



**Newsletter | June 2017**

**Inspiring Philanthropy  
Since 1923**

# connect



**CHANGING  
MELBOURNE  
FOR GOOD**

We're thrilled to share with you details of our *Changing Melbourne for Good* campaign launch together with campaign Ambassador, Costa Georgiadis.

# Changing Melbourne for Good

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### COVER:

Costa and friend at Fitzroy Community Centre.  
Image from Hynesite Photography.

## In the Garden with ABC's Costa Georgiadis

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation recently launched its *Changing Melbourne for Good* campaign with ABC's Gardening Australia host Costa Georgiadis.

As a passionate supporter of sustainable living, Costa has thrown his support behind the Foundation's campaign to help raise awareness about the issues around food sustainability, security and rescue to raise much needed funds for the support of environmental and sustainable initiatives.

"I'm thrilled to be working with Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and their *Changing Melbourne for Good* campaign," said Costa.

"It's so encouraging to see the work they're doing with local Melbourne communities and how they're helping improve food sustainability, food security and food rescue."

As part of *Changing Melbourne for Good*, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is supporting Cultivating Community to expand its program to 20 community sites across Melbourne.

Cultivating Community is a not-for-profit organisation established in



Above: Costa and friends at Fitzroy Community Centre

Melbourne in 1998 to develop and create sustainable community food projects for low income communities and improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate food.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Chief Executive Officer Catherine Brown is encouraging everyone to support *Changing Melbourne for Good* by making a donation to the fundraising campaign.

"In 2015, the Foundation provided a grant to Cultivating Community for Fitzroy Community Food Centre which has now become a thriving and wonderful centre for people to come together to grow food, learn to cook, and share food.

"With the success at Fitzroy Community Food Centre, we are supporting Cultivating Community to expand to 20 community sites across Melbourne and with the help from our donors, we will be able to achieve this goal."

**To make your donation to Changing Melbourne for Good, visit [lmcf.org.au/donate](http://lmcf.org.au/donate) or phone (03) 9633 0033.**

**To read more about the campaign visit [lmcf.org.au/changing-melbourne-for-good](http://lmcf.org.au/changing-melbourne-for-good)**

**Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Act 2017 was passed by the Legislative Council of the Victorian Parliament on 2 May 2017.**

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Chief Executive Officer Catherine Brown said, "The new Act reflects current governance practices in philanthropy and enables the Foundation to be an impact driven foundation, and enhance its reputation as a leading and contemporary organisation."

Established by the Lord Mayor of the day Sir John Swanson in 1923, the Foundation is one of very few charitable organisations governed by an Act of Parliament (Victoria). First passed in 1930, the Act was then updated in 1996 and now in 2017 which will come into effect July 1 2017.

To read more, visit: [lmcf.org.au](http://lmcf.org.au)



## CEO's Message



Above: Catherine Brown  
Chief Executive Officer

**In this edition of Connect we are pleased to share our continued commitment to increasing the supply of affordable housing in Melbourne; the transition to a low carbon future; reducing youth unemployment; building community resilience, and ensuring a sustainable food system. As the largest community foundation in Australia, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has an obligation to demonstrate leadership on these priority community issues.**

This winter we are launching our new community campaign, *Changing Melbourne for Good*, which encourages more people to be involved in community philanthropy. Private philanthropy is often profiled in the media but community philanthropy is the unsung powerhouse of community capability building across Australia.

*Changing Melbourne for Good* encourages everyone to become active change makers in partnership with the Foundation – whatever their capacity to give.

This year's food security campaign builds on exciting work by The University of Melbourne's Victorian Eco Innovation Lab (VEIL). Over the past two years the Foundation has funded VEIL's Foodprint project which has mapped Melbourne's foodbowl. Melbourne and its peri-urban fringe is responsible for 47% of the vegetables produced in Victoria and has the capacity to meet around 41% of the city's total food needs, which is something to celebrate!

The work of Cultivating Community in encouraging and supporting communities to grow their own food, share with others across cultures, and learn about healthy cooking is truly inspiring.



