



# philanthropy

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**32**

**WINTER**  
**1997**

***Special Feature:***  
**Youth**

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see story page 22.

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Philanthropy Australia Inc.

# The President

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## speaks

A significant example of the value of Philanthropy Australia as an organisation representing trusts and foundations has unfolded through the past six months.

It became evident that imminent legislation was proposed in Victoria that would have affected fees for management. It soon became evident that similar legislation was proposed for NSW and possibly other states.

However, Philanthropy Australia was asked to comment on this legislation and took opportunity to raise issues with the Trustee Corporations Association of Australia which also had interest in the statutes. Legislation has now been postponed in both Victoria and NSW and friendly discussions are proceeding between government, Philanthropy Australia and the Trustee Corporations Association of Australia about a framework which will ensure fair and reasonable fees for perpetual charitable trusts. Trust representatives have been involved in these discussions also and will be further consulted about a code of practice for trust administration which will accompany amended legislation.

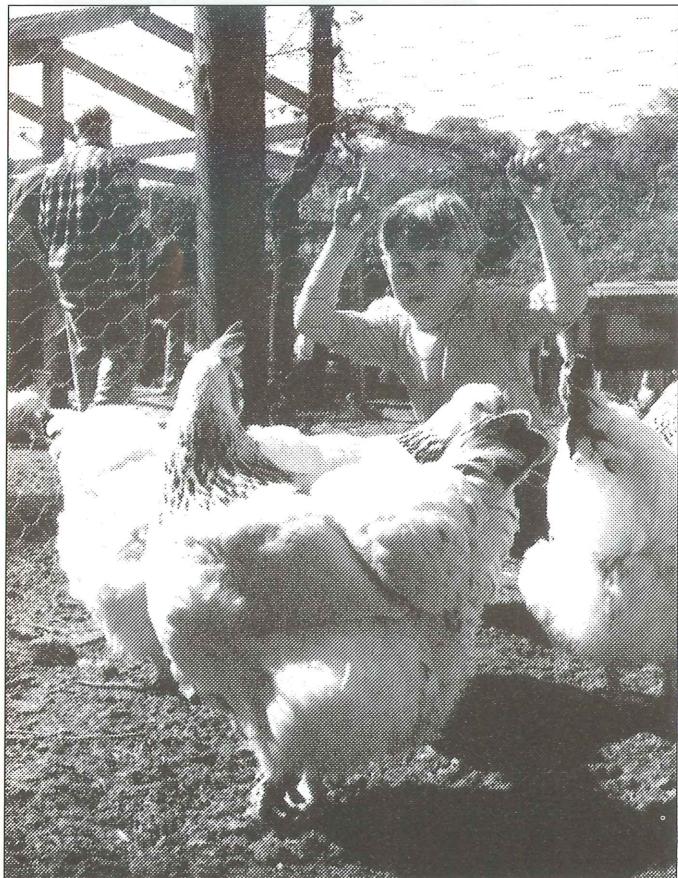
At the same time Philanthropy Australia is beginning discussion with representatives of the Prime Minister about proposals for considering the framework for philanthropy in Australia.

We are obviously passing through a period where philanthropy is under notice and Philanthropy Australia will continue to work toward safeguarding and enhancing the goal of members.

**Ben Bodna**

# Collingwood Children's Farm

At the Collingwood Children's Farm, the young, from babies to those in their early twenties, find a range of things to do. Here, they can feed the chickens, gaze at the sheep, feed the goats and admire the horses. But the Farm, in inner Melbourne, is much more than a glimpse of rural life for young people who live in the city: its values promote respect for all forms of life.



Collingwood Children's Farm (also bottom right)

This is a place which proudly states that in many ways, it is old fashioned. Cows are milked by hand, the chickens roam through the barn and lay eggs in secret places and mechanical tools are used to the minimum. The Farm relies on the input of people, especially children (from eight to late teenage), to help with the chores. This style of farming gives many opportunities for even very young children to make a useful contribution to the day's activities. In its relaxed atmosphere, people discover and interact with a variety of animals, explore vegetable, fruit and flower gardens, develop relationships with others and join in activities or chores.

Pam Morgan, Farm Manager, says that through the activities on the Farm, many young people, often in difficult or at risk situations find a measure of self esteem and confidence they previously lacked. "The environment here can absorb people in the life of the farm and they get satisfaction from working, usually in teams or groups, with

the animals or in the garden. Once you're here, it doesn't matter who you are or what your life is like outside the Farm gate."

The need for the Farm, Pam Morgan says, is greater now than when it began, 17 years ago. "Then, most city people had good country links and on holidays, kids would stay on auntie's farm." Now, she says, those opportunities have contracted, families don't have the same links and there is a need to develop others, nurturing the links between city and country.

The code which operates at the Farm is an unwritten one, but understood sooner or later by all who visit, in whatever capacity. It is, she says, "respect for all forms of life." Related to animals, this works well and children quickly get the message. The breadth of the message is evident when the code also encompasses bullying, sexism and racism, which sometimes needs further explanation.

The Farm is a welcoming place, one where everyone can make a contribution at their own level. Some young teenagers come every weekend for a period of their lives, often, Pam Morgan says, when it's not really safe to be out in the world. "What the Farm offers is an opportunity to be yourself, which especially for girls coming into their teenage years, is not always possible. They often find that their freedom and physicality is limited by growing up. Here, that doesn't happen." And, she says, there's something of an irony in the fact that young girls will spend their Saturday morning energetically scrubbing out the pigsty, but who would be horrified if anyone suggested they do the same for their bedrooms.

It relies heavily on volunteers to run its programs, especially the Collingwood Farmers Program, where young people participate in a number of activities

# More than just a big backyard

essential to the running of the farm, seeking to improve its overall management.

Woven into the Farm philosophy of caring for the land is its Community Landcare Project. Launched in 1994, the City Landcare Program was designed to promote a concern for the land within an urban environment. Rural enthusiasm for Landcare, with over 40% of Victoria's farmers members of Landcare groups, was then virtually unheard of by most Australians living in cities.

The two year Landcare project, (which ended in 1996 due to lack of funding), aimed to give a practical picture of the responsibility and complexity of sustainable land management. As well as getting their hands dirty, they learnt about Landcare, participated in land management and improved their local environment. The Farm is now a registered Landcare group and has gained Land for Wildlife accreditation. Soil fertility has been improved by better stock and crop rotations and pasture management, there is improved access around the Farm and new pig housing has been built.

The Farm is well able to cope with a number of programs running simultaneously and one is the Weekend Program, an arm of the weekend and holiday programs for local children and young people. It specifically targets young people who may be leading "at risk" lifestyles or who have few social skills and experience difficulties building relationships with others. The program offers them a more intensive level of support and provides a range of activities designed to increase self confidence and positive participation.

Pre-schools, schools and community groups use the Farm regularly and it also has a busy work experience and work placement program. There are regular placements for secondary and

tertiary students who are exploring vocational areas and learning about the workplace. Students enrolled in an Animal Care course can arrange for practical "hands on" experience at the Farm, working alongside staff and volunteers.

A number of groups with special needs visit regularly, building up new physical skills, as well as social and workplace skills. The Farm is also frequently approached to provide individual placements for people with difficulty relating to others. In these cases a support worker is involved and negotiation takes place to establish a plan that ensures an appropriate introduction to the Farm and builds in opportunities for a successful outcome.

Both adults and young people fulfilling community service requirements also contribute to the Farm's upkeep. The Juvenile Justice Unit negotiates individual placements with supervision and adult work crews attend on a regular basis, undertaking demanding physical work.

One of the Farm's activities is seen by Pam Morgan as giving it a particular place in the local community. This is the community garden plots, where people without gardens living in the City of Yarra can have their individual garden plot which becomes for them,

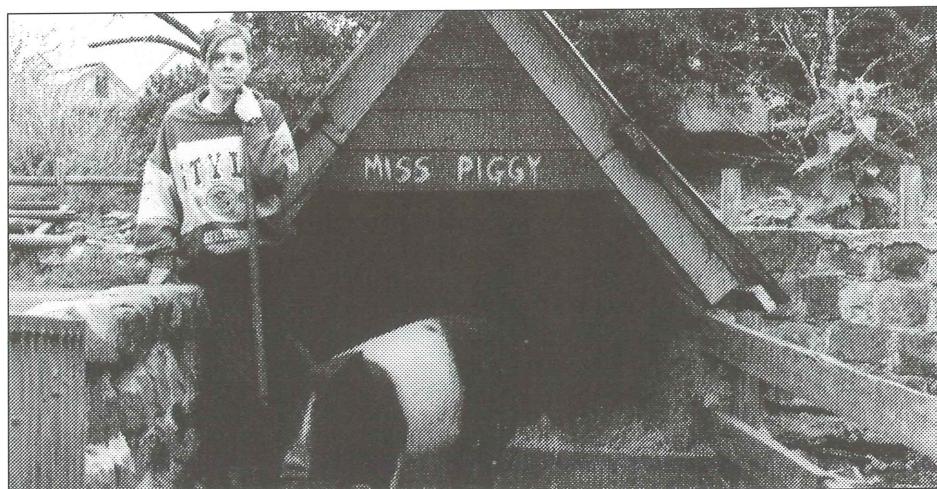
"a really important part of life". "People can do their own thing with their gardens. There are guidelines about how they should be used, but this is an area of tranquillity and open space – we don't want to change the atmosphere."

From its initial purpose, 17 years ago, of providing a "big back yard for kids in Collingwood", the Collingwood Children's Farm has evolved into an important community resource, helping people of all ages make connections with the land, to become involved and above all, "to fit in."

The Collingwood Children's Farm is a non-profit community based organisation. Its core funding is provided by the City of Yarra and the State Government. It has also received funding at various times from the Jack Brockhoff, Helen M Schutt, Myer, Potter and Reichstein Foundations, as well as the Soroptimists and Perpetual Trustees.

The Farm also raises funds by holding special activities days, and its big day of the year is the Country Fair Day each November (this year Sunday, November 16).

**Contact:** (03) 9417 5806 □



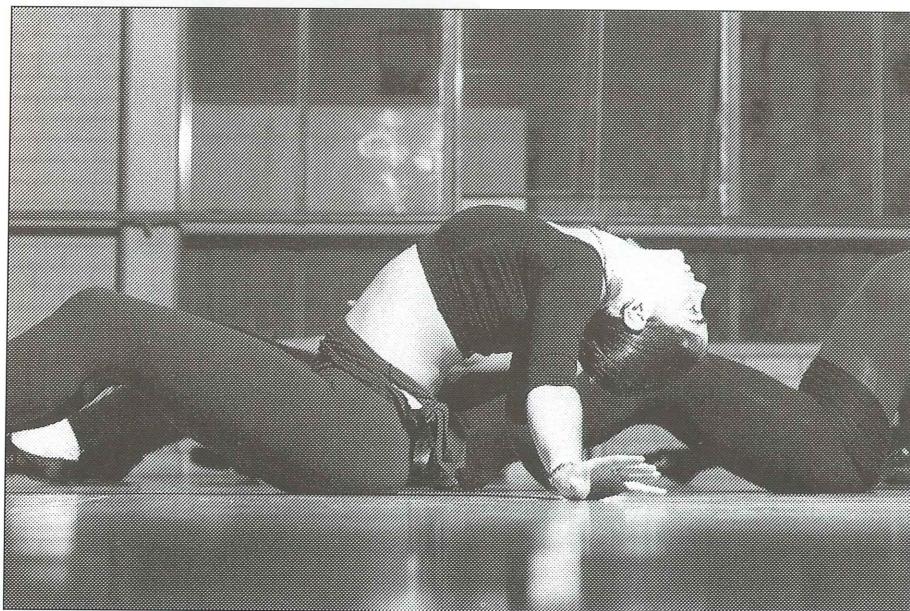
# The Victorian College of the Arts

Dedicated to educating and training emerging artists through the provision of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate courses that encourage innovation, self-discipline, motivation and expertise.

by Gerardine Kerlin

**W**ith its six schools – Art, Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music and Studies in Creative Arts, the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) is a working place. It is dedicated to educating and training emerging artists through the provision of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate courses that encourage innovation, self-discipline, motivation and expertise. It allows each student to develop an individual and personal artistic voice in an environment where risks, successes and discoveries can take place.

