



Honouring the Philanthropy of Alfred Felton and the Centenary of His Bequests

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Foreword

Honouring the Philanthropy of Alfred Felton

The long-term impact of philanthropists like Alfred Felton cannot be underestimated. In our short history, Australia has seen the generosity of some remarkable people committed to improving the lives of others.

It is on occasions such as this, the Centenary of the Felton Bequest, that we have the opportunity to recognise philanthropy and celebrate the good that comes from giving.

When Alfred Felton died, 100 years ago this year, he left the majority of his personal wealth to the Victorian community. This amazing sum of money, totalling close to half a million pounds (or \$35 million in today's terms) was pledged to art and charity through the establishment of the Felton Bequest. At the time, a donation of this magnitude was unprecedented.

The Felton Bequest splits funding equally between the National Gallery of Victoria and charitable causes – particularly those supporting women and children. Since its establishment, the Felton Bequest has continued to positively impact Australians and currently makes annual distributions of \$1.3 million.

I have enormous respect for Alfred Felton who has provided so many organisations and individuals with the funding to assist disadvantaged Australians and spur social change.

I also commend the work of The Felton Bequests' Committee and ANZ Trustees who have collaboratively managed grants, distributions and investment over the last 100 years. The exceptional management of the Felton Bequest has ensured that Alfred Felton's vision continues to be fulfilled.

Thank you to all the individuals and organisations who have contributed to this booklet in honour of Alfred Felton and the Felton Bequest. I am particularly grateful to Professor John Poynter who has written a short biography of Alfred Felton for this monograph.

This booklet is by no means a comprehensive record of grants made by The Felton Bequest. However, I hope it does provide a brief insight into the life of one of Australia's greatest philanthropists, his legacy to art and the broader Victorian community.



Elizabeth Cham
National Director
Philanthropy Australia

Introduction

It gives me great joy to honour Alfred Felton by celebrating the Centenary of his Bequests. There is no doubt in my mind that Felton was one of Australia's greatest philanthropists – today, as a direct result of his generosity, the National Gallery of Victoria houses a collection of international significance and many charities and projects have benefited from financial assistance.

Felton was an extremely committed businessman. He was a partner in a highly successful pharmaceuticals firm – Felton, Grimwade & Co – and also had several grazing interests in Victoria and New South Wales. He was generous and humble, deeply loyal to his business partners, and an anonymous philanthropist, granting and recording regular gifts from his personal fortune.

An avid art collector, he lived for many years in two large rooms of the Esplanade Hotel in St Kilda, surrounded by a jumble of artwork. When he established the Bequest in his Will, half of the funding was set aside specifically for the acquisition of artworks to be donated to the National Gallery of Victoria.

The charitable half of the Felton Bequest, however, has not been committed to fund one particular cause or charity. Rather, it makes well-considered grants to charities and projects that assist disadvantaged Australians, particularly women and children.

It is the Felton Bequest's work in the charitable sector of which I am perhaps most proud. This monograph is largely a reflection on some of the Felton Bequest's recent charitable grants that illustrate the quality and diversity of projects supported across a number of causes.

The Felton Bequest prides itself on a strict, policy-driven approach to donations, aiming to highlight volunteerism, reward innovation and entrepreneurship, and spur social change. The Bequest favours initiatives that are cause-related rather than remedial, with the aim of breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Through the Education Foundation, the Felton Bequest funds the *The Alfred Felton Koorie Scholarships* which provide financial assistance to enhance the educational outcomes of Koorie high school students.

The Felton Bequest also makes grants to the Mirabel Foundation to help support young people who have been abandoned or orphaned as a result of parental drug use. And last year the Bequest gave a major gift to Berry Street Victoria to establish the *BEST Centre* (Berry Street Education School & Training) for young people in residential care. We were thrilled to see the *BEST Centre* officially opened last month.