Costa Georgiadis, Peta Christensen and Catherine Brown

However, a changing climate, the need to drought proof our foodbowl and a growing population, the Melbourne community needs to build a shared vision for our sustainable food system.

**"Changing Melbourne for Good encourages everyone to become active change makers with the Foundation – whatever their capacity to give."**

– Catherine Brown

We are delighted that Costa Georgiadis from Gardening Australia has agreed to be our ambassador for the Foundation's work in food security, sustainable food systems and reducing food waste. We could not have a more informed or motivational ambassador – thank you so much Costa.

This newsletter profiles some of the grants recently approved under the Thrive Grants program. Thrive grants provides core capacity building support to charities working on issues that are priorities for Melbourne.

Homelessness and affordable housing remains one of our core issues. Working with the Transforming Housing Partnership, Social Enterprise Finance Australia and a strong group of advisors, we will launch the Affordable Housing Challenge in June.

Our goal is for the Challenge to be a catalyst for scalable, replicable solutions that will increase housing options for people facing financial disadvantage. We will provide regular updates on the Challenge as it progresses. The Foundation has committed a \$1 million grant and a \$2 million impact investment to this project.

I encourage everyone to support *Changing Melbourne for Good* as we approach the end of the financial year.

**Together we can change Melbourne for good.**

Catherine Brown  
Chief Executive Officer

**Please visit [lmcf.org.au/donate](https://lmcf.org.au/donate)**

**The redevelopment of Ozanam House by VincentCare (Signature Grant) which will double the crisis and longer term accommodation for older people experiencing homelessness has begun – a wonderful milestone.**



# Education & Employment

## Inspiring Young People

**Organisation:**

**Foundation for Young Australians**

**Project: Young Social Pioneers  
– Sustainable Jobs Stream**

**Initiative Grant: \$170,000**

For more than 40 years, the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) has focussed on improving learning outcomes and life opportunities for young Australians.

In 2009 it launched an accelerator program for young social entrepreneurs whose goal was to make a difference to social issues through social enterprise businesses. FYA has now supported more than 200 young entrepreneurs working across a range of issues.

With assistance from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, FYA launched Young Social Pioneers, an intensive, six-month program that supports young social entrepreneurs to develop and lead sustainable and impactful social ventures.

This year the Foundation's support will enable the growth and development of ventures that have the potential to drive jobs growth within energy efficiency, sustainable food systems, and healthy water ecosystems, as well as support young people with big ideas in the arts and creative industries.



Above: SCARF

## Stepping-stones to Employment

**Organisation: SCARF**

**Project: Strengthening Growth and Impact**

**Thrive Grant: \$40,000**

Hospitality is a great stepping-stone for young people from newly-arrived migrant and refugee backgrounds, allowing them to gain valuable work experience and employment in Australia.

Scarf is an innovative organisation providing opportunities and training in hospitality to young refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who face complex barriers to employment. The organisation partners with Melbourne's best hospitality venues to deliver programs that encompass hands-on training, mentoring from industry professionals and paid work experience.

The Scarf team works with industry professionals to use 'vacant space' within restaurants on nights that they are closed to run training programs. This offers young people the opportunity to build skills and experience within a supported environment, and the experience of working in a commercial restaurant environment.

**70% of graduate trainees find work within six months of finishing Scarf's training program**

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has provided funds to help Scarf build on its success, increase its impact and further develop its business model.



**To read more stories like these, visit:**

**[lmcf.org.au/our-impact/impact-stories/education-employment](http://lmcf.org.au/our-impact/impact-stories/education-employment)**



### BUILDING OUR KNOWLEDGE

#### Researching Job Services for Older Australians

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provided an Innovation Grant last year to Brotherhood of St Laurence to support their research into understanding the barriers faced and pathways that lead older people being unemployed long-term.

The Foundation is committed to providing employment opportunities for both young and older people, and through this research hopes to find solutions to overcome and address some of the barriers that prevent older jobseekers from finding employment.