Unique because it is the only College



VCA Students School of Dance

of arts in Australia which provides education and training in all the visual and performing art forms in the one institution, the VCA is located in the heart of Melbourne's arts precinct.

Set on four hectares, its neighbours include the Victorian Arts Centre, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Australian Ballet, Opera Australia, Playbox Theatre and the CUB Malthouse, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Arts Victoria. The area is also home to a plethora of smaller arts organisations.

Since its founding in 1972, the VCA has played a major role in the education and professional development of more than 10,000 young Australians whose talents have led them to pursue careers in the arts.

While it has been the training ground for many famous artists, equally important is the contribution of VCA graduates to the dynamic growth of the arts industry in Australia. In 1981, arts and cultural industries contributed \$5.5 million to the Australian economy. Ten years later, this sector contributed \$21.6 million. In the early 1970s, paid artists comprised .47% of the workforce and were seen to be separate from mainstream society. Today, the arts industry comprises .95% of the workforce, a doubling in 20 years. Like sport, the arts are now a fundamental part of the Australian social fabric and experience and a vitally important component of our national and state tourism and export strategies.

This change within one generation could not have occurred without VCA graduates who, in their many thousands, have been a continuing

# A place in the future

source of the skills needed to build a strong industry infrastructure in a short time. While many hundreds of VCA graduates work throughout Australia and internationally as individual creative and performance artists, thousands of others provide the wide variety of skills and talents needed for a vigorous and sustainable arts industry. VCA graduates are directors, producers, entrepreneurs, curators, designers, agents, managers, advisers, publicists, fundraisers, teachers, researchers and writers. They are choreographers, performance artists, opera singers, conductors, multi-media artists, comedians and jazz musicians.

In its first 25 years, the VCA has played a major role in the emergence of a new generation of artists and a vigorous national arts industry. In the next two decades, it intends to be an international participant in the development of artists and the arts. It will join the increasing number of Australian corporations and institutions that are extending their traditional boundaries in order to seek and take advantage of new opportunities for growth.

The VCA will celebrate its first 25 years in November this year and in 1998 embark on its voyage for the new century. It will establish itself as an international centre for excellence in arts education, training and research by attracting young and mature artists of different cultures and artistic heritage to its Australian facilities.

In its first 25 years, the VCA has had generous benefactors and supporters, including members of the VCA Foundation, the Friends, the Patrons, the VCA 500, the College Council, the

25th Anniversary Committee, corporations and bequests. It has also received support from trusts, foundations and individuals including the Myer Foundation, the Pratt Foundation, the Sir Ian Potter Foundation, the CRA Foundation and Dame Elisabeth Murdoch.

In the next stage of its growth, the VCA is seeking the support of those whose philosophies, goals and purposes match those of the VCA thus providing the basis for long-term relationships which offer mutual benefit to sponsors and to the full community of the College.

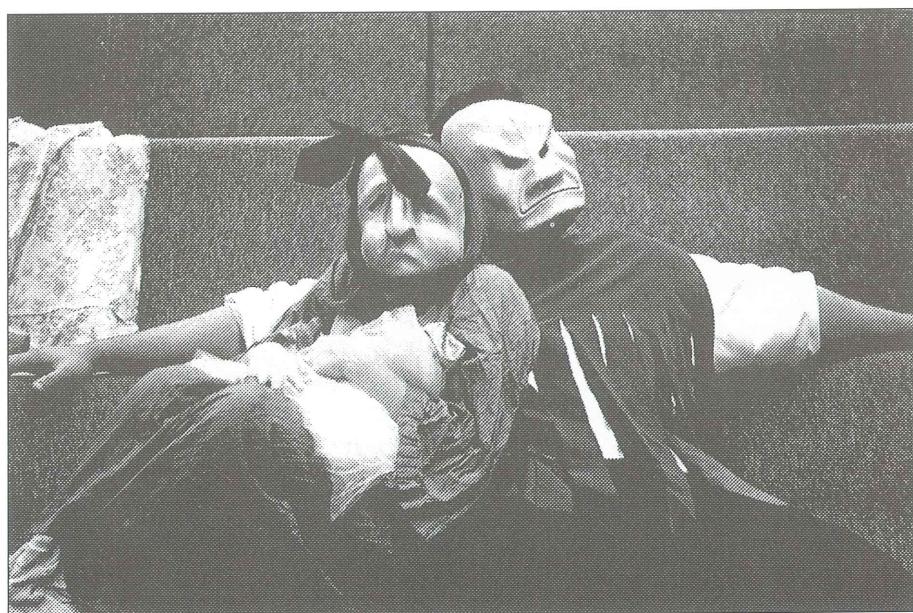
As an early step in the transition to a level of financial independence and self-reliance not required in its first 25 years, the VCA has met with staff, students, benefactors and supporters to come up with ideas as to how to realise its goal of independent participation in arts education. While it abounds in innovative ideas, its first need is a

sound infrastructure in the form of well-designed buildings, prestigious teaching positions and generous scholarship funds – the basic ingredients of world-class training, education and research in the arts.

The VCA has named these priorities in its prospectus which will be launched in the second half of this year. Making them a reality through sponsorships and gifts is the challenge for the college, which looks forward to building a mutually desired international community of the arts with sponsors and benefactors.

The VCA's 25th Anniversary will begin on the weekend of the 28, 29 and 30 November, 1997, while its Anniversary program will be officially launched later this year.

Continued on page 19



VCA Students School of Drama

# Education Foundation

## Helping young

By Kevin Childs

Katie\* found school very difficult.

**A**fter being the victim of domestic abuse for many years she felt socially isolated by the time she reached Year 7. Her low self esteem and lack of confidence, however, made her a perfect candidate for a special innovative program at school.

"You know," she says, "at the start of the year I was very shy. (But) the other day I actually had the nerve to get up and talk in English. I could never have done this before." She beams with pride.

In a year Katie had grown so much in confidence and developed such a range of skills that she has an entirely new focus for her future. Now she never misses a class.

All this happened through the Education Foundation/Australia Post 1996 sponsorship of the 'Cut Flowers'

project run by a dedicated teacher at Chaffey Secondary College, Mildura, Mike Higgins.

Katie is just one of the many students that an Education Foundation grant has helped to stay on at school and carve a new future for themselves.

With the sponsorship of Australia Post through the Education Foundation, the Chaffey students made a rubbish-strewn junkyard at the rear of the school blossom as a garden of flowers, strawberries and parsley.

Beginning at the start of the year as a scheme for a single group of students with learning difficulties, the gardening scheme swelled by term three to include four groups of 12 students.

They learned how a cottage industry runs and the workings of a cooperative. They also came to understand how the profits from their work, when channelled back into the program, helped make it self-sufficient.

As teacher Mike Higgins says, "We wanted to show students ways in which they could supplement their incomes, so that if jobs were not available they could rely on themselves."

"They also learned that, with hard work, determination and a belief in what they are doing, anything is possible."

The students sold their flowers at the local post office and to school staff and parents.

For these 12 to 14 year olds the project involved clearing the site and removing rubbish, digging foundations, building a shade house frame, erecting a sponsor's sign at the main entrance to the college and investigating other local support.

After painting the steel-framed shade



The 'Cut Flowers' project

**Philanthropy**

# people stay at school

house, they dug foundations from planter boxes, mixed filling, planted bulbs and made the surroundings attractive.

Extra beds were then planted, paths and walkways added and a display organised.

There was even help from the local orchid club in learning the art of growing these delicate flowers.

One clear result was a dramatic improvement in student attendance. Rarely were any students in the program away on garden days.

Now many students and their families are enjoying a new-found interest in gardening and have special garden beds at home. "Students are talking about school with their parents for the first time in ages," says Mike Higgins. "The parents are enthusiastic about their children enjoying basic gardening and wanting to talk about this further at home. It has given a few families a new interest and lines of communication."

Importantly, the students now understand that they can be self-sufficient. "They know that they have the inner strength to make their own success if the need arises," Mike Higgins says.

There has been similar success at Melbourne's Eastern Teaching Unit where 18 secondary students with severe behavioural problems turned their backs on failure and alienation.

The students, who were all in danger of dropping out of school, were challenged by specialist teachers to design, build and market red gum outdoor furniture for local clients.

With sponsorship from Portland House Corporation the program had many valuable results.

As teacher Scott Jennens says, "Students have voluntarily stayed behind after

school to continue work on this project." The young people learned to work in a team towards a common goal. They developed their mathematics through the measurement and cutting of timber, while their interest in English soared as they marketed and sold their highly sought after products.

Two students organised work experience in related fields and one has gone back to his host school to consider a TAFE carpentry course.

These projects are just two of the 250 funded by the Education Foundation in secondary government schools since 1990.

They provide our most at-risk and vulnerable young people with the skills and confidence they need to complete their education and participate fully in adult life.

\*not her real name

Established in 1989 as the Small Change Foundation, the Education Foundation promotes public government education through the support of excellent practice in schools.

The Foundation was established by a group of individuals who believe that a strong public education system is vital to a dynamic and productive society.

It is a non-profit organisation, independent of government and committed to creating partnerships between schools and the individuals and corporations who share its vision for a highly skilled and well-educated Australia.

Since 1990, Education Foundation has raised over \$750,000 to:

- fund 250 programs promoting exemplary practice in secondary schools across the nation
- organise teacher development seminars in the areas of: agriculture/horticulture transition from primary to secondary school students at risk
- convene a public education-

industry forum

- publish Great Ideas that Work featuring ten best practice programs for dissemination nationwide to secondary teachers.

**Contact:** Margaret McCaffrey  
**Education Foundation** on (03) 9650 4277

## Case History

### Gerard's Story

As a 12-year-old Koori starting at Chaffey Secondary College in a rebellious and angry manner, 'Gerard' was one of a number of Koori students who had created havoc in primary school.

After being separated from this bunch, however, he soon realised just what he had to do and soon became one of the hardest-working students in Mike Higgins's group.

"He applies himself in such a way that it is becoming difficult to keep the jobs up to him," Mr Higgins reported at one stage.

"He actually stretched the entire shade cloth and attached it to the frame of four shade houses by himself, an incredible effort for such a small lad."

Gerard matured quickly with this project. Then he had to adjust to a couple of his 'old mates' joining the class. He was able to totally dissociate himself and concentrate instead on making the most out of each day's work.

