Fitted for Work volunteers, to work more effectively with women from CALD backgrounds. On successful evaluation, FFW plan to replicate the model in their sites in the LaTrobe Valley and Parramatta.

This project has been fully funded by the Annemarie & Arturo Gandioli Fumagalli Foundation through a partnership with Perpetual Trustees and we thank them for their support.

EVOLVE AT TYPO STATION:

Young Women's Program **\$15,500**

This is Australia's first female-only early-intervention program for at-risk teenage girls, using narrative and bush adventure therapy

The grant helps fund a two year program which aims to guide the young women to positive and sustainable changes in their lives, by influencing thought and behaviour at personal and societal levels.

The program is modelled closely on Evolve's successful Young Men's Program and was developed to proactively address gender in-balance within the Service and in recognition of the growing need for therapeutic early intervention programs for young women.



Thank you, for making it possible for young women having difficulties to make positive changes to their stories, before 'at-risk' becomes genuine, life-shaping disadvantage for generations to come. In making sure these young women have the best chance, we are investing in the future as these they become confident, positive adults.

Paul STOLZ, Evolve

We wish to thank the Bokhara Foundation and Neilma Gantner for their generosity in making this grant possible

BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE:**Making it Happen**
\$7,000

Research project to develop an innovative, gender sensitive model to address the learning and work needs of disadvantaged women in public housing.

This project will build on research on the complex interaction between taxation, housing and income support policies that are often gender blind and can act as a disincentive to women's employment.

It will develop approaches that support women's economic, social and cultural participation and advocate for government policy change, so that policies better reflect gender issues in relation to women's work, learning, income support and housing.



This grant will help us greatly in our work with underprivileged women ...and will help many women to move beyond disadvantage to achieve successful and fulfilling lives.

Tony NICHOLSON, Brotherhood St Laurence

This project has been supported by Eve Mahlab and we extend our sincere thanks for her generosity.

Thanks

Our grants program is only possible due to the generosity of our donors. Through contributions large and small this support has enabled us to fund an outstanding round of grants in an area of vital importance for women and girls. Thank you!

We would like to pay a special tribute to the Peninsula Women's Fund. Guided by Denise Hassett, the Fund has raised money over many years for Mornington Peninsula based projects. Sadly the Fund has decided to close. We have enjoyed working with the Fund and will miss their support. However they have provided an enduring legacy for many local groups and we wish members well in their future endeavours in supporting their community.

We also wish to acknowledge the commitment of the many people working in the community to carry out these projects and thank them for their dedicated work toward a safer future for women and girls and their families.

For further information about our Grants Program, including **Great Outcomes** from previous grants, and how to make a donation, please visit our website at www.vwt.org.au/grants or phone Anne Paul on (03) 9642 0422.



TWEDDLE CHILD AND
FAMILY HEALTH
SERVICE: *Empowering
Somali Mums Project*

PHOTO: Ponch Hawkes

Sub-Fund Program 2010-2011

Con Irwin Sub-Fund

The Con Irwin Sub-Fund supports innovative social justice projects that offer circuit breaking solutions to discrimination, violence and inequality of educational opportunity.

TWEDDLE CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE:

Empowering Somali Mums Project \$14,850

Pilot to develop a culturally sensitive model of family planning and parenting education for Somali mothers of young children.

The project will work in partnership with the Australian Somali Women's Healthcare Foundation. It will explore issues, develop a parenting module and pilot an intervention program, enabling Tweddle to adapt their programs to better meet the needs of Somali mothers and children, as well as using the work as evidence to advocate policy change.

This grant will help us better understand the challenges faced by Somali mums. It will assist in establishing parenting education that responds to the needs of Somali mums and their young children rather than from a framework of western parenting

Kerrie GOTTLIEBSEN, Manager

We sincerely thank Hilary Irwin who generously endowed the establishment of the Con Irwin Sub-Fund and for her continuing support and involvement in its work.

Essie Burbridge Sub-Fund

The Essie Burbridge Sub-Fund supports projects that provide leadership in cross cultural understanding and strategies for combating racism.