The research project includes an extensive process of interviewing both older jobseekers and staff in employment services as well as reviewing best-practice models for supporting older jobseekers. This project is expected to be completed at the end 2017.

### OUR IMPACT

#### Hire-Up Co-founder wins Queen's Young Leader Award

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is pleased to announce that a grant recipient, Jordan O'Reilly co-founder and CEO of Hire-Up, has been named as one of 60 recipients from across the Commonwealth for the Queen's Young Leaders Awards for 2017.

Jordan and his sister Laura started Hire-Up as a social enterprise to support people with disabilities to find, hire and manage their own home care and support workers via an accessible and cost-effective online platform. Their frustrating experience finding suitable carers for a family member inspired Jordan and Laura to create their own solution to a community wide problem. The Foundation provided an impact Investment Grant in 2015 to assist the young social entrepreneurs to further develop Hire-Up.

Jordan will receive his Award from the Queen in June at a ceremony to be held in Buckingham Palace.



Above: Project REAL classroom

**Students who have experienced trauma, abuse or neglect will be supported and encouraged to return to school.**

#### Back to School

**Organisation:** Banksia Gardens

**Project:** Project REAL

**(Re-Engagement in Education and Learning)**

**Thrive Grant: \$80,000 over two years**

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has provided funding to Banksia Gardens Community Services (BGCS) to implement an innovative program to re-engage students aged nine to 12 years back into education.

The Project REAL alliance between local organisations BGCS, Gateway School, Outer Urban Projects, Dianella Health, the Department of Education and Training and eleven local primary schools will work to re-engage, support and encourage students to return to school. Project REAL will also build the capacity of all partner schools to appropriately respond to the needs of these students.

## Healthy & Resilient Communities



### Digitising 3MBS

**Organisation:** Music Broadcasting Society of Victoria  
**Project:** Technical Upgrade Project  
**Thrive Grant:** \$112,000 over three years

Known for providing listeners a beautiful program of classical and jazz music, community radio station 3MBS looked to the future in 2007 and began planning to upgrade and digitise the station's equipment and studios, including digitising its enormous library of 20,000 CDs for broadcast playout. With project stages one and two complete, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has provided funding for the final stages of the project which will upgrade existing hardware and software bringing the station up to new broadcasting standards and ensuring operational longevity.

3MBS is run by a dedicated volunteer workforce of more than 200 people, 50 per cent of these over 60 years of age. This significant technological upgrade has included digitally-linked studios and a performance studio enabling the station to record and broadcast in-house performances by local, national and international musicians.

**Listen:** Online digital 103.5FM

### Taking Care of Climate Change

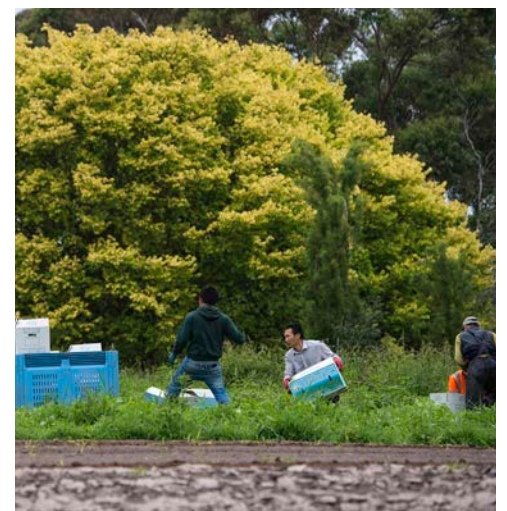
**Organisation:** Doctors for the Environment (DEA)  
**Project:** Business Development  
**Thrive Grant:** \$75,000 over two years

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is working with several organisations to research and build knowledge about the impact of climate change on our lives.

Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) is a unique health-based organisation working to address and understand the detrimental effects and implications of climate change on the health of communities around Australia.