His attitude and behaviour became excellent in each of his other subjects, leading to his nomination as Year 7 Student of the Month. □

# Landmark for Philanthropy Australia Inc.

At the recent Council on Foundations Conference, Philanthropy Australia signed a collegiate agreement with the Council which is represented below.

## Agreement between The Council on Foundations (USA) and Philanthropy Australia Inc.

The Council on Foundations and Philanthropy Australia Inc. share enthusiasm for the growing role of philanthropy in our two countries and around the world and acknowledge the enduring links between Australia and the United States which manifest themselves in strong relationships between governments, businesses, families and in shared cultural traditions.

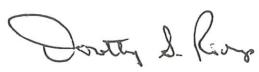
As organisations dedicated to the promotion of effective and responsible philanthropy in our respective countries, we recognise the need for cooperation and welcome the mutual enrichment that will flow from it.

Philanthropy Australia Inc. and the Council on Foundations hereby recognise each other as colleague organisations cooperating in the encouragement of and support for the growth of philanthropy in Australia, the United States and the wider world, each formally undertaking to:

- Make its conferences, seminars and workshops available to representatives of the other;
- Exchange newsletters and general mailings; and
- Make publications reciprocally available at member rates.

We further pledge to work together as colleague organisations to improve the legal and social environment for philanthropic giving and the formation of foundations. We will work in every way possible to bring together donor organisations in Australia and the United States within a common spirit of public generosity and social responsibility.

Signed in Honolulu this fourth day of May 1997.



Dorothy Ridings  
President, Council on Foundations

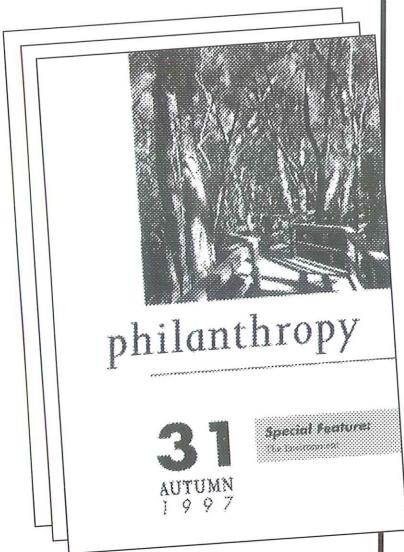


Elizabeth Cham  
Executive Director,  
Philanthropy Australia Inc.

# Philanthropy

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**Philanthropy Australia Inc.**

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# The Youth Suicide Prevention Taskforce

Paul McDonald is a member of Victoria's Youth Suicide Prevention Taskforce, convened early this year to look at ways in which the community as a whole can help to slow the rate of youth suicide in this country. He talks in Melbourne to Jane Sandilands.

**T**he first and quite unequivocal point Paul McDonald makes is that youth suicide is a complex issue. There is no one single answer to why young people suicide – and there is no link with the wealth or otherwise of a family, the level of education or whether those who suicide come from an apparently stable home. There is an over-representation of suicides in rural areas, a factor which McDonald says may be explained by the loss of traditional meeting places at the centres of country life, together with the increased possibility of isolation if, as a young person, you don't "fit in" for whatever reason. Another factor in rural areas is the access to means for suicide, especially firearms.

Though families despair when one of their children commits suicide, McDonald says that today "neither families nor young people are well equipped or prepared for the complexities of adult life – families struggle with that." He believes the community as a whole needs to strengthen the family unit so "it is a good, inclusive, open and confident place for the young person to operate within". "Families," McDonald says, "play a very important part in the lives of their young people. What both probably need more is resilient problem solving methods, so they can deal with handling relationships and relationship breakdowns and disappointments of other kinds. Sometimes we don't 'reality test' our young people when they go through

challenging times."

McDonald says that preparing young people for adulthood is not simply helping them through their education and then to get a job but also "building up the muscles in their psyche".

Schools, McDonald says, already take a huge responsibility for various aspects of the lives of young people. "When you talk to teachers about the Suicide Prevention Taskforce, they look at you and say 'we're just coping with the drug taskforce' because everyone looked at schools. We need to be careful about concentrating on one particular area, because youth suicide is so much a community problem."

The same also applies, he says, to general practitioners, often overworked and typically with a waiting room full of patients. "A large majority of those who commit suicide have seen their doctor within the previous six months," McDonald says. "While we understand the pressures on them, we have to work out ways for them to screen their patients for the signs of potential suicide."

Early intervention is one of the most obvious ways of preventing youth suicide and it is one exercising the minds of those on the Taskforce. "We are looking at people who are at risk of suicide, those who are depressed, having a relationship breakdown, schizophrenics and those in the 20-24 year old age group."

This last group, McDonald says, are the "invisible" group, a difficult and fluid group to try to bring direct services to, yet they represent the area of the largest increase in youth suicide. The earlier age groups, such as the under-19s, might be at youth clubs, at school, in prison, or wards of the state, McDonald says. "We have sites for them, but the 20-24 year olds are difficult to track down as a group."

# The Dark side

Another focus of the Taskforce is accident and emergency departments of hospitals, crisis assessment teams and service delivery to ensure that young people attempting suicide do not "fall through the net."

A particular focus of the Taskforce is looking at the over-representation of male suicides, which McDonald says can be related to their difficulties articulating how they feel, their impulsiveness and their overall social and mental wellbeing.

One important area for the Taskforce is postvention, after a young person has committed suicide and families are left

of dealing with it and the immediate help available will make it a little easier to bear."

The Taskforce has had a broad consultation process. There have been fifteen public meetings across Victoria and in metropolitan Melbourne and it has received more than five hundred written submissions. Different experts, agencies and groups who deal with suicide have spoken to Taskforce members and there has been a range of focus groups for Koorie youth, unemployed youth and those from non-English speaking backgrounds. Youth workers have been involved, as well as representatives of the media. The Taskforce also looked at international experience.

With the Taskforce report due shortly, McDonald is confident that it will come up with "some constructive ways forward." "The sheer fact that young people here are deciding to take their lives at a high rate against other populations around the world is the challenge to us as a

community. We need to listen to our young people and hear their bewilderment and anxiety growing up in the world today." □

to cope with the initial shock, followed by grief and bewilderment. "Up until now," McDonald says, "there have been formalities to go through, such as families needing to fill in forms before being able to see their child. Or they've been told that the child is 'evidence' and can't be held or cuddled. We want to set up a system where if a family has a son or daughter who's suicided, there's a service and someone will ring and say 'we're here and we can help you through this difficult time'. This way, even though the circumstances of the death won't be changed, the ways

## ***The Youth Suicide Prevention Taskforce***

Launched in January 1997 by the Victorian Premier, Jeff Kennett and Minister for Health, Rob Knowles, the aim of the 10-member Taskforce is to better understand the factors contributing to suicidal tendencies in young people aged between 15 and 25. The next step is the development of appropriate programs to minimise youth suicide.

The Terms of Reference for the Taskforce include inquiring into and making recommendations to Government on the nature and extent of youth suicide and its impact on the family and community, identification of risk factors, strategies to prevent suicide and an examination of how to improve the overall capacity of the service system for people who are at risk of suicide.

The Taskforce is made up of a diverse group of people from areas including suicide research and prevention, psychological medicine and psychiatry, education, homelessness, youth support and business.

### Members:

Mr Peter Kirby, Chair

Associate Professor Pierre Baume

Mr Lindsay Fox, AO

Ms Carmel Guerra

Mr Paul McDonald

Ms Jill Meathrel

Dr Leanne Rowe

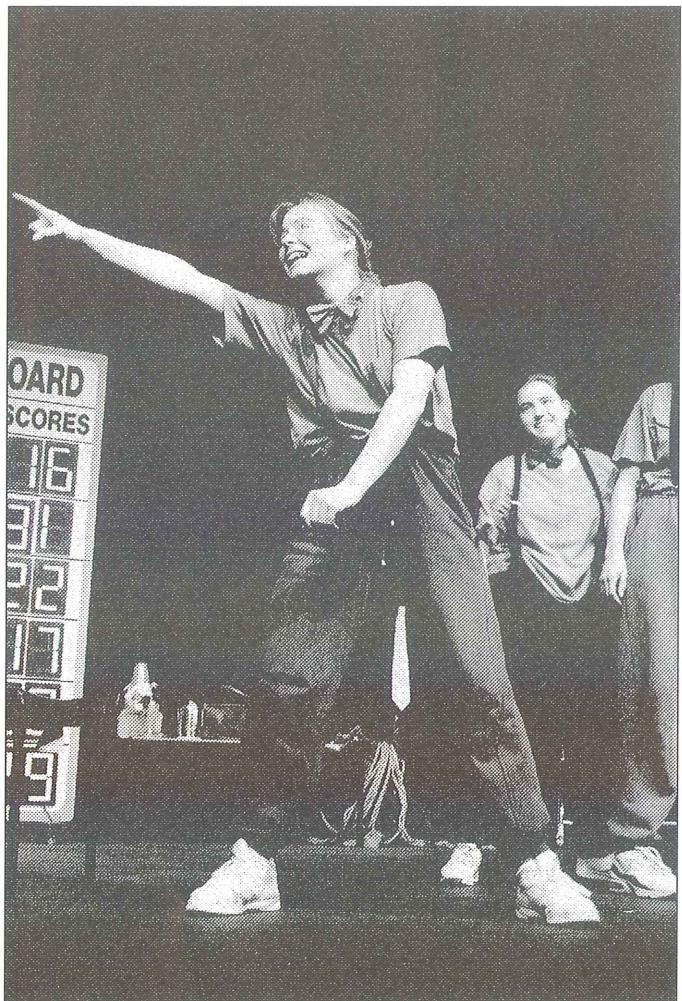
Mr John Shaw

Mr Jim Stynes

Professor Bruce Tonge

Report available from Information Victoria and on the net.

## Encouraging



Theatresports in Schools sponsored by VicHealth

recreational setting complements health education programs that may exist through the school setting. Information about alcohol and drugs is incorporated, in an appropriate and relevant way, into the format of the sponsored sports or arts based activity. Messages are thereby communicated in a non-didactic and more meaningful way.

VicHealth sponsors many programs in sports and arts settings which target young people and encourage them to adopt health promoting behaviours. Sports like netball, basketball or

Health promotion through sports, arts and cultural settings was an innovative strategy in 1987 when the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation was first established. It continues to be an innovative and integrated approach which takes health promotion to non-traditional settings and accesses difficult to reach groups.

Getting young people to change their attitudes, and ultimately behaviour, about alcohol and drug use is not an easy task. VicHealth believes that taking health promotion to the settings where young people pursue recreational activities is an effective way to get these messages across. Health promotion in the

athletics might provide many young people with a healthy adrenaline rush and positive self-esteem.

But what about those for whom sports holds little appeal and can often mean regular periods sitting in the sidelines or being last over the line?

Many Victorian youth found exhilaration and self-confidence through Theatresports, part of St Martins Schools and Community Youth Arts Program which was sponsored by the Australian Drug Foundation with funding from VicHealth.

Improvising a short piece of theatre in a team – without script or rehearsal as back up – has provided a boost in confidence for hundreds of young people, and given experience and opportunities not available to them in other areas of life. The young people who participated in Theatresports ranged in age from 14 to 18 years old and came from schools across the Melbourne metropolitan area.

### ***Disadvantaged Youth***

VicHealth funding also provided 100 free places for homeless and disadvantaged youth to attend St Martins innovative workshops through its Artreach Workshop Placement Program.