MIGRANT INFORMATION CENTRE BOX HILL:

Many Stories, One Voice \$7,570

Work with 25 refugee and mainstream teenage school girls to create and deliver workshops about refugee experiences, for other students.

The workshops will be piloted at Ringwood College, then delivered across ten schools in the region, helping to increase awareness and knowledge about refugees, break down discrimination and combat racism. They will also increase the self esteem, leadership and confidence of the girls involved and will seek to create a sustainable model that can be replicated in other schools.

We wish to extend our deepest thanks to our private donor who endowed the Essie Burbridge Sub-Fund.



Sub-Fund Program 2010-2011

Johnstone Gumption Sub-Fund

The Johnstone Gumption Sub-Fund supports the participation of women as active citizens in community capacity building, the harnessing of women's experience and wisdom, and Indigenous women's efforts regarding health literacy in their communities. The joint inaugural grants were made in early 2011, focussing on Indigenous women's health literacy

DHAUWURD-WURRUNG ELDERLY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE PORTLAND:

International Women's Day Kuyuurn (meeting) **\$2,490**

This grant supported the 2011 International Women's Day Kuyuurn for women of Gunditjmarra Country of south-west Victoria, to use the strength and wisdom of women as the building blocks for a healthier and safer future.

The Kuyuurn hosted a number of speakers, bringing together traditional owners, health workers and local organisations to renew collaborative efforts, rapport and understanding. It had a focus on raising awareness of a range of health issues while working to address the most urgent problems of violence and drug and alcohol use.

An Indigenous Women's Art Exhibition, showcasing the talents of local women was also held, along with workshops to explore and enhance cultural knowledge.

We were absolutely thrilled to obtain funding ... Our event was a fantastic day which saw our local Aboriginal women build their confidence, learn new skills, make new friends and celebrate being a woman... an outstanding success.

Ros ALEXANDER, CEO

HEALESVILLE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION:

Indigenous Women's Health, Healing and Leadership Circle Project **\$6,700**

Establish an Indigenous women's health, healing and leadership network in the Healesville region, to work towards improved health, social connection and cultural renewal.

The project will work toward individual, family and community change, through improved health literacy and understanding the impact of health choices on wellbeing. It will focus on using the strength and resilience of Indigenous women coming together for a common purpose and will create opportunities to learn, discuss and share information, to encourage sustainable and tangible change.

It is with great appreciation that we thank Val Johnstone for her generosity in endowing the establishment of the Johnstone Gumption Sub-Fund and for her ongoing support and involvement in its work. We also thank Olivia Jones for her donation to the Sub-Fund.

All Sub-Funds welcome donations to assist them to grow and make grants. For information including stories about the women they honour and how to make a donation in honour of a special person please visit our website www.vwt.org.au or contact Anne Paul on (03) 9642 0422.

New Sub-Funds

The Prue Myer and Joan Hudson Sub-Funds were established in June 2011 by the Trustees of the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust and we welcome them to our Sub-Fund family.

The Prue Myer Sub-Fund

The **Prue Myer Sub-Fund's** establishment was generously endowed by Jo Baeviski and we sincerely thank her for her wisdom and commitment to our work. As a long time supporter of the Trust, this Sub-Fund reflects the desire of Jo and her family to honour her mother Prudence Myer. The Sub-Fund's purposes reflect Prue's strong sense of social justice, including being an early champion of immigrant and refugee women and Aboriginal people, and her lifelong passion for progressive politics.

In consultation with Trustees, the Sub-Fund will support projects for immigrant and refugee and other disadvantaged girls and young women that provide them with positive mentoring opportunities, improve their academic and educational outcomes and encourage their engagement and participation in political life.

The Joan Hudson Sub-Fund

The **Joan Hudson Sub-Fund's** establishment was endowed by Rosemary Geer and we thank her for her generosity and consideration. The Sub-Fund reflects Rosemary's desire to honour her mother Joan, and to build on her love of learning, respect and care for people and selfless commitment to her wider community.