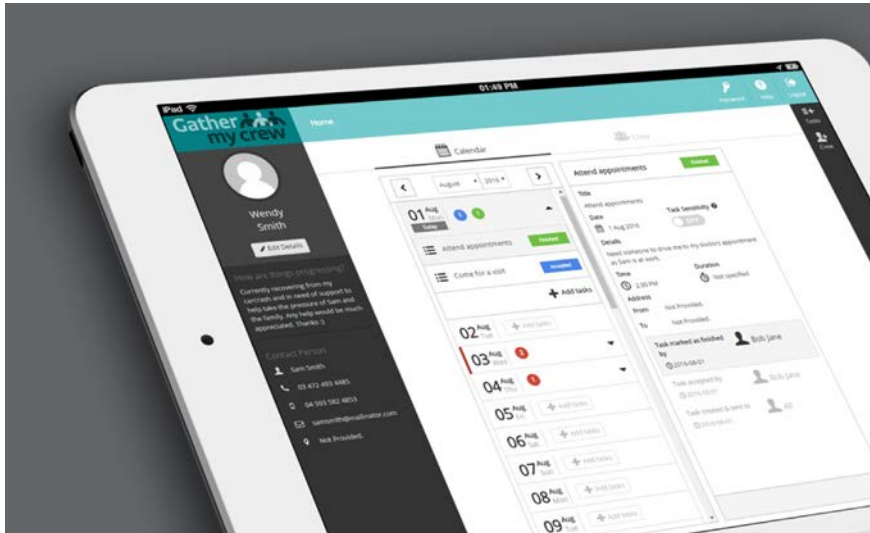
To support DEA's work, the Foundation has provided funding for the employment of a medically qualified executive officer. This means DEA will be able to provide accurate and effective information to medical professionals, communities and all levels of government. It will also increase DEA's ability to educate and advocate.

DEA organises and hosts annual conferences for medical professionals to discuss issues surrounding health and climate change. It produces community educational reports and fact sheets, and its research is used to inform policy.





**By receiving the right help at the right time, individuals and families, can minimise the effects of a traumatic event and begin a supported recovery.**



Above: 'Gather My Crew' – iPad view

## Creating a Culture of Support

**Organisation:** Gather My Crew Ltd

**Initiative Grant:** \$200,000 over two years

The Bourke Street incident earlier this year in Melbourne had a negative effect on the wellbeing and sense of security for many in our community. As a result of this tragic event, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has funded a new organisation Gather My Crew which is tackling the consequences of a traumatic experience.

Founded by Dr Susan Palmer, a psychologist, Gather My Crew was developed to help people in times of trauma and crisis. The innovative, web-based program is designed to build supportive communities around individuals and families experiencing disaster and crisis: the program's goal is to enable them to receive practical help and support when they need it. Gather My Crew will use the funding to develop and expand its services, via the appointment of a general manager.

Developed by highly experienced trauma professionals, the simple online tool assists by developing a support 'crew' of family and friends for people experiencing crisis or trauma. People in need are able to login to the online tool and ask their community directly for the practical help they need to get through tough times.

Gather My Crew coordinates the help requests and offers of help in an interactive and easy to use calendar. Help is very practical and can consist of every day activities such school drop-off and pick-ups, household cleaning, meals and assistance with medical appointments.

By receiving the right help at the right time, individuals and families, can minimise the effects of a traumatic event and begin a supported recovery.

**For assistance, visit:** [gathermycrew.org](http://gathermycrew.org)

**To read more stories like these, visit:**

[lmcf.org.au/our-impact/impact-stories/healthy-resilient-communities](http://lmcf.org.au/our-impact/impact-stories/healthy-resilient-communities)

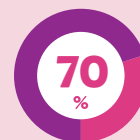
### OUR IMPACT

## New Website Provides Helpful Advice

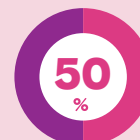
Parents and friends concerned about drug use by young people living in regional areas now have a helpful online resource. Penington Institute's new website called *Understand Ice* provides practical information about the effects of the drug ice, where to get help, and how to help a friend or family member who is using ice.

Penington Institute has reported that the new site has attracted more the 10,000 visitors since its launch earlier this year, a very successful outcome.