Between 15 and 20 youth theatre groups from around the State took part in the Fifth Victorian Theatre Youth Exchange. Participants created a short performance of their own work, as well as joining other participants to create a special performance piece as a grand finale to the event.

The exchange program provides opportunities for smaller groups around the State to be involved with professional theatre workshops and performances.

### ***Philanthropy***

# people to be their best

## **Extended Opportunities**

According to St Martin's Venue Manager, Mr Chris Dupe, the aim of Theatresports in Schools and the other outlined programs, is to extend opportunities to young people.

"We're not about training young people to be actors, although if they decide they want to get more involved in this area as a result of their experiences with us, that's great," he says.

"The whole ethic here is about encouraging young people to extend their life opportunities as individuals."

It's a philosophy which fits neatly with the Australian Drug Foundation's (ADF) Be Your Best message which is promoted to students through the St Martin's programs. The ADF believes the improvised theatre performances are an important vehicle for its message because they encourage young people to rely on themselves rather than alcohol or other drugs to

Be Your Best.

Theatresports trainers were briefed by ADF staff about the message and ways to communicate it – both overtly and covertly.

"The Be Your Best message promotes self-expression, confidence, participation and the exploration of new opportunities," says Chris.

You won't find any 'players' on the sidelines in Theatresports. □

**Contact:** Jan Clancy, General Manager, St Martins Theatre, (03) 9867 2477

**Contact for VicHealth:**  
**Phone:** (03) 9345 3200  
**Fax:** (03) 9345 3222

## **Some Trusts who fund Youth projects**

Adelaide Bank Charitable Foundation

**Phone** (08) 8300 6849

**Fax** (08) 8300 6941

Estate Henry Allport Charities Trust

**Phone** (03) 6235 6333

**Fax** (03) 6223 2570

The AMP Foundation

**Phone** (02) 9257 5237

**Fax** (02) 9257 5497

Sir Reginald Myles Ansett Estate

**Phone** (03) 9670 6311

**Fax** (03) 9602 5336

The Australian Multicultural Foundation

**Phone** (03) 9347 6622

**Fax** (03) 9347 2218

The Henry Berry Fund

**Phone** (03) 9288 8000

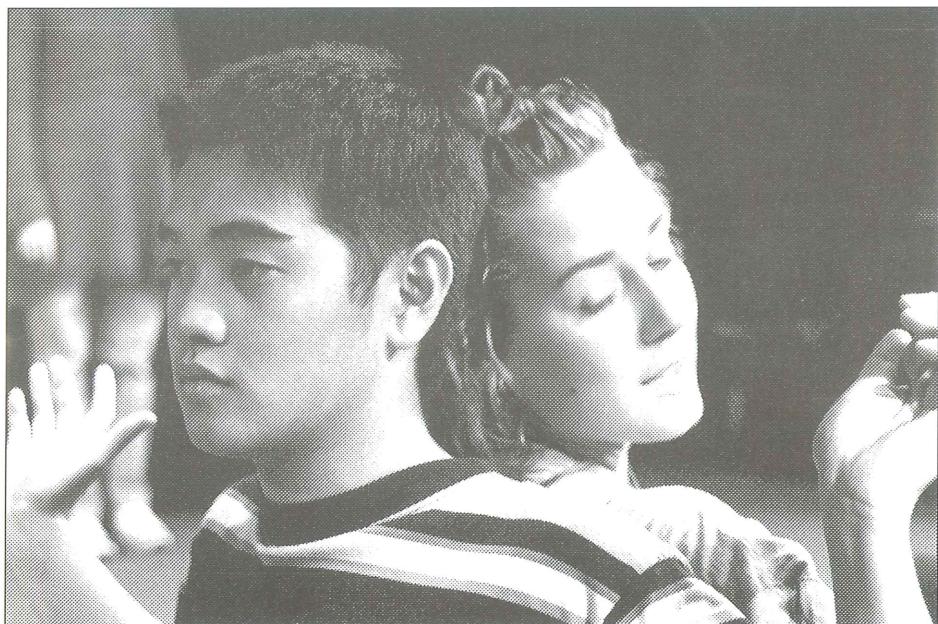
**Fax** (03) 9650 5878

The R E Ross Trust

**Phone** (03) 9690 6255

**Fax** (03) 9696 5497

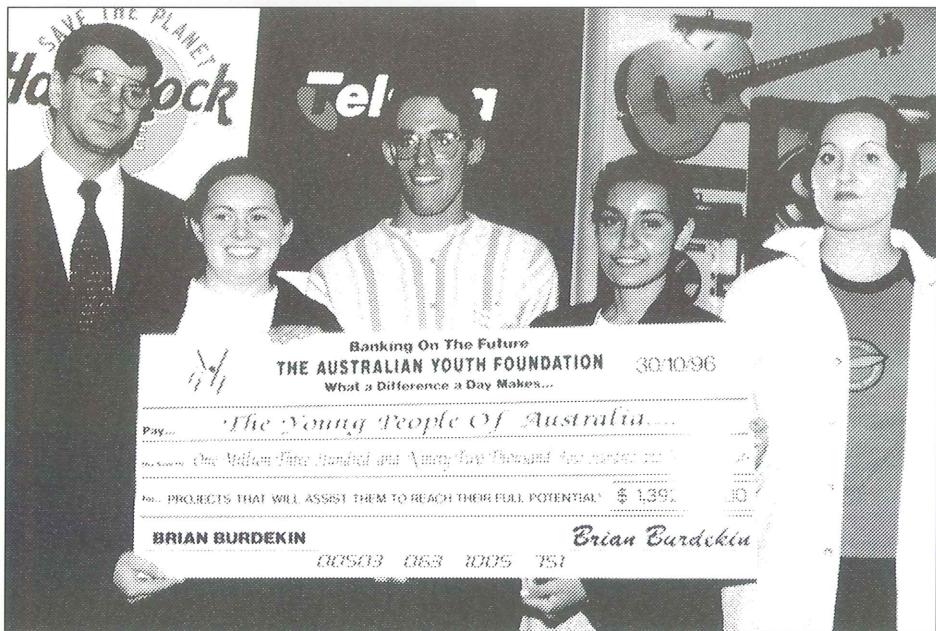
For further information on these trusts and more regarding guidelines, closing dates and limitations please see *The Australian Directory of Philanthropy* (8th Edition); application on page 30. □



Photography Michael Bates

Theatre Sports in schools

# The Australian Youth Foundation



Presentation of cheque by Mr Burdekin to Australian youth

**S**ince its establishment in 1989, the Australian Youth Foundation has committed over 9 million dollars to fund more than 300 national and regional projects around Australia. In addition, approximately \$12 million has been contributed to these projects by funding partners. Over eight years, the Foundation has developed into a pro-active and dynamic body dedicated to promoting positive social change in favour of disadvantaged young Australians.

The Australian Youth Foundation (AYF) is an independent non-government organisation dedicated to assisting young people who are disadvantaged, whether socially, financially, physically or intellectually, to have access to activities and services that will foster their development. The Foundation does not favour one-off, band-aid solutions to the social and economic problems that impinge upon the development of young people in Australia. Over the past eight years, we

have moved away from reacting to individual submissions, preferring instead to take a pro-active approach. This involves identifying areas of need in consultation with young people and initiating funding programs to support projects that will provide for sustained and meaningful improvement in the lives of disadvantaged young people.

A major objective of the Australian Youth Foundation is to facilitate cooperation between non-government organisations, governments, businesses and the young people themselves to allow the community to reconnect. The community at large will harvest the rewards, both now and in the future, if young people can be provided with practical support and encouragement that will enable them to lead a satisfying and productive adult life.

In order to assist our projects to raise their profile and to promote themselves within the business community, the Foundation is focusing on social marketing strategies. We believe that a healthy society consists of a strong partnership between the non government sector, local, state and federal governments and corporations – working together to make a positive contribution to the broader community by supporting programs aimed at improving opportunities for young people.

The AYF has already assisted some of our projects to forge a relationship with local businesses. Several of our grantees have requested and received letters of support commending their activities, and urging governments and business to work with these exciting projects. In May of this year a Social Marketing Workshop was held by the Foundation in an effort to bring together representatives from a number of major corporations around Australia. The Foundation is currently planning to stage marketing

# A shared vision

workshops with many businesses as well as our projects to discuss with participants the most successful way to further develop ideas and launch a national campaign to raise awareness and provide practical assistance.

The Foundation places a high priority on evaluating itself, programs and projects. To this end, in 1996, the Foundation, together with Dr Colin Sharp developed the START – Do It Yourself Evaluation Manual, a clear and easily accessible guide for evaluation of project work, both governmental and non-governmental, in the fields of community services, welfare and youth work. The Manual aims to assist organisations to use evaluation as a tool to enhance the success of projects, from planning stages through to completion of the Project and final reporting. It outlines step-by-step strategies to assess how efficient, effective and appropriate projects and services are. The Manual has proved to be one of the most successful and valuable initiatives by the Foundation. In the words of our Chairperson, Brian Burdekin AO, "the underlying principles in this manual are learning, sharing and participation all core values driving the Foundation's work."

One example of a recent successful grant program is the "Social Belonging" projects.

In 1996, the Foundation initiated a series of projects to respond to the needs of young Australians for safe, affordable and accessible places to gather and socialise. In many regions of Australia, local services and facilities for young people have declined. Many young people are denied access to their public space, and have limited opportunities to socialise with their peers in a comfortable environment.

After advertising the "Social Belonging" Grants Program in January 1996, the Foundation received almost

140 expressions of interest, a reflection, it seems, of the growing community debate and concern regarding the issues addressed by the Program. The Foundation was able to commit funding to eleven of these projects, chosen from both urban and rural areas around Australia. A key element of this program was the contribution of matching funds by local governments or other organisations.

In Tasmania, the "Youth Spaces" Project coordinated by the Launceston City Council and the Northern Youth Co-ordinating Committee is proving to be very popular. Over the past six months, the grantees have employed three young people to consult with their peers about the sorts of places that they wish to have access to in their city. As a result of the consultations, young people are able to have a direct input in the Council's urban designs for 1997/98. The dynamic young people who have become involved are writing

and distributing their own youth newsletter, informing young people of the progress of the project to date, the types of activities available for local youth and future options for young people to continue to participate in the design and use of public space.