In consultation with Trustees the Sub-Fund will support projects that provide positive and effective community supports for mothers and their children, new and/or improved opportunities for respite care for mothers of children with high-need disabilities and practical support for young women from less advantaged backgrounds to access educational and academic opportunities.

Special Grant Initiatives

GENERAL PRACTICE VICTORIA:

Family Violence and General Practice **\$30,000**

In April 2011 Trustees approved a **Special Grant Initiative to General Practice Victoria (GPV) for their professional development program Family Violence and General Practice.**

This program was developed following anecdotal evidence that suggested General Practitioners may not feel confident about the treatment and management of patients who may be experiencing family violence. As part of our multi-pronged effort to prevent violence against women, the Victorian Women's Trust undertook research that led to a partnership with General Practice Victoria, to design a peer education program that increases GP awareness of the extent and impact of family violence, and best practice in identifying patients who might be experiencing family violence – with a view to improving patient management and treatment responses.

The first peer education workshop was held on 3 September 2011 at GPV, designed and delivered by Dr Kelsey Hegarty from the Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne and Mr David Ellis, Swinburne University. Each GP participant will be supported to deliver a second peer education workshop in their area, thereby building the capacity in the general practice sector. It is anticipated this GPV approach may form a template that can be supported by government for application on a wider scale.

YWCA (Victoria):

Be the Hero! **\$170,000**

Trustees also approved a grant to resource the implementation across Victoria of the **Be The Hero!** program. See pages 26 & 27 for a full report on the year's activities.

Special Grant Initiatives



Ellie Jamonts of Star of the Sea College, Gardenvale.



Iryna Byelyayeva, of Elwood College who won the competition.

Vida's Voices

We were delighted to be able to run a leadership program for young women in 2010. Vida's Voices – Young Women Speak, was a statewide public speaking competition for Year 10 girls made possible through a grant from the Office of Women's Policy to the Women's Trust. Vicki Fitzgerald was employed part time by the Trust as the Vida's Voices Project officer, and brought a great level of skill and dedication to the project, particularly in regard to training the Leadership Team of twenty Year 10 girls from Preston Girls Secondary College.

This project was a great example of the power and impact of mentoring young people, and of bringing leaders in the community and young people together. Vida's Voices involved over 100 Year 10 girls from across the state, female leaders from the business and community sectors, as well as members of local communities. Judging and competition days were held in four regional areas; Morwell, Ballarat, Colac and Seymour as well as Melbourne. We were assisted in many ways by local community members - providing judges for the competitions, caterers for the training and judging days, and providing venues at low or no cost to us.

Twenty girls went through to the semi-finals held at the Women's Trust offices in early October and six of these progressed through to the Grand Final held on 31st October at BMW Edge Federation Square.

The Grand Final event was managed superbly by the Leadership Team from Preston Girls Secondary College executing their roles as M.C's, ushers, judges and hosts without a hitch. Susan Brennan, World President of the YWCA was an impassioned and powerful keynote speaker.

The audience were also captured by the girls speeches. It was evident from the moment the first finalist stood up to speak that a great deal of research and learning had taken place over the last few months. Their task – **Choose one topic you think has been important in positively changing women's status in Australian society and include what you see as some important consequences.**

Finalists were Iryna Byelyayeva from Elwood College who spoke on the Women's Liberation Movement, Theresa Carroll, Mary Mackillop Catholic Regional College Leongatha who spoke on Indigenous women. Both Ellie Jamonts, Star of the Sea College Gardenvale and Siobhan Lane, Presbyterian Ladies College spoke on women's experiences during World War Two. Laura Whitney of Eurora Secondary College spoke on women winning the fight for the vote and Akhila Seneviratne-epa, Fintona Girls School spoke on the Contraceptive Pill. Iryna won the competition.

It was inspiring to hear these young women deliver such passionate and articulate arguments.