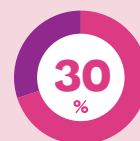
**For assistance, visit:**  
[understandice.org.au](http://understandice.org.au)



**70%**  
of visitors to the website were aged between 18 and 34.



**50%**  
of visitors indicated that they were there seeking information in relation to their own ice use.



**30%**  
of visitors were family members seeking information related to ice use by someone in their family.



**1/5**  
visitors indicating that they were there to seek information relating to their friend's ice use.

# Homelessness & Affordable Housing



## A Safe Place Called Home

Habitat for Humanity Victoria was the first recipient of funds from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation's new affordable housing loan fund with Social Enterprise Finance Australia (SEFA). The affordable housing loan fund aims to increase the supply of affordable housing in Victoria and provide another option for loan funds for the not-for-profit sector.

Recently, Habitat for Humanity Victoria, presented house keys to new home owners Chris and Jacqui and their sons, aged two and five.

The loan from the fund will enable Habitat for Humanity to reach its goal of building 100 new homes for low income individuals and families by 2020. Families who will become the new homeowners are encouraged to get involved in building their new home by providing 500 hours of 'sweat equity'.

**Chris and Jacqui have been working hard assisting in building, painting and gardening over the last six months.**

The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Catherine Brown said, "Congratulations to Habitat for Humanity and the wonderful contribution it is making to helping low income families own their own homes.

"On behalf of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, we wish Chris and Jacqui all the very best for the future."



Top: Habitat for Humanity representatives with Jacqui and Chris.  
Above: Jacqui and Chris and their young family



## Housing for Seniors

**Organisation:** Glenloch

**Project:** Building for the future

**Thrive Grant:** \$95,000 over three years

Glenloch has provided quality, comfortable affordable housing to senior Australians who are on a full Australian aged pension and have minimal assets for 58 years. Glenloch has 150 apartments located in Melbourne's inner eastern suburbs, but demand for senior housing is increasing at rapid rate.

Glenloch is now developing its sixth housing project in Armadale – 20 one-bedroom ground floor units for senior residents. It is expected to open late 2017.



### Update

VincentCare's Ozanam House redevelopment is underway and is expected to be completed at the end of 2018. It will provide emergency and crisis accommodation as well as supported short and long term accommodation for men and women who have experienced homelessness.

To learn more visit: [vincentcare.org.au](http://vincentcare.org.au)

### Thinking of listing your investment property with a real estate agent?

Please consider Homeground Real Estate Agency, Australia's first not-for-profit real estate agency. The agency will rent the property at full market rate and the agent's fees will be used to fund housing projects for people experiencing disadvantage.

To learn more visit: [homegroundrealestate.com.au](http://homegroundrealestate.com.au)

## Future Smart Homes

**Organisation:** Robin Boyd Foundation

**Project:** How Smart is Your Home?

**Proactive Grant:** \$38,500

Robin Boyd was an influential modernist architect well known for his innovative designs. The Robin Boyd Foundation (RBF) believes the best way to understand and appreciate the value of good design is to visit the actual physical buildings. Building on the success of its Open Day programmes, RBF is launching a school holiday program for upper primary school students.

### How smart are our homes?

The school holiday program aims to encourage more creative ways of thinking about and designing housing, and the impact that housing has on cities and communities. Instead of asking 'How big is your home?', the question will be 'How smart is your home? Is it energy efficient and cost effective?' It's an innovative approach to changing the way the next generation thinks about the design of smaller, affordable, energy efficient homes.

### Announcing Affordable Housing Challenge

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has launched a new challenge grant aimed at encouraging cross sectoral solutions that will increase the supply of affordable housing in metropolitan Melbourne.

The Foundation is providing a \$1 million grant and a potential \$2 million impact investment with Social Enterprise Finance Australia to kick start the process. The project focuses on providing housing for people facing financial disadvantage.

Partnerships between not-for-profit organisations, especially community housing associations, and commercial developers will be a key feature of the Challenge. The Challenge includes an advisory committee of experts with deep knowledge of affordable housing, including representatives from the Transforming Housing Partnership at The University of Melbourne.