These are but three success stories and many more can be found within. I would like to extend my gratitude to the charities that kindly submitted stories outlining their use of funding from the Felton Bequest. Without your words, the Felton Bequest merely makes charitable grants. With an understanding of what you do on a day-to-day basis, we can see that the Felton Bequest helps you to achieve great outcomes. Congratulations on your ongoing achievements.

Thank you also to Professor John Poynter and Elizabeth Cham for contributing not only to this monograph, but to the Centenary Year celebrations in a variety of ways – your input and expertise has been invaluable.

Thank you to ANZ Trustees and Mr Bruce Bonyhady, Chairman of ANZ Trustees and Member of the Felton Bequests' Committee. ANZ Trustees continues to manage the investment and distribution of funds from the Bequest and provides support to the Felton Bequests' Committee on policy and charitable grants. We are extremely proud of the achievements we have made in partnership.

Alfred Felton has affected Victoria culturally and socially through an incredibly generous donation that will always be considered phenomenal. I am one of many Australians better off for his generosity. Those of us who have had the magical opportunity to marvel at Tiepolo's "Banquet of Cleopatra" at the National Gallery of Victoria owe thanks to Alfred Felton. Countless children at risk who have been assisted by early intervention and fostering programs owe thanks to Alfred Felton. Offenders and their families, disadvantaged Australians in rural and regional areas, women at risk, rehabilitated drug users... all have Alfred Felton and his Bequests to thank.

Alfred Felton remains one of Australia's greatest philanthropists and I am grateful for the opportunity to publicly recognise the impact his generosity continues to have on us, a hundred years after his death.



Sir Gustav Nossal, AC, CBE, FAA, FRS
Chairman
Felton Bequests' Committee

Management of the Felton Bequest

When Alfred Felton established a Bequest in his Will, he instructed it be placed in the care of a committee and a trustee. The Felton Bequests' Committee has since been responsible for allocating grants while the trustee company, ANZ Trustees, manages and invests the funds. In partnership, the Felton Bequest Committee and ANZ Trustees have worked to make significant contributions to the Victorian community with respect to the wishes of Alfred Felton.

The Felton Bequests' Committee

The Felton Bequests' Committee's function is to direct the purchase and donation of artworks to the National Gallery of Victoria and the distribution of charitable grants.

The Felton Bequests' Committee approaches funding strategically, awarding gifts to projects that are innovative, catalytic and that can make a sustained difference beyond the life of the funds. The Bequest is also attentive to urgent need where relatively small amounts of money can make a big difference.

ANZ Trustees works closely with the Committee on policy direction by making recommendations on the granting process.

The Felton Bequest has given focus in recent years to child welfare, education, women at risk, rural relief and supporting families of offenders.

ANZ Trustees

ANZ Trustees is the steward of some of the largest and oldest charitable foundations in Australia including the Felton Bequest, the William Buckland Foundation, the JO & JR Wicking Trust and the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation. ANZ Trustees is proud to be associated with these foundations and many others, working to ensure that the founders' wishes are fulfilled and that a sustained contribution to the community is achieved.

ANZ Trustees manages over 400 charitable foundations with over \$600 million in charitable funds under management. It provides a significant source of philanthropic funds for charitable organisations across the country, with annual charitable distributions in excess of \$18 million.

ANZ Trustees (ABN: 33 006 132 332) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the ANZ Banking Group.

About the Felton Bequests' Committee

Chairman

Sir Gustav Nossal AC, CBE, FAA, FRS

Sir Gustav Nossal was born in Austria in 1931, and came to Australia in 1939. In 1965 he was appointed Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, a position he held from 1965-1996. Sir Gustav is currently a consultant for the World Health Organisation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He is also Chairman of The Global Foundation Advisory Committee. He was Deputy Chairman of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation from 1998-2000. He was knighted in 1977, made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1989 and appointed Australian of the Year 2000. Sir Gustav has served as a member of the Felton Bequests' Committee since 1969 and as Chairman since 1975.