BACK TWO ROWS: Vida's Voices Leadership Team from Preston Girls Secondary College. FRONT ROW (FROM LEFT): Charisma Dungan, Executive Director of the Debating Association of Victoria; Cheryl Judd, Principal of Preston Girls Secondary College; Mary Crooks, Executive Director of the Victorian Women's Trust; Dur-e Dara, Convenor of the Victorian Women's Trust and Vicki Fitzgerald, Vida's Voices Project Officer



Special Grant Initiatives



Uniting Care Cutting Edge/Firefoxes Australia **\$20,000**

In April 2010 the Trustees of the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust approved a Special Grant Initiative of \$20,000 to make a documentary depicting the powerful grassroots women's leadership that has emerged in the Kinglake Ranges area since the Black Saturday fires on 7 February 2009.

The documentary will capture the extraordinary story of Firefoxes Australia, through the voices of the women who make up the organization, telling their story in a way that can be shared with other people affected by natural disasters. It is a story of vision, resilience, grassroots leadership and women's recovery following the worst natural disaster in Australian history.

The project is being managed by two of the founding members of Firefoxes, Kate Riddell and Jemima Richards.

The final piece of filming occurred at a women's leadership retreat in Spring 2011, which brought together women leading change across all Victorian fire affected regions. The film will have its official release in 2012, after the third anniversary of Black Saturday.

Firefoxes members have already started sharing the films' messages with Victorian and Queensland communities affected by floods. In 2012 they plan to actively share the film and stories of the wisdom of women with other disaster affected communities around Australia.

Watermark Australia Project

Keeping abreast of water issues and water policy is a challenge with limited resources, time and staff, so it came as a great boost that we were able to secure funds through a donor to continue our work in the Watermark Project.

We developed the idea of a candidates Screening Kit for the State Government Election in November 2010 around water efficiency measures. The Alternative Technology Association (ATA) were very keen to partner with us in this initiative, which we named Our Water Our Vote!

In the months leading up to the November 2010 Election, Mirek Kapuscinski was employed part-time as Co-ordinator of Our Water Our Vote. ATA and the Women's Trust met regularly to develop the materials for candidates.

The kit – **Our Water Our Vote – Action for a Water Efficient Victoria!** was distributed in September to all Victorian parliamentary members and prospective candidates. In this document we asked members and candidates to indicate their willingness to promote and support a number of significant water efficiency initiatives across the State.

Reuben Sago was contracted for a short period to undertake the myriad of follow up calls to all prospective candidates requesting their responses. The ALP, Liberals/National Party and the Greens provided centralized responses on behalf of all their candidates.

During October and early November we compiled these responses and reported to the public through the media with an article in the *Age* – succinctly graphing all responses, on November 25th, prior to Polling Day.

Both major parties refused to agree to introduce daily targets for water consumption, and it wasn't long before the Baillieu government dumped the ALP's Target 155 campaign. This was quickly followed by an announcement of the expansion of government rebates for water-efficient products in line with their response on increased water efficiency measures.

We have committed to tracking progress of the Governments's water efficiency actions for the next twelve months.

Student Placements

For the third year running the Women's Trust have hosted three second year Monash medical students. In 2009 we were approached by Monash University staff interested in securing suitable work places for their students Community Based Placement, a significant component of second year. The main role of the workplace is to offer the students valuable experiences outside the hospital and traditional medical environment, to give them opportunities to meet, communicate and work with a range of people across the community. This year Hannah Cooney, Evania Lok and Vidhya Sivaranjani Uddaiyar have joined us and are contributing to our current work on violence prevention.



FROM RIGHT TO LEFT
Vidhya Sivaranjani Uddaiyar,
Hannah Cooney and Evania Lok

The students were able to visit a number of community organisations which the Trust has supported over the years. They were given briefings, tours and an opportunity to discuss the work with staff. Their specific project at the Trust involved looking at the knowledge gained by medical practitioners during their studies in regards to violence against women, and the effectiveness and implementation of this knowledge in their professional careers, with emphasis on perceived gaps.

Hannah, Evania and Vidhya have been conducting a number of interviews with second and third year medical students, registrars and Monash Medical School staff. This information will feed into an initiative that the Women's Trust is developing to provide relevant and expert violence prevention curriculum materials into a broad range of tertiary courses across Victoria. We are delighted to have the students with us, helping to inform this initiative through their research.