**For more information, and an Expression of Interest, please contact the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Catherine Brown on: [catherine.brown@lmcf.org.au](mailto:catherine.brown@lmcf.org.au)**

**To read more stories like these, visit:**

**[lmcf.org.au/our-impact/impact-stories/homelessness-affordable-housing](http://lmcf.org.au/our-impact/impact-stories/homelessness-affordable-housing)**

## Environment & Sustainability



Above: Costa and friends in the community garden at Fitzroy Community Food Centre

### CHANGING MELBOURNE FOR GOOD

**Good food is critical for good health and wellbeing and Melbourne's reputation as Australia's food capital has long been celebrated and recognised. We enjoy access to local, fresh and high quality nutritious produce, and as Melburnians we love to grow, cook and share meals with our family and friends.**

**With the backing of Changing Melbourne for Good ambassador Costa Georgiadis, the Foundation is supporting sustainable food programs as part of a plan to ensure that Melbourne meets its food needs today and in the future.**

#### Cultivating Community

With the support of the Foundation, Cultivating Community will expand its community food program at Fitzroy Community Food Centre to 20 public housing and social housing communities across Melbourne.

This program incorporates a range of food programs focused on addressing food security issues, increasing access to nutritious food and improving healthy cooking and eating.

Staff at each site review the needs of the local community and develop food programs accordingly. The initiative also promotes sustainable food system practices such as urban agriculture and reduction of food waste.

**With your support we can do more. Help us expand community food programs across Melbourne.**

Community food programs bring people together. Learning is encouraged as well as celebrating heritage and culture.

*"These community food programs are bringing people together to celebrate and respect the diverse cultures represented in each community, which develops stronger and more resilient communities,"* said Catherine Brown, the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer.

**Donate today to support Cultivating Community, Foodprint and Foodbank.**

**Online:** [lmcf.org.au](http://lmcf.org.au)

**Phone:** (03) 9633 0033.

**Mail:** Please fill out the donation form attached.

**To read more stories like these, visit:**

**[lmcf.org.au/our-impact/impact-stories/environment-sustainability](http://lmcf.org.au/our-impact/impact-stories/environment-sustainability)**



**Help us grow  
community  
food programs  
by making a  
donation today**

**Fitzroy Community Food  
Centre food programs include:**

## **AFTER SCHOOL COOKING SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN**

### **Community lunches**

Cooking classes such  
as cooking on a budget/  
cooking for one/healthy  
lunchboxes



## **LOVE FOOD HATE WASTE PROGRAMS**

**GARDENING  
WORKSHOPS**  
such as growing  
vegetables or  
composting



*garden produce food  
swaps; affordable  
produce markets;  
development of social  
enterprises such as  
cultural catering*

**ACCESS TO EMERGENCY  
FOOD VIA A COMMUNITY  
PANTRY & PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH TRADITIONAL  
EMERGENCY FOOD  
RELIEF PARTNERS.**



## **OUR IMPACT**

**Victorian Eco Innovation Lab (VEIL) at The University of Melbourne has been investigating how Melbourne's foodbowl meets our growing food demands, and how prepared we are for future population growth. The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has provided funding to assist its work.**

Foodprint, a series of research reports published by VEIL, details the current and future trajectory of Melbourne's food needs. The good news is that 41 per cent of our city's food requirements is grown within or just outside the Melbourne metropolitan boundary. However, by 2050 with the current path of development and population growth, we will meet only 18 per cent of Melbourne's food requirements.

The Foundation's CEO, Catherine Brown, said, "Our goal at the Foundation is ensuring everyone in Melbourne has access to affordable, fresh food today and in the future. We're committed to supporting sustainable food program as part of this."



Above: Wayne Shield with Dr Rachel Carey

## **Teaching Foodprint Melbourne**

Congratulations to the Foodprint research team at VEIL led by Dr Rachel Carey. With funding from the Foundation, Foodprint study materials are being developed for the Year 9 geography unit of the Australian Curriculum called 'Biomes and Food Security'.