Members

Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE

Sir Andrew Grimwade has served on the Felton Bequests' Committee since 1973. He has been President of Trustees of the National Gallery of Victoria (1976-1990), having been appointed a Trustee in 1964, and subsequently an Emeritus Trustee and Life Member in 1990. He has been involved in medical research, as President of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research from 1978-1992. He was made a Companion of the British Empire in 1977 for services to the arts and the community and knighted in 1980. Sir Andrew has also been involved with the University of Melbourne through Melbourne University Publishing, the Miegunyah Fund Committee, the Trinity College Art Committee, and the Advisory Committee for the Centre for Cultural Material Conservation.

Dr Alison Inglis

Dr Alison Inglis was appointed to the Council of Trustees of the National Gallery of Victoria in 1995. She is the National Gallery of Victoria appointee to the Felton Bequests' Committee, serving since 2000. Dr Inglis is also the Chair of the NGV Collection Committee, which deals with acquisitions, and the Chair of NGV Members (previously Gallery Society). Dr Inglis is a senior lecturer at the University of Melbourne in the School of Art History, Cinema, Classics and Archaeology. She is course coordinator of the Masters Program in Art Curatorship and her area of research is 19th Century British Art. She is also a member of the Donald Thompson Collection Administration Committee, an arrangement between the University of Melbourne and Museum Victoria, and a member of the Council of Trinity College.

Mrs Caroline Searby

Caroline Searby has been a member of the Felton Bequest Committee for 25 years. She has a life-long commitment to voluntary work for charitable purposes, particularly in the fields of welfare, education, and child health. She has served on the Board of the Free Kindergarten Union of Victoria and shortly after, was elected President of the Dame Nellie Melba Kindergarten in Richmond. Caroline has also had substantial involvement with the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, as a member of the Committee of Management, President of the Volunteers Association, and Senior Vice President and Chairman of the Research Foundation. Caroline also served as a part-time member of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission for six years.

Mr Bruce Bonyhady

Bruce Bonyhady is Chairman of ANZ Executors & Trustee Company Limited (ANZ Trustees). He is also a member of the Company's Audit, Compliance and Risk Committee and the Charitable Trust Advisory Panel. Bruce serves as a representative of ANZ Trustees on The Felton Bequests' Committee (since 2001), The William Buckland Foundation and The Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation. He is also President of the Yooralla Society of Victoria. Bruce's previous roles have included executive and directorship positions in investment and funds management for a variety of financial organisations including ANZ Managed Investments Limited, BT Funds Management, Bankers Trust and National Mutual Funds Management.

Alfred Felton: a Short Biography

Written and Researched by John Poynter*

Alfred Felton was born in East Anglia in 1831, son of a leather currier. Trained as a watchmaker, he arrived in Melbourne in 1853 with enough money to buy a dray, stock it with fancy goods, and take it to the goldfields, to trade. After a few years he set up in Melbourne as a merchant, described from 1861 as a wholesale druggist, making a good living selling Chlorodyne and Felton's Quinine Champagne. He became one of the growing tribe of Melbourne merchants who came to dominate the economies of the Australasian colonies after the Gold rushes.

In 1867, Felton joined the more-recently arrived Frederick Sheppard Grimwade in founding Felton Grimwade and Company, a very successful firm of wholesale druggists. Making the transition, then common in Melbourne, from merchant to manufacturer, the partners also established a drug factory in West Melbourne, a glass bottle works and an acid works, both beyond the swamps across the river. The bottle works, eventually to become ACI, was Felton's largest contribution to Australian industry; the acid works also grew to national importance after merging with its friendly rival, Cuming Smith and Company. Felton and Grimwade also formed other partnerships, including one with Joseph Bosisto, producing and selling eucalyptus oil; their only failure was a salt works on French Island.