Events

Each year the Trust is active in hosting events and partnering with other organisations to help support women in celebrating their achievements.

March 2011 saw International Women's Day being celebrated with a public lecture at the Welsh Church in La Trobe Street to pay tribute to a remarkable feminist and activist – Muriel Matters. The public lecture was opened by the wonderful and talented Brunswick Women's Choir and a fascinating life story on Muriel Matters was delivered by Frances Bedford, South Australian MP. We thank the National Council of Women Victoria, YWCA Victoria and the League of Women Voters for their support and contribution to helping us celebrate International Women's Day 2011.

June was spent busily organising two large events; **The Living Memory Project Event** as well as the book launch of **The Catalysts: Change & Continuity 1910-2010**.

The Living Memory Project Event: Remembering East Timor's Political Prisoners



(L>R) Mary Crooks, Victorian Women's Trust, Michael Williams, Director of Wheeler Centre, Abel Guterres Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia, Jill Jolliffe and Robert Connelly, writer and director of *Balibo*.

The Trust first met Jill Jolliffe and the Living Memory Project back in 2009. This time we were proud to partner with the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of East Timor, Victorian Multicultural Affairs Commission and the Wheeler Centre to make another event possible.

This event produced a fantastic panel discussion with experts on the issue of East Timor's Political Prisoners including Jill Jolliffe, Robert Connolly and the Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia Sr Abel Guterres. The focus of our partnership and support is to raise awareness of this important aspect of Timor's recent history and assist in raising funds to enable completion of editing of interviews by the Living Memory Project.

Launch of *The Catalysts: Change & Continuity 1910-2010*

The launch of ***The Catalysts: Change & Continuity 1910-2010*** saw 100 guests being welcomed into the Red Rotunda Room of the State Library, with Winsome McCaughey launching the book written by Dr. Anne Longmire.

The Catalysts introduces a fascinating centenary history of a women's club based on the sharing of a meal and discussion paper once a month.

At the launch event, Dianne Reilly, President of the Catalysts 2010 and former head of the Document Collection at the State Library, welcomed all and set the scene. Ann Black, Chair of the Catalysts and member Lotte Mulligan also gave a short address.



Author Dr. Anne Longmire and Catalysts member Lotte Mulligan

Winsome McCaughey and Anne Longmire gave us a taste of what we could find amongst the pages with some enticing stories, emphasising the importance which the Catalysts placed on civility, wit and tolerance of diverse opinions, as well as stories, passions and interests explored during their monthly discussion papers.

Events



Be the Hero!

Victorian Women's Trust is delighted with the overwhelming community response and success of the *Be the Hero!* violence prevention program. Over the past twelve months we have effectively initiated the roll-out and implementation of the program in schools and communities across Victoria and in the Australian capital cities.

Key Partnership of *Be The Hero!*

The funding and partnership with YWCA Victoria that was established in 2010, has made it possible to roll-out the program. Continued generous funding from a private donor and our formal partnership with YWCA Victoria has allowed us to employ in part-time capacities Paul Zappa as the project presenter and trainer to lift the profile of *Be the Hero!*, Crystal Bruton to offer administrative assistance and manage the BTH website, and Nancy Ryan to co-ordinate the program.

Stakeholder development.

Fundamental to the success of the roll-out was forming authentic relationships with key stakeholders across schools and service providers within the wider community.

These include: Victorian State school nurses, youth workers from various community service organisations, Victoria Police Youth Resource Officers, Youth Justice, indigenous health workers, senior and welfare staff from secondary schools, Victoria Family Planning, sexual assault services personnel and community legal centre workers.

Paul Zappa delivered *Be the Hero!* 'train the trainer' in schools and community settings this year to in excess of 600 participants. These training sessions were conducted across all sectors of the education community.

Celebrations

The uptake of *Be the Hero!* at St Patrick's College Ballarat is an excellent example of our strategic model at work. Two staff from the College attended a general training session and reported back to their school leadership. Subsequently, Paul was invited to deliver a full day of training to the whole staff of the college. St. Patrick's staff delivered the program to all 180 year 10 students.