It addresses key themes of the Foodprint Melbourne project, including the risks to food production from population growth, urban sprawl and pressures of climate change. The Foodprint Melbourne research team will work with the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria (GTAV) to develop and trial a set of curriculum materials.

## **Foodbank - The Eat Centre**

With the help of over 900 community and school partners, Foodbank provided 10 million kilograms of food to people in need across Victoria. Foodbank also works with 500 schools to deliver a Schools Breakfast Club.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has funded Foodbank to research the development an Education and Training Centre (The Eat Centre) at the Foodbank premises in Yarraville which will include a commercial kitchen, theatre and event space. It aims to strengthen food relief efforts while addressing food rescue and waste prevention. The project will provide vocational education and training opportunities for vulnerable communities, as well as food relief sector workshops on food security, food rescue, nutrition and healthy eating.



Above: FoodBank volunteer

**To view these stories visit**  
[lmcf.org.au/changing-melbourne-for-good](http://lmcf.org.au/changing-melbourne-for-good)



Above: Impact100 Melbourne Committee members celebrate with Sisterworks

## Giving Circles – Collective Impact

**Making a positive difference in the community is the inspiration behind the growing movement of giving circles. First appearing in the United States, giving circles are becoming popular with approximately 20 giving circles operating throughout Australia.**

A giving circle brings a group of like-minded people together with a shared passion for wanting to make a difference in their communities. Members of giving circles pool their individual donations, resources and knowledge to make large grants to charitable organisations.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provides support to two of Melbourne's largest giving circles Impact100 Melbourne and Melbourne's Women Fund.

Georgie Kelly, a member of Impact100 Melbourne, says, "Through Impact100 Melbourne I've made new friends and expanded my own interests. It's also changed the way that I view and understand Melbourne and the issues that affect the community."

Impact100 Melbourne invites 100 donors to donate \$1000 to create one large grant pool of \$100,000. Last year Impact100 made a grant of \$95,000 to Sisterworks, an organisation supporting migrant women in business.

"It's a way to be part of a large grant that makes a big difference to a charitable organisation, without needing the capacity to do it on your own", added Georgie.

Vanessa Meachen is a founding member of Impact100 Melbourne who agrees that this collective giving model provides an opportunity for everyone to participate in philanthropy.

"It's important to show that philanthropy isn't just for the very wealthy, that anyone who has an interest in philanthropy can participate.

"Being part of Impact100 Melbourne makes me feel that the world is full of possibilities for positive change. It's a very empowering to see how you can personally make a difference, and the enthusiasm and passion from the charities we meet is wonderful," added Vanessa.

Co-founders of Melbourne Women's Fund Gillian Hund and Patricia Burke established their giving circle while studying social investment and philanthropy at Swinburne University. Meeting Colleen Willoughby, an American philanthropist and an inspirational figure in the collective giving movement, at an Australian Women Donors Network event provided further stimulus for Gillian and Patricia.

Melbourne Women's Fund was launched in 2014 with Colleen as the honorary patron. Today Melbourne Women's Fund has a special focus on making grants to organisations

supporting women and families, and is the first international member of the US based Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network.

"We want to raise awareness amongst our members of issues faced by women and their families in Melbourne in a way that involves both their head and their heart. We also want to grow the impact of our funding as well the confidence of our donor members in their personal giving. Education of our members through all our activities is a key outcome for our group," said Gillian.

**A giving circle builds knowledge, enthusiasm and generosity.**

— Patricia Burke, Melbourne Women's Fund

Being a member of a giving circle has provided some wonderful benefits including the opportunity for women to participate in philanthropy.

"The impact on my life has been so positive. The dedication of our members and volunteer leaders and their obvious enjoyment is part of what I love about our circle. The results of the great work we have funded as well the generosity of the women who donate their time and leadership, is really inspiring," said Patricia.

**To learn more about Giving Circles visit [lmcf.org.au/giving-circles](http://lmcf.org.au/giving-circles)**