In Murray Bridge, South Australia, disadvantaged young people are involved in the planning and development of their own social and recreational facilities. In cooperation with the Council of Murray Bridge, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service has developed a project to ensure young people have access to affordable, safe, alcohol free venues. An area at Stuart Reserve has been put aside for youth-oriented facilities such as a bike track, roller blading area, basket ball arena, tree planting, seating and shade. In addition, a youth art wall will create a public space for young artists to practise their talents and share their ideas. It is hoped that young people participating in the Project will



Mr Andrew Daddo, centre, with participants from 'Wonderbox' project

## The Australian Youth Foundation cont...

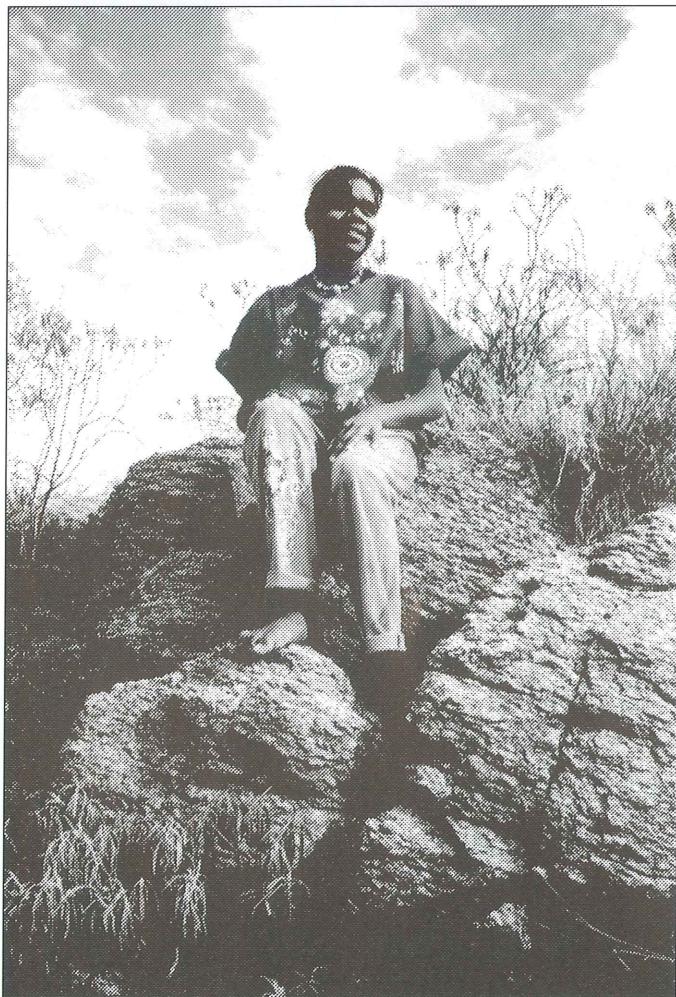
Teenagers in Broome and surrounding areas will have a unique opportunity to become part of the Broome Youth Theatre.

Teenagers in Broome and surrounding areas will enjoy building a relationship with their peers while developing a sense of pride, ownership and belonging to the area.

Teenagers in Broome and surrounding areas will have a unique opportunity to become part of the Broome Youth Theatre. Young people will be recruited for free holiday and weekend workshops. Skilled local performers have been enlisted to teach participants acting skills and stage management, in the lead up to public performances staged in Broome towards the end of this year.

In all eleven of the projects sponsored under the Social Belonging projects, the success of the initiative is dependent on cooperation between government and non-government organisations, the local community and the young people themselves. In each sector, participants are working together in a spirit of cooperation.

In accordance with Foundation policy, each of the projects will evaluate and document their work. From the experiences of grantees in the Social Belonging Program, information will be collated to create a resource or "best practice" manual.



Indigenous young people deserving special attention

### ***Affiliated Partnership with the International Youth Foundation***

Consistent with our commitment to co-ordinating and collaborating with like-minded organisations, the Australian Youth Foundation has forged an affiliated partnership with the International Youth Foundation (IYF). Under the terms of the partnership, the IYF and AYF agree to collaborate in ways that maximise their positive impact on the lives of young people. The two Foundations have a commitment to sharing information relating to identifying and promoting "best practice" among youth programs and exchanging the knowledge that we gain with other countries who are members of the IYF network. At present, the IYF's partners include Foundations in Ecuador, Germany, Ireland, the Philippines, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa and Thailand. In addition to facilitating the supply of information between member countries, the IYF provides national foundations with matching grants to complement local funding. This relationship with our international partner is rewarding one for all parties involved and opportunities for future projects are constantly expanding.

### ***A Mission for the Future***

In its 1996 Annual Report, the Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to fundamental values that will guide us in developing programs towards the year 2000.

The Foundation should be independent of any vested interest group.

The Foundation's resources will be targeted towards activities which support young people who are intellectually, socially, physically or financially disadvantaged.

Indigenous young people will be recognised as deserving special attention.

The Foundation will actively encourage the involvement of young people in the planning and implementation of funded initiatives.

The Foundation will continue to be prepared to take risks in funding innovative projects.

The Foundation will operate in a financially and socially responsible way and will promote the achievement of high quality standards.

We are constantly exploring ways to improve our effectiveness and to increase our capacity to assist all young people in Australia to reach their full potential. We are and endeavour to spread that knowledge to individuals and organisations who share our mission to assist disadvantaged young people to have access to greater opportunities and experiences. Throughout the next funding phase, the Foundation will build upon existing partnerships, and forge many new ones, in a united approach to reaching our vision for the future.

As the Foundation develops a strategy to take it into the year 2000, we will maintain this commitment to cooperating with others in the youth sector, disseminating the information that we gather and learning from the efforts of others. □

For further information from the Australian Youth Foundation please contact the office on (02) 9357 2344 or fax (02) 9358 5635.

You can also visit our web page:  
<http://www.ozemail.com.au/ayouthf>.

Continued from page 7

Among the famous artists for whom the Victorian College of the Arts was a training ground are:

Susan Norrie, Artist,  
Moet and Chandon Award

Bill Henson, Artist,  
represented Australia at Venice Biennale

Greg Creek, Artist,  
Douglas Moran prize

Gillian Armstrong, Film Director,  
*My Brilliant Career, Little Women*

Geoff Wright, Film Director,  
Romper Stomper, Metal Skin

Emma Kate Croghan, Film Director,  
*Love and Other Catastrophes*

Hannie Rayson, Playwright,  
Hotel Sorrento

Andrew Bovell, Playwright,  
After Dinner

Maude Davey, Performance Artists,  
*Crying in Public Places*

Sue Healey, Dancer, Artistic Director,  
*Vis a Vis*, formerly with Australian Dance Theatre

Nick Giannopoulos, Actor,  
*Wogs out of Work, Wog Boys*

Alison Whyte, Actor,  
1997 Logie Winner, *Frontline, GP*

Suzanne Johnston, International Opera Singer, *Opera Australia*

John Heuzenroeder, Violinist,  
1996 Young Australian of the year

Shane O'Mara, Guitarist and Musician, *Rebecca's Empire*

Kim Durban, Theatre Director,  
Melbourne Theatre Company,  
Playbox Theatre □

# The Queen's Trust

From shipwrights to tennis coaching, from rainforest walking tours to manufacturing bush furniture, young people with flair are creating new business opportunities. And it's being achieved with a mix of practical assistance, hard-headed business plans and the partnership of governments, philanthropic organisations and corporations.

by Jane Sandilands

In 1988, The Queen's Trust for Young Australians established an innovative partnership scheme which gives opportunities to disadvantaged unemployed young people in most Australian states to achieve financial and personal independence. Known as Youth Business Initiative (YBI) Australia, it has helped over 1350 unemployed people start small businesses.

The scheme gives financial assistance, business training, professional advice, supervision and support. To be eligible for YBI, young people aged between 18 and 25 must be unemployed, registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service and want to start a business. Other requirements are to have a business idea with a reasonable chance of success, a large dose of enthusiasm and motivation and have

the right skills and experience to run the business.

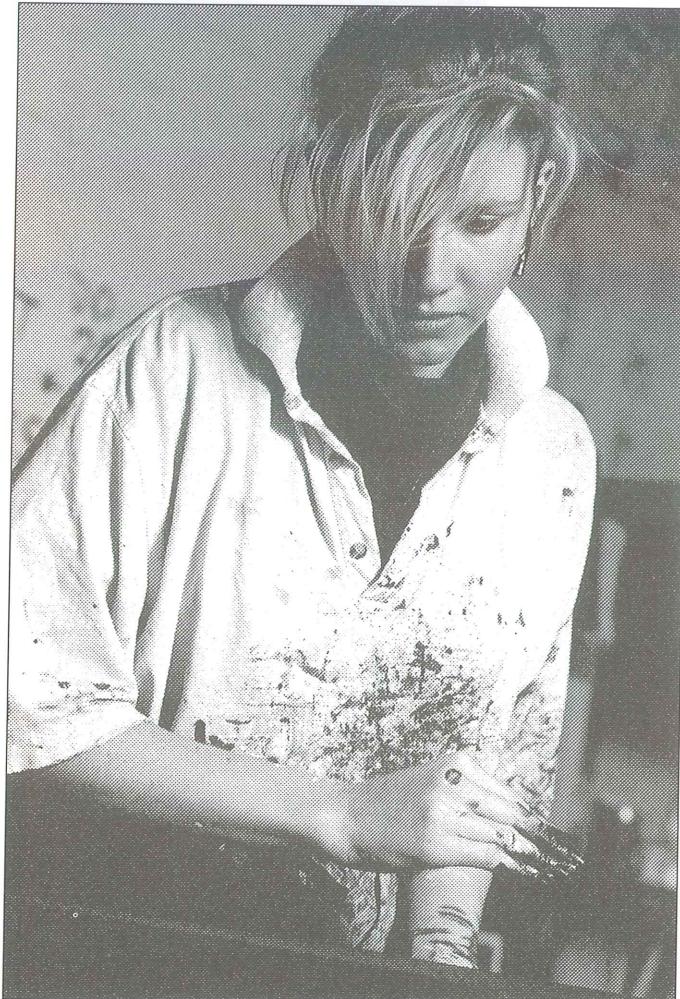
The young people chosen for the program take part in a six week course, during which time they research and develop a business plan. This is assessed by a committee of business people and if considered viable, participants are approved for the full range of support services. Over the next twelve months, they are supervised and given advice and support by voluntary business advisers. A capital equipment grant of up to \$3,000 is available and participants receive weekly income support for the first twelve months and the backup of an extensive range of professional advice from voluntary advisers from the business community.

The Federal Government's Department of Employment, Education and Training and Youth Affairs provide funds for the training, promotion and income support to participants and a subsidy towards administration through the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme. The Queen's Trust, the Lotteries Commission of WA and the ACT Government give 80% of the participants grant funds, with the remaining 20% coming from corporations including Optus, other businesses and individuals.

The Queen's Trust for Young Australians was established in 1977 with donations from Federal and State Governments, corporations, organisations and the general community. It celebrates the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and offers opportunities to young Australians by providing assistance and support for a variety of programs to individuals and organisations.

It seeks to:

- promote standards of excellence and achievement in education and training of young Australians in their chosen vocation;
- increase their involvement in service to their own communities; and
- support projects which develop qualities of self reliance, initiative and benefit special 'at risk' groups of young people in areas of



Roz Butler Designer Briefcases "Absolutely Radical Things"

# The business of youth

employment, health, education and welfare.

In its 20 years, it has distributed over \$15 million to over 6,000 young Australians and almost 1,400 organisations working with young people. It has a unique and important place in the lives of young Australians. It is one of only four philanthropic trusts giving grants to individuals between 18 and 28 and its scale of operation and level of annual expenditure extends to the community at large, where the Trust is the largest single sponsor of the development of individual youth.

Contact number: (03) 9670 5346

## Case Study: *Absolutely Radical Things*

Roz Butler was accepted by YBI and began her business in May 1991, making designer briefcases. She operated her small business until February 1995, when, suffering burnout, she took two years off, travelling, working in a different field and putting some distance and objectivity between her and her business. Now she's started up again in a similar field, making everyday objects from unexpected materials. This time, instead of briefcases, it's backpacks and handbags, made from industrial materials: timber, rubber - "they're like nothing you've seen before" she says.