Tag Line

The development of a tag line to convey the essence of the program was seen as an important strategy. 'Men saying no to violence' best captured the fact that *Be the Hero!* calls on men and boys to take responsibility for initiating change in the attitudes and behaviour of each other. This tag line acknowledges that family and sexual violence is largely a men's issue.

Getting the Pedagogy right

A significant learning for our team this year has been the need to develop our pedagogy. We have aligned our on-line program content with a multi-media delivery style. This has made the program more engaging for the boys and young men.

Australia Wide Strategy

A key development has been the introduction of the model into the education systems in each of the Australian State Capital cities. Paul Zappa has delivered 'train the trainer' programs to key personnel in each capital city and has also returned to various schools to assist embedding the program within the school curriculum.

Within the past twelve months we have grown from training small groups of educators to large regional training. In mid 2011 over 70 participants took part in a half day training at Melbourne Town Hall.

Hilary Irwin and Susan Powell



Paradox of Service

In March 2009 the Women's Trust published its important research report, *The Paradox of Service*, which outlined the experiences of former religious at the time of and after leaving their Orders. This research found that in the past many women who departed, often after decades of service, did not receive adequate and just amounts of money or other resources to properly assist them in making the transition to a new life. This has impacted negatively on their physical, mental and financial circumstances right up to the present.

The Paradox of Service received a great deal of initial publicity and attention from a number of quarters and triggered a continuing stream of inquiries and further input and information.

In the main, this feedback has reinforced the findings of the research, as well as brought us into contact with many more former religious and those interested in their welfare.

Between June 2010 and June 2011 we have been in close discussion with Catholic Religious Australia, (CRA) the peak body for religious orders in Australia, largely to establish the extent to which both parties can work collaboratively on behalf of the former religious concerned. A formal partnership has now been established.

In agreement with CRA we are developing our own Independent Advocacy program and acting as independent advocates for former religious. Because CRA shares the commitment to a productive resolution of matters between former religious and their Orders, CRA will notify Orders as to the roll-out of our program and will encourage Orders to be open and responsive in their interactions with us.

With the dedicated work of two Trust volunteers, **Paradox of Service** Co-ordinator Hilary Irwin and Susan Powell, our intention is to proceed as systematically as possible through the list of women with whom we have been in contact.

Melbourne Storm

This year as part of the Storming Against Violence Initiative, Melbourne Storm Rugby League Club has extended their partnership with the Victorian Women's Trust to implement the Be the Hero! Program. Paul trained all Under 18 and Under 20 players in *Be the Hero!* Program between December 2010 and March 2011. This training received excellent feedback from both coaches and players.

Certificate III in Community Service

Five Melbourne Storm Under 20's players studied for their Certificate III in Community Services utilizing *Be the Hero!* as the core project. This involved Paul training the players in 20 full day sessions which incorporated the players co-delivering the program with Paul at Hallam Secondary College, as well as presenting to over 200 year 11 students at Marcellin College.

Going Forward

In March 2011 we began planning for a major *Be the Hero!* event for early 2012. The aim of this event is to demonstrate to the community the need for men to partner with women to reduce violence within our community. We have laid the foundation for what we hope will be a landmark event for men and boys in Melbourne.

Consolidated
Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust
Victorian Women's Trust
Victorian Women's Action Trust

income

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2011 (Australian Dollars – A\$)

Income	2011	2010
Donations	971,839	876,949
Interest/Investment (net)	363,933	261,809
Funding/Grants	—	2,000
Other	391,862	137,735
Total Income	1,727,634	1,278,493
Expenses		
Operating & Program Costs	(929,090)	(852,697)
Grants		
Paid & Provided	(446,498)	(417,700)
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	352,046	8,096

equity

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2011 (Australian Dollars – A\$)