Older (now 30) and wiser about business the second time around, Roz Butler still draws strongly on what she learnt with YBI. Its two most useful aspects for her were her business mentor (who stayed with the business for twelve months) and the Sydney YBI office staff (who were there "for years," whenever she needed them).

She met her business mentor at least once a month, where they talked through the operational details such as expenses, dealing with suppliers and other nuts and bolts items.

Lou Taylor, manager of the Sydney YBI office says that as well as providing a support role to the young people who start up small business, YBI also acts as

a sounding board. "The official mentor is business driven, looking at commercial aspects, matching the progress of the business to the business plan." YBI staff are there to help reduce early failure rates and they do this through nurturing and using a technique which Lou Taylor describes as "getting the business done through the person." This means that there is a different approach needed for every young person running their own business. "They all work in different ways but they all need an objective opinion. Almost without exception, they have a strong emotional tie with what they're doing which sometimes drives them to work in the business rather than on the business."

Roz Butler agrees that this concentration can be a stress-creator. As well as, she says, you want to live up to your own expectations and there's a constant struggle with cash flow. It took over two years, she says, before she realised "there's always a bill to be paid."

Now in the early stages of re-establishing her business, she is doorknocking, looking for distributors

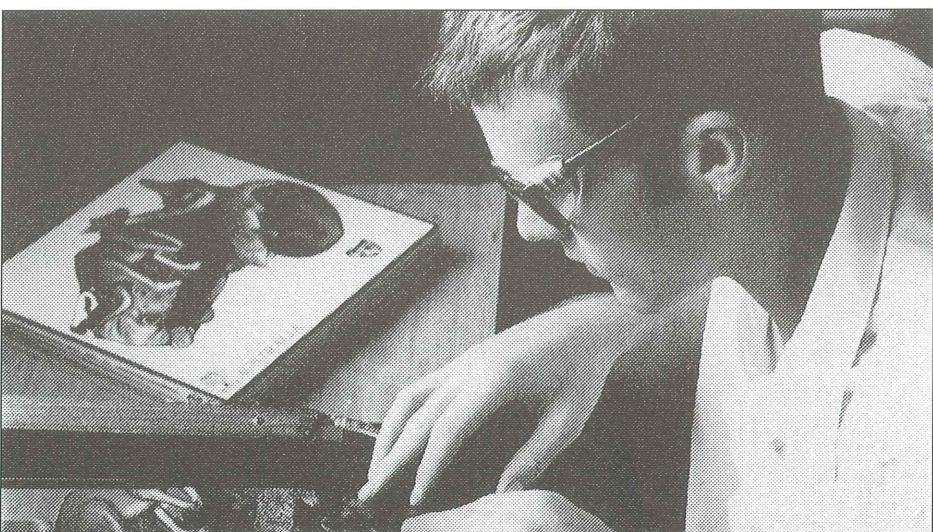
and getting herself known. The first time around, she began selling at Sydney's lively Saturday market in Paddington, but this time wants to devote her energies to creating the product and letting others do the selling.

She still regards her acceptance to the YBI scheme as "one of the most amazing things that happened to me." "What surprised me most was that they were prepared to listen to any idea for small business, no matter how radical. I thought they might be conservative, but they weren't."

*Absolutely Radical Things* is based in Sydney.

The contact telephone number is (02) 9211 2109.

Continued page 25



David Pagano "Leadlighting"

# Making music matter

There are four words which sum up the SoundHouse philosophy: 'Perform, enjoy, compose, create'. Since 1986, when the first SoundHouse was established in Melbourne, 14 others in Victoria and New South Wales have introduced many thousands of students from city and country primary and secondary schools and special schools to the magic of music technology.

by Jane Sandilands

If there is one aspect which sets the SoundHouse concept apart from traditional music education, it is the combination of music and computers. Students add layer upon layer of sound to their own – or other's compositions – hearing an instant development in texture, tone and life – and all of their own making.

These are powerful tools, capable of crossing all the boundaries: age, ethnicity, disability. That music speaks all languages is universally

acknowledged. The SoundHouses have added a further dimension: the power to create, using today's technology.

Ken Owen, Chairman of the SoundHouses Association of Australia, a teacher and practising musician says that the great success of the SoundHouses – judged by the numbers of teachers and students beating a path to their door – is because "everyone is interested in music". Taking it one step further, Owen says, adds technology, but more than that, it adds the excitement of creation to a generation often accused of wanting it all done for them.

"Students want to be part of what's happening in the SoundHouse. Here, they can be as individual as they like. If they want to do headbanging music, then that's what they do." The structure of the SoundHouse classroom means that all students can work independently on compositions. One might be working on a classical piece but can sit within a metre of another composing for a rock and roll band, without either being interrupted or distracted. The simplicity of operation of the equipment means immediate "hands on," for students, ensuring creative absorption and intent learning.

And while students are absorbed and entertained, they are also studying for accredited courses. At the Essendon Keilor SoundHouse in outer Melbourne, SoundHouse studies are widely used across the senior curriculum. They feature in Drama and Theatre Studies and also in Media Studies for film scores and sound effects. Year 12 students use it extensively for the Creative Organisation unit in their Music studies. Another subject growing in popularity at the school is Theatresports, with emphasis on improvisation in both language and sound. As well as music technology classes for its own junior students, this SoundHouse offers feeder primary



Participants at SoundHouse

schools the opportunity to use the SoundHouse, which is proving to be a major drawcard for the school.

At the SoundHouse in Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, an educational package linking music and technology has been developed by SoundHouse Manager Peter Mahony. On one tour, students are introduced to the ways in which performance has been recorded through the ages. It draws on the Museum's vast collection of keyboard, stringed and wind instruments, which represent a wide range of cultures. Students see – and hear – the Stella Music Box of the 1890s, where the performance was recorded as a series of holes punched in a metal disc. A favourite is the Foto Player, a pianola developed for use in creating accompaniments to silent movies and which can create percussion and other sound effects.

Also in New South Wales, the Normanhurst SoundHouse in Sydney's metropolitan area began with a focus on its population of 550 students and other secondary and primary school students and disabled groups in the area.

With "in kind" sponsorship from IBM and major software companies, Normanhurst was able to increase its range to run Professional Development courses in music technology for teachers. It does this on behalf of the New South Wales Department of Education and teachers come from as far away as Coonamble and Broken Hill. And in the tradition of the travelling roadshow, SoundHouse manager Steve Wells regularly packs up the portable elements of the SoundHouse into the back of a van, travelling to various sites in northern New South Wales, giving in-service days for teachers.

Another SoundHouse success story is the Access Program for students with disabilities, uncovering previously unknown potential and enabling

learning to be a much more creative and satisfying experience. Adrian Alexander has led the SoundHouses team in the development of first the Banana keyboard (so called because initially it was yellow and curved like a banana) then a range of hardware to give students with intellectual and/or physical disabilities maximum creative scope.

The music making resulting from these new programs is "listenable," as distinct from the clanging sounds of the past. The benefits for students are twofold, Adrian Alexander says. "They now have the ability to produce music which is satisfying and also an activity which takes account of their disability but is not hampered by it." Twelve trials in the field are under way in Melbourne and Sydney for the third version of the Special Access kit, designed to work with existing computers and which allows design and interface through software rather than hardware.

Executive Director of the Brash Foundation, Martin Carlson, says one of the most satisfying outcomes of the SoundHouses is the partnerships which have been developed with the music and technology industries together with philanthropic and educational bodies in both Victoria and New South Wales. "So far," he says, "the success of the SoundHouses has depended on the co-operative effort of the energy and dedication of SoundHouse teachers and those farsighted bodies who have formed partnerships with us of various kinds. For them, the SoundHouses offer opportunities to develop a wide variety of audiences, to showcase music and technology and to develop an awareness of their multi-dimensional possibilities."

But the last words should be from Anne Smithies, SoundHouse Manager at Strathmore Secondary College, as she looks down the track to young men

and women building careers in music. "Students are never satisfied with their work in music. They raise their own standards. Many are already talented musicians and their inspiration leads other students to become involved in music composition. Where the SoundHouse helps is that we can take the good bits of composition and cut and paste them with the technology. Then you have a result that's musically satisfying in a very short space of time. That's a very rewarding experience."

An initiative of the Brash Foundation, the SoundHouse movement began in 1986 with the Alfred Brash SoundHouse at the Victorian Arts Centre (now visited by over 9,000 people each year). Other SoundHouses are in the Melbourne's Scienceworks Museum, Sydney's Powerhouse Museum and at schools in urban and rural Victoria and New South Wales.

The aims of the Brash Foundation in creating the first SoundHouse have remained the same for the 13 years of its operation:

To develop awareness of the musical possibilities of combining music and technology, to link that awareness with the Brash name, to encourage the broadest possible community participation and for the SoundHouse movement to have an Australia-wide focus and a continuing independent life.

The SoundHouses welcome partnerships with government, industry, service clubs, schools and parents which involve music, technology, arts, education, multimedia and community programs. □

**Enquiries:**

Martin Carlson, Executive Director

**Phone:** (03) 9415 6796

**Fax:** (03) 9415 8095

Ken Owen, Chairman,

SoundHouses Association of Australia

**Phone:** (03) 9689 2362

**Fax:** (03) 9689 9048

## Foundation based on care



The first RACV road service vehicle, 1924

**R**ACV has a long history of caring for Victorians. It has provided a valuable and valued service to millions of Victorians since it was formed as a motorists' social club in 1903.

The RACV now has 1.3 million members and is regarded as a Victorian icon. Apart from the roadside assistance for which the organisation is best known, RACV has a diverse range of business operations including insurance, financial services, travel, and the social club. It also provides technical and advice and advocates on behalf of motorists on issues including road funding, petrol pricing and road safety.

Over the years, RACV has earned a reputation for being trustworthy, reliable, caring and responsive – a reputation which would be the envy of many corporates operating in today's highly competitive environment.

As a Victorian business built on

servicing the needs of its members, RACV takes seriously its broader obligations as a responsible corporate citizen. It has been actively involved in community activities for many years through local sponsorships and support for organisations such as the State Emergency Service, the Salvation Army's annual Christmas Toy Run and the Anti-Cancer Council's Daffodil Day.

RACV staff also have a strong community spirit. They undertake fund raising for a range of causes from the annual Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday appeal to victims of natural disasters.

It is therefore perhaps not surprising that the RACV has further progressed its community relations program by establishing a charitable trust to manage its philanthropic activities.

The RACV Foundation was established earlier this year and will be officially launched on 25 July.

Its objectives are to seek funds and distribute them to charitable causes in accordance with guidelines determined from time to time by the Trustee. In particular, the Foundation will distribute funds among communities served by the RACV.

The Foundation will actively raise money to establish a capital base, with the money it receives being invested and interest earned and distributed.

RACV Ltd. has provided the initial injection of funds and is expected to make yearly contributions. The Foundation will also seek contributions from the RACV membership and staff.

Recommendations for funding will be made by an Advisory Committee comprising an external representative, two RACV Board Directors, three staff members and RACV's Manager Public Affairs. RACV Chairman, Brian Baquie, who also is a member of the Advisory

Committee, has described the establishment of the Foundation as a significant initiative and one which should benefit the Victorian community.

"No other organisation in Victoria can regularly reach so many people, and with door-knocking and other fundraising mechanisms becoming harder to implement, RACV can provide much needed help."

"Because it has been established in perpetuity, from the moment the first funds are invested, the Foundation will serve the community forever, developing a capital base which will provide crucial funds to a range of worthwhile causes."