Capital	2,000	2,000
Reserves at Beginning of Financial year	448,565	597,295
Transfer (to)/from Capital Reserves/Operations – net	63,285	(161,230)
Transfer (to)/from Committed Funds Reserve – net	(12,500)	12,500
Reserves at End of Financial Year	499,350	448,565
Accumulated Funds at Beginning of Financial year	6,101,495	5,944,669
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	352,046	8,096
Transfer from/(to) Capital Reserves/Operations – net	(63,285)	161,230
Transfer from/(to) Committed Funds Reserve – net	12,500	(12,500)
Accumulated Funds at End of Financial Year	6,402,756	6,101,495
Equity at End of Financial Year	6,904,106	6,552,060

Consolidated
Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust
Victorian Women's Trust
Victorian Women's Action Trust

balance

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2011 (Australian Dollars – A\$)

Equity	2011	2010
Capital	2,000	2,000
Capital Reserves	499,350	436,065
Committed Funds Reserve	—	12,500
Accumulated Funds	6,402,756	6,101,495
Total Equity	6,904,106	6,552,060
REPRESENTED BY		
Non-Current Assets		
Fixed Assets	134,710	41,995
Other	—	5,293
Total Non-Current Assets	134,710	47,288
Current Assets		
Cash	409,296	321,575
Investments	6,012,306	6,189,383
Other	570,672	95,101
Total Current Assets	6,992,274	6,606,059
Total Assets	7,126,984	6,653,347
Non-Current Liabilities		
Non-Current Liabilities	(16,317)	(12,723)
Current Liabilities		
Provision for Employee Entitlements	(90,613)	(63,409)
Other	(115,948)	(25,155)
Total Current Liabilities	(206,561)	(88,564)
Total Liabilities	(222,878)	(101,287)
Net Assets	6,904,106	6,552,060

cash flow

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2011 (Australian Dollars – A\$)

	2011	2010
Cash Flow (used in)/from Operating Activities	20,572	(10,163)
Cash Flow used in investing Activities	(109,928)	(8,025)
Cash Flow used in financing Activities	—	—
Net (Decrease)/Increase in Cash Held	(89,356)	(18,188)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Financial Year	6,510,958	6,529,146
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Financial Year	6,421,602	6,510,958

Koorie Women Mean Business

In 2010 Koorie Women Mean Business (KWMB) Committee of Management began a review process, including updating our Business Plan and a review of our Constitution.

We welcome Carren Bux and Julie Goddall to the Board, and acknowledge the contribution of retiring board member Faye Lynam. We also congratulate Frances Mathyssen, Bev Peter and Jody Saxton-Barney for re-election to the Board.

PUBIC SUBMISSIONS

- Indigenous Economic Developments Strategy
- Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry
- Indigenous consultation on family violence primary prevention framework (Hume workshop)
- Child Rights Taskforce (member), Listen to Children, UN child rights report for Australia, United Nation Committee on the Rights of the Child

'Jigsaws have been beneficial in pooling ideas funding for events.'

Growing Our Aboriginal Leaders Strategy:

Jigsaws – Wodonga/Albury (Hume Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group)

KWMB recruited Nancy O'Dwyer as Community Development Worker, two days per week. The project brings together all local family violence service providers involved with Aboriginal women and youth with an overarching objective to engage with each other and with clients. This had not occurred in the region prior. Meetings have been well attended; it also includes networking, a resource table that grows with information along with service presentations, and discussion on project developments, design and delivery. Aboriginal Women and youth attend the meetings.

Building and Supporting Community Led Partnership initiatives responding to Family Violence

KWMB plays a coordinating, and supportive role with Dr Kylie Cripps, Indigenous Law Centre, School of Law, University of New South Wales, who is working with an Australian Research Council (ARC), discovery grant Building and Supporting Community Led Partnership Initiatives, responding to family violence in Indigenous communities in Victoria.

Kylie's work is overseen by a Research Steering Group who identified four sites Hume, East Gippsland, Southern Metropolitan and Victoria wide Disability sector. In 2010 interviews and focus groups were held over a six month period with Indigenous service providers and mainstream service providers, A Policy and Literature review was also undertaken. The grant was also able to fund community researchers.

The research data collation's first cut of findings were presented at the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide 2010, Indigenous Healing conference, Hawaii.