RACV's Manager Public Affairs, Bronwyn Thwaites, said the establishment of the Foundation would enable RACV to better manage its philanthropic efforts.

"Like many Victorian businesses, we receive many hundreds of requests for financial support from welfare and community groups each year. We previously had no defined mechanism to handle the requests, but the Foundation will provide a clear focus and make it easier for potential recipients to make submissions."

The categories for funding are:

- road trauma  
eg. prevention, recovery
- welfare  
eg. homelessness, unemployment, poverty, youth, the aged
- social issues  
eg. drug addiction, gambling
- community programs  
eg. arts, sport
- medical  
eg. equipment, facilities, and research

The categories will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee each year to

enable the Foundation to take account of community needs and changes.

Selection criteria for grant seekers are now being developed, and will be available from RACV from 25 July, 1997. In the meantime, all inquiries should be directed to:

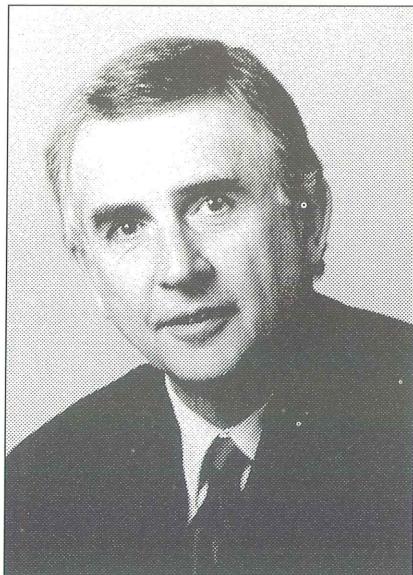
Public Affairs  
8/422 Little Collins Street,  
Melbourne 3000.  
**Phone:** (03) 96273868  
**Fax:** (03) 9627 3866. □

Continued from page 21

#### **Examples of businesses recently started**

100% recycled chopping boards	Vegetarian cafe
Acupuncture clinic	Wetsuit repairs
Antenna installation	Mobile dry cleaning service
Anti-pollution service	Clothing importer
Crowd control & security	Cafe for film buffs
Design & manufacture of hemp clothing	Ceramic & glass mosaics
Didgeridoo manufacture	Artist & illustrator
Frozen health baskets	Band management & promotion
Installation & maintenance of aquariums	Electrical repairs □
Contact number for YBI (02) 9891 5100	

# Hugh Mackay



Social researcher Hugh Mackay spoke to the Annual General Meeting of Philanthropy Australia earlier this year. This is his address.

**T**here could be no more fascinating time to be studying Australia – or, indeed, living in Australia – than in the 1990's. This is a time when big issues are on the community's agenda, because we are in the midst of an Age of Redefinition, in which all the traditional reference points for defining the Australian way of life have either vanished, moved, or are themselves being challenged.

Although such a period of instability inevitably provokes feelings of anxiety in us (because as a species, humans tend to prefer stability and certainty to instability and uncertainty), there is a real sense in which we are being liberated by our own uncertainties to engage in serious debate about issues which affect the long-term character of Australian society.

It is now fashionable to talk about the quest for a new sense of Australian identity; to be thinking about the changing nature of Australian society; to be facing the prospect of significant constitutional change... even including the possibility of our becoming a republic. Because such big questions are in the air, there is an understandable urge to rush the process of social redefinition and cultural evolution, and to try to predict the kind of place Australia will be in the year 2000, and beyond.

But prediction is always a dangerous game. Confident prediction requires a stable base and Australia in the '90's is in such an unstable situation that any predictions about what might become of us are rather foolhardy. After all, this is a time when there have been such radical disruptions to the rhythm and pattern of our lives - and when there is hardly a convention or institution which has not been challenged - that the only really safe thing to say about the emerging character of Australian society is that we had better wait and see.

Just think about some of the radical changes which have occurred in the space of the last 20 or 25 years:

This has been the period in which gender roles have been radically redefined by women ... with a relatively slow process of response and adaption by men.

As a result, we have been redefining the institution of marriage and fundamentally altering our patterns of marriage and divorce. (For example: 20 years ago, 33 per cent of Australian women were married by the time they were 20; today, the figure is five per cent. Almost 90 percent of marriages taking place 20 years ago were first marriages; today, only 65 per cent of marriages are first marriages.)

Changing patterns of marriage and divorce means changing patterns of family-formation and family breakdown. We are adjusting to new definitions of "family" as we come to accept the more diverse patterns implied by step-families, blended families, single-parent families, families based on de facto marriage relationships, as well as what we now call the "traditional family".

The composition of the Australian household is changing. Fifty per cent of households now contain one or two people and, in Sydney tonight, roughly one household in three contains just one adult – either a person living alone or a single parent. Changing household composition means changing patterns of eating, shopping, mass media consumption (with a resurgence of interest in radio's capacity to provide the illusion of intimate companionship), and will ultimately lead to changes in the pattern for housing itself.

Against this background, we have seen the rise of "the working mother" as a mainstream social phenomenon – a phenomenon which is changing the

# Australia at century's end

character of many Australian neighbourhoods (with such a dramatic decline in the number of women who are at home during the day); which is changing the dynamics of family life; and which is changing the character of the workplace (where the rate of female participation is increasing so rapidly that, by 2000, about 45% of the Australian workforce will be female).

At the same time, we are coming to terms with the concept of multiculturalism; we are learning to adapt to the blurred distinctions between the major political parties; we are considering ways in which our political institutions might change; we are developing a new respect for the need to care for our physical environment; we are adjusting to the blurring of traditional distinctions between money and credit; we are coming to terms with the information explosion; and so on.

Against this background, it is not surprising that I am suggesting that, if we really want to define Australia's emerging identity, we had better wait a little longer and see how things might turn out. Similarly, if we are being forced to define the character of Australian society and the "typical" Australian way of life, then all we can say – in 1997 – is that its characteristic is its diversity.

No wonder that, as a society, we are unsettled, uncertain and insecure. No wonder we have become mass consumers of tranquillisers; no wonder so many of us escape into drug abuse; no wonder domestic violence is on the increase (as people operate on a shorter fuse because of the background level of anxiety in their lives); no wonder escapism has become such popular fare on TV and at the movies; and no wonder – most tragically – that our rate of youth suicide is now

among the highest in the world.

But all of that is merely background to what I want to say about the future. An understanding of that background will help to explain contemporary stress levels and the general sense of uneasiness and crankiness in our society. But what does it suggest for the next few years?

Even if we can't confidently predict how Australia might be changing after it crosses the threshold into the 21st century, we can certainly identify some of the big issues – the big challenges – which Australia is going to be facing during the second half of the 1990s...

## 1. The challenge posed by our pro-regulation mentality

It seems to me that Australia has entered a period of vulnerability to the imposition of more and more rules and regulations on ourselves.

This is quite understandable. People suffering from a sense of insecurity yearn for a new sense of security. People who are feeling uncertain wish that they could gain more certainty. It is a wide spread cry in the Australian community that "We wish we could get our lives back under control".

For many people, the first response to this yearning is to believe that more regulations will do the trick. Rather than putting our faith in education, public debate, or the natural process of moral evolution, we have decided that we should try to "get things back under control" by more regulation.

This had led to the spate of so-called "educative laws" in which we take matters previously regarded as being the province of moral judgement and put them in the domain of the law. Vilification laws, increased enthusiasm for censorship, anti-smoking regulations, bicycle helmet laws for children, local councils' dog laws, laws prohibiting sexual harassment in the

workplace, etc, etc ...

I am sure that, as I go through a list like that, many of the items on the list seem to you to be very appropriate for regulation. After all, no-one likes the idea of sexual harassment in the workplace; we all acknowledge that children are safer if they wear helmets when they ride their bikes. But even if each individual rule strikes us as appealing, we might do well to consider the cumulative effect of this new spate of "educative" laws.

What we seem to be saying is that we can't be trusted to be morally sensitive. We can't be trusted to develop a stronger sense of moral obligation towards those with whom we share a neighbourhood or a workplace. We can't be trusted to take control of our children or our pets ... so pass new laws to make us "good"!

In some recent research we conducted on attitudes to the environment, we heard consumers suggesting that, if there were environmentally insensitive products on the market, they should be banned! What those consumers were saying, in effect, was they couldn't be trusted to decide to avoid environmentally-insensitive products; after all, the "bad" product might be offered at a better price, or in a more seductive pack, or it might actually work better than the environmentally-sensitive product. So, don't trust us: take it out of our reach!

The danger in all this is clear. In the first place, we may simply find that we are giving away too many freedoms in response to our present uncertainties. More importantly, we may find that we are actually going to be stifling our consciences, rather than quickening them.

We would all like to world to be a better, fairer, more ethical place. We would all like society to be more just and equitable. But history says we

## Hugh Mackay cont...

don't get there by legislation, and that the imposing of too many rules may actually slow down our journey towards moral sensitivity and ethical maturity. As we know from our experience with our own children, teaching people to be merely obedient is a very different thing from teaching them how to make responsible moral judgements.

### 2. The challenge posed by our increasingly uneven distribution of work.

In the mid-1990s, we are coming to terms with the reality of sustained high unemployment and, as we move beyond the recession, we have been taught to think in terms of a "jobless economic recovery".

It is conceivable that, at this stage in our history, we could have welcomed sustained high unemployment as a sign that, at last, we didn't have to work as hard as our parents and grandparents did. We could have interpreted this as a sign that we had reached the next stage in creating more balanced lives: as we moved from a 6-day working week to a 5-day working week (via the five-and-a-half-day week), so we might have now reached the point of thinking seriously about a four-and-a-half-day-week. Perhaps, at last, we are finding ourselves at the dawning of the long-promised Golden Age of Leisure.

It would not have been surprising or absurd if we had interpreted sustained high unemployment in that way. After all, there have been at least three factors driving our labour market towards the present situation: we have seen a massive increase in the number of Australians willing to work (in the wake of the women's liberation movement, in particular); we are universally committed to increasing productivity through micro-economic reform; technology is doing what it has always promised to do... replacing

more and more of us with machines which can do our work better than we can.

Knowing that these factors have been operating for a long time (and noticing the steady rise in unemployment, as a result, over the past 20 years), we might have decided to give some thought to how work might be more imaginatively and fairly comprehensively failed to come up with an equitable distribution.

On the one hand, we have somewhere between one and two million Australians who either have no work at all or much less work than they need, in order to earn a reasonable wage. On the other hand, recent research suggests that the overtime worked by those with full-time jobs actually absorbs a further 500,000 full-time jobs.

In other words, we are saying to vast numbers of Australians, "We don't have any work for you... here is some money... stay home and amuse yourselves" while, at the same time, we are hearing loud complaints from full-time workers that they are seriously over-worked.

This does not simply seem like a foolish misuse of human resources: it also has long-term implications for the distribution of household income. If we continue to redistribute work inequitably, it will become increasingly difficult to avoid creating an inequitable distribution of household income as well. And, indeed, that is what we have been doing for 20 years.

In the past 20 years, the number of Australian households with a combined annual income in excess of \$70,000 has increased from roughly 15 per cent to 30 per cent of all households. At the same time, those households with a combined income of less than \$20,000 per annum have also increased... and they, too, now

account for about 30 per cent of Australian households.