The research, aims to:

- Systematically document and critically analyse Indigenous and mainstream interventions and models of practice in responding to family violence in Victoria.
- Identify, systematically document and critically analyse existing partnerships between Indigenous and mainstream organisations and their implications for service delivery.
- Identify opportunities for further partnerships, in light of legislative changes, between Indigenous and mainstream organisations.
- Identify how Indigenous and mainstream organisations working in this field can come together to sustain both models of practice over the longer term.

Joyce Thorpe Nicholson Fund

RIGHT TO LEFT
Women's Trust Policy Officer Sarah Capper,
Jane Sloan, Executive Director Stakeholder Relations for
HealthWorkforce Australia, and Women's Trust Project
Materials Design Co-ordinator Allyson Oliver-Perham.



In April 2011 Joyce Thorpe Nicholson was posthumously awarded the Changing the Face of Philanthropy Award which was presented to Women's Trust staff members Sarah Capper and Allyson Oliver-Perham at The Women's Funding Network 2011 Conference in New York.

Joyce Thorpe Nicholson's vision saw the One Million Dollar Appeal take off in 1988 three years after the Trust started. She saw that that this fund needed to be quickly built so that interest from it could fund projects for women and girls. The Fund enabled the Trust to build its grants program early in the life of the Trust, and helped build the profile of the Trust which in turn led many women and men to support the organization.

On receiving the award on behalf of Joyce, Policy Officer Sarah Capper told the audience of Joyce's words when she first met her. Joyce had said that although her friends had suggested she create a scholarship for a young woman to attend a university, Joyce figured such a woman would have enough talent and would be clever enough to get other opportunities in life. So, instead she decided to give to the Victorian Women's Trust, because the Trust gives to women and girls who are less likely to have such opportunities. Sarah thanked the Women's Funding Network for the international opportunity to honour a great Australian woman donor.

The Fund, now known as the **Joyce Thorpe Nicholson Fund**, continues to provide the basis for our Annual Grants Program and we encourage everyone to continue donating to the Fund to honor Joyce's vision, so that the Trust can continue to make a positive and significant difference to women's lives.

Donors

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Grosvenor Foundation
Peninsula Women's Fund
The Eirene Lucas Foundation

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Edna Tenner
Jean Tom

Rosalind Wallis
Elizabeth Walpole
Sheila F. Walsh
Judy Warren
Max Watson
Jan Webster
Alan Wein
Julie Wilkins
Annette Wood
Mary Wooldridge
Kaye Wright
Goldie Zyskind

Bequest

Estate of Henry and Robert
D'Esterre Taylor

Pro-Bono Support

We thank the individuals and their organisations who have made substantial contributions of their time, skills and resources to the Trust

Freehills **Freehills**

PKF **PKF**
Chartered Accountants
& Business Advisers

Rosemary Vine
Elsie & Betty Design
Zenith Interiors
Stylecraft
Ism Objects
Interface Floor
Uni-Flooring Resources
Signature Prints
Instyle
Design Guide

Additional support

Barry Novy & Grant McKenzie
of Kliger Wood
Zonta Club of Ballarat for
Vida's Voices Training

For more information, please contact

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Members

Members provide an essential grass roots resource to the Trust through annual subscriptions as well as through additional donations to the Trust's granting program. Members also act as advocates and ambassadors for women's causes and assist by recruiting friends and promoting events through their networks and becoming involved as volunteers for special initiatives. Members support is vital to ensuring the Trust continues to address women's issues.

Bequests

A Bequest to the Trust is a powerful statement of support for generations of women to come. We thank all those women who have already included the Trust in their Will and those who are considering a bequest to the Trust in their estate planning. It is always important to seek professional advice from your legal adviser.

For information on how to make a bequest to the Trust contact the Executive Director Mary Crooks on 03 9642 0422



TWEDDLE CHILD AND
FAMILY HEALTH
SERVICE: *Empowering
Somali Mums Project*

PHOTO: Ponch Hawkes

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We aim to make a
difference in everything
we do.