In other words, about 60 per cent of our households are either in high income or low income brackets, and the famous Aussie middle class - that attractive symbol of our egalitarian society - suddenly seems to be under threat.

Of course, I am only talking about household income: I am not talking about social class. But history suggests that, if we redistribute wealth in this way, the emergence of a new class system becomes an increasing probability.

Isn't it likely that the growing class of wealthy households (fuelled by the dramatic increase in the number of two-income households) will begin to feel superior to the rest of us, and will want to protect its wealth? Won't we see further growth in the tendency of rich households to fence themselves in, to put bars on their windows, and to be increasingly careful about where they park their cars?

At the same time, isn't it likely that poor households will evolve into an identifiable - and institutionalised - "lower-class"? Isn't it likely that people who seem destined for a life of welfare-dependency will become increasingly angry about their inability to share in the prosperity around them and, finally, inclined to express that anger in violent ways?

Isn't it possible that, if we proceed as we are now going, we will actually have sown the seeds for a new social class system which none of us would have anticipated or wanted?

There is a Chinese proverb which seems appropriate to our present distribution of work: "If we continue down the path we appear to have chosen, the danger exists that we will end up exactly where we seem to be heading."

### 3. The challenge of new communications technology and its impact

on our sense of being a community.

We are getting used to wave after wave of new technology, but the waves which lie ahead of us are more spectacular than we could have imagined.

We are entering a period in which our lives will be increasingly dominated by glitzy, sophisticated, seductive, clever and convenient electronic technology. The home computer and e-mail are just the beginning: Internet, interactive TV and all the other delights of the information superhighway will carry us to the ultimate experience of "virtual reality".

There are some very big hazards in the new wave of communications technology. One hazard is that we may come to confuse mere data-transfer with the process of human communication. We may fail for the nonsensical ideal of the "global village" or the "mega-community" in which we see our electronic links somehow binding us together in a futuristic alternative to the life of a real community in which people actually stop and talk to each other.

The other danger is equally obvious: as we come to rely more and more on machines to transfer information between us and to perform our transactions, we will be reducing the amount of time we spend in human contact with each other.

That hazard has been well expressed by the American media commentator and philosopher, George Gilder. Echoing T S Eliot, he says "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information? Where is the information we have lost in data?"

But there is an even deeper issue here. It's not just a matter of losing touch

with "wisdom", or even coming to confuse information-transfer with communication. If we come to rely too heavily on machines to do the work of "communication" for us, we are likely to lose our sense of belonging to our local communities and, if that happens, it is a short step to the loss of a sense of obligation towards those local communities.

Our sense of morality grows out of our contacts with each other, in the community. It is from personal relationships that we learn of the need to take each other's rights and welfare into account. It is from the experience of living in community that we learn the edifying principle of mutual obligation.

To be ruthlessly pragmatic about it, we act differently towards someone we meet today if we know that we are going to meet that person again tomorrow, and the next day. The essence of communal life is the notion of "accidental contact"... it is a grotesque distortion of the word "village" to suggest that we could experience village life without encountering our fellow-villagers in person.

If we are going to employ ever-smarter technology to do more of our work and to conduct more of our transactions, we must be sure to compensate for our devotion to the machine by ensuring that we maintain our devotion to each other.

Continued page 35

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## & Abroad

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#### Indigenous Rights, Political Life and the Reshaping of Institutions

**When:** 8 - 10 August, 1997  
**Where:** Canberra, ACT  
**Enquiries:** Conference Administrator,  
Humanities Research Centre  
Australian National University, Canberra, ACT  
**Phone:** 06 249-4786  
**Fax:** 06 248 0054  
**Email:** administration.hrc@anu.edu.au

### ABROAD

#### Congress of Child Abuse & Neglect

**When:** 6 - 10 September, 1997  
**Where:** Auckland, New Zealand  
**Phone:** 0011 64 9 379 7440  
**Fax:** 0011 64 9 307 0599

#### Second CIVICUS World Assembly

**When:** 23 - 26 September, 1997  
**Where:** Budapest, Hungary  
**Enquiries:** CIVICUS Secretarial  
919 18th Street, NW  
3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20006, USA  
**Phone:** 0011 1 202 331 8518  
**Fax:** 0011 1 202 331 8774

#### Fall Conference for Community Foundations

**When:** 7 - 10 September, 1997  
**Where:** Chicago, IL  
**Enquiries:** Rochelle Colclough, colcr@cof.org  
**Phone:** 0011 1 202 466-6512  
**Fax:** 0011 1 202 785 3926

#### Conference Community Foundation Lisbon

**When:** 12 -14 October, 1997  
**Where:** 51, rue de la Concorde  
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium  
**Phone:** 32 2 512 89 38  
**Fax:** 32 2 512 32 65  
**E-mail:** efc@efc.be

#### European Foundation Centre Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Conference.

**When:** 7 - 8 November, 1997 Brussels  
**Where:** 51, rue de la Concorde  
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium  
**Enquiries:** Leticia Ruiz-Capillas, AGA Secretariat  
**Phone:** 32 2 512 89 38  
**Fax:** 2 2 512 32 65

#### European Foundation Centre Annual General Meeting

**When:** November, 1997  
**Where:** Brussels / Italy  
**Enquiries:** [Details closer to date]

### 1998

#### Family Foundations Conference

**When:** 22 - 25 February, 1998  
**Where:** Los Angeles, CA  
**Enquiries:** Rochelle Colclough, colcr@cof.org  
**Phone:** 0011 1 202 466-6512  
**Fax:** 0011 1 202 785 3926

#### 49th Council on Foundation Annual Conference

**When:** 27 - 29 April, 1998  
**Where:** Washington, DC  
**Enquiries:** Annual Conference Staff, confinfo@cof.org  
**Phone:** 0011 1 202 466-6512  
**Fax:** 0011 1 202 785 3926

#### Association of Charitable Foundations, London National Conference

**When:** 23 - 25 June 1998  
**Where:** Bradford  
**Enquiries:** A.C.F. London  
**Phone:** 171 404 1338  
**Fax:** 171 831 3881

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Estate of the Late George Adams  
George Alexander Foundation  
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Lotteries Commission of W.A.  
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Eve Mahlab  
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Ian Potter Foundation  
Queensland Community Foundation  
Queen's Trust for Youth Australians  
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Lance Reichstein  
Charitable Foundation  
R.E. Ross Trust  
Rothschild Australia Ltd.  
Royal Melbourne Institute  
of Technology  
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Sir Alvert Sakzewski Foundation  
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State Trustees  
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Sunshine Foundation  
Telematics Trust

# Grant Seeker

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University of Melbourne  
Gualiero Vaccari Foundation  
Victoria University of Technology Foundation  
Victorian Womens Trust Ltd.  
J.B. Were & Son  
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The Norman Wettenhall Foundation  
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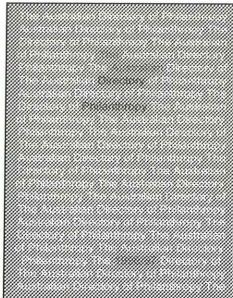
Perth, 9 September 1997  
Melbourne, 16 September 1997  
Adelaide, 19 September 1997  
Sydney, 17 November 1997  
Brisbane, 19 November 1997

All workshops run from 9.30am – 4.30pm. The cost is \$250 per person including lunch, morning and afternoon tea and materials.

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# Other Publications



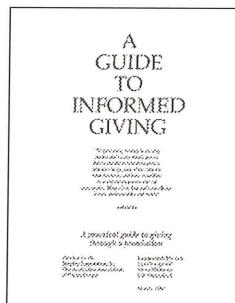
## **AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORY OF PHILANTHROPY 1996-1997 – 8th EDITION**

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- A source of basic data for those working in the sector or other related fields; and
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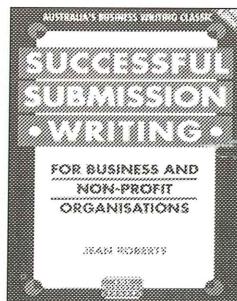
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## **THE GUIDE TO INFORMED GIVING 1990**

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## **SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION WRITING FOR BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS, 1990**

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Continued from page 29

Two of the most common complaints I hear from Australians in social research are that "we seem to have lost our sense of belonging to the community" and that "we seem to be losing our sense of morality ... our sense of shared values". What is not always appreciated is that these are one and the same complaint: if we lose our sense of being a community, it is inevitable that we will lose our sense of moral responsibility towards each other.

What I am suggesting, of course, is that the challenge of new technology is, in the end, a moral challenge.

If we are concerned about preserving – or even raising – the moral tone of a society, it is clear that we are not going to do it by preaching about ethics or by wringing our hands over the signs of a declining sense of community/morality. We are going to do it by taking practical steps to restore the sense that we are a community, and that we belong to each other.

We will have to ensure that, through urban planning and development, we create the spaces where people can meet together, eat together, talk together, walk together, play together ... and just be together.

We will need to devote more energy to the creation of community facilities and activities – clubs, associations, societies, special-interest groups, etc – that will help to restore our communal sense and to provide opportunities for us to re-establish contact with each other.

Above all, as individuals, we will need to devote more of our personal time and effort to re-establishing our own tribal connections... in the immediate family, the extended family, in the neighbourhood, and in the workplace.

Time spent together is the essential prerequisite for raising our awareness

of the needs of others. Raising our awareness of the needs of others is the essential prerequisite to awakening our sense of mutual obligation.

So the third challenge is no less than this: With so many factors threatening to fragment us, we must look for ways of rebuilding our sense of being a community. Until we feel that we belong, we are unlikely to feel any sense of responsibility towards those with whom we share our communities.

The rebuilding of that sense of community is fundamental to any emerging sense of national identity. It is fundamental to the preservation of a recognisable morality. It is crucial to our personal sanity and wholeness.

After all, our most precious resource for coping with life in an uncertain and unstable world is the resource of our personal relationships. What we most need, on the threshold of the 21st century, is each other. □

Mr Peter Goldmark Jnr., President The Rockefeller Foundation, New York, has accepted Council's invitation to be the special guest speaker at our Annual Trustees Dinner, Thursday 2nd October 1997.

Ms Sylvia Geddes has been appointed the Manager, Charitable Services, ANZ Trustees in Victoria.

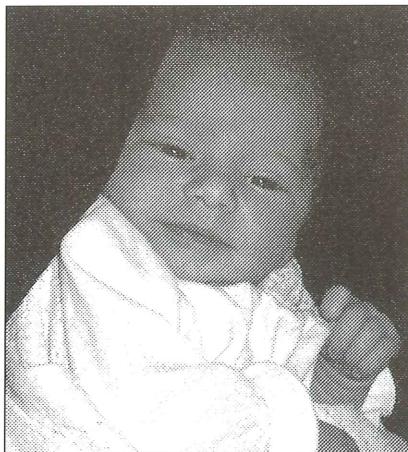
The Stegley Foundation has a new Manager, Community Development.. Trudy Wyse was appointed to the full-time position on June 10, 1997. Prior to this Trudy was a partner in Hop Step Jump Consultancy.

Perpetual Trustees in Melbourne has a new Manager, Mr Dave Clark, Senior Business Manager Southern Region.

Our Resource Centre has recently received the following publications – Measuring The Value of Corporate Citizenship, Council on Foundations, Companies in Communities – Getting the Measure, The London Benchmarking Group, Corporate Citizenship in Asia Pacific – Conference Report, Council on Foundations. □

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