Branching out, Felton formed in 1884 a separate partnership with Charles Campbell, chairman of Cuming Smiths, to buy Murray Downs, the vast property in the Riverina. Much Melbourne money, he observed, went into New South Wales and Queensland squatting properties, as it did into much else all over Australia. The partners later bought Langi Kal Kal; and Felton, acting alone, bought the Felton Building, still standing in Queen Street.

Felton himself vividly described much of his Melbourne, in letters he wrote in the mid 1880s to his partner Grimwade, then in Europe with his family. Always independent in his views tastes and habits, he was nevertheless convivial, founder-member number five of the Australian Club in 1878, and a member of the Athenaeum Club. He also frequented the Melbourne Athenaeum, formerly the Mechanics Institute, to visit its library and tea room, serving (he said) capital chops; and would sometimes lunch at the Mercantile Exchange, founded by the enterprising Henry Byron Moore, the man who introduced electric lighting to Melbourne and gave it a telephone exchange before London had one.

Grimwade married and established a dynasty, but Felton lived and died a bachelor. Soon after arriving in Melbourne he had settled,

like many of the early merchants, in St Kilda, (then respectable while Brighton was Bohemian), in boarding houses or rented homes, usually sharing them with friends. In 1884 he bought and extended Wattle House, one of St Kilda's oldest, but sold it in 1889 and spent the last years of his life in the Esplanade Hotel (not in itself an eccentric decision: some of his aging friends did the same).

Felton had some mildly eccentric health fads, such as insisting on sleeping with his head to the Magnetic North. He loved travelling, making a few long trips overseas and many by interstate steamer, and taking paddle-steamer trips around the Bay on summer weekends. He also enjoyed driving a pony trap around Melbourne's still-rural environs, usually on Sundays after attending the Australian Church. He enjoyed the cultural and social programs of that remarkable organisation, formed in 1885 after his friend Charles Strong had been expelled from the pulpit of Scots Church, and quietly helped keep it solvent.

Melbourne in Felton's time was a lively place. Unlike Sydney, it had been founded by free enterprise, not government, and was indeed at first illegal. Gold made it cosmopolitan as well as rich; intellectually virile, it began soon after Felton's arrival an extraordinary outburst of institution-building. The University, the Public Library and the National Museum were followed by the Art Museum, the Picture Gallery and another Museum, all except the University brought under the one set of Trustees in 1870. The Art School, and other classes, also began, and the Botanical and Zoological Gardens were established. The overall purpose was to educate the populace, in science and the arts, both fine and practical. In return people were expected to be better behaved, both politically and morally, more productive, and happier.

Felton, an auto-didact, shared these ideals, though he took no part in running the institutions. A compulsive collector, his rooms at the Esplanade — as a remarkable recently-discovered album of photographs shows — were cluttered with books, curios and works of art. The tastes of his generation were not as narrow as sometime alleged, the great Exhibitions of 1880 and 1888, and some lively local dealers, giving Melbournians access to works currently esteemed in Europe. Felton's presentation to the National Gallery of a picture by Rupert Bunny, son of one of his closest friends, remains however his only recorded dealing with that institution in his lifetime.

Felton shared the Victorians' social ideals of self-help and independence, and also their belief in private charity. Gold brought poor

immigrants as well as riches to Melbourne, and the proliferation of charities to assist them was extraordinary. In 1887 Felton supported his friend Professor Edward Morris in the establishment of the Charity Organisation Society, which attempted to reduce the charities to order, with limited success. Most of Felton's giving was discreet and anonymous, but he was known to be a major donor to the Old Colonists Homes, and was once persuaded to make public, to encourage others, a private gift of £1000 to the Melbourne Hospital. He was also extremely generous to his surviving relatives in Britain and South Africa.

Felton survived the economic crash of the 1890s almost unscathed, partly because he invested cautiously in the 1880s, even refusing to join a syndicate to exploit Broken Hill. After the crash he wrote to a New Zealand friend blessing the small things, 'for the big and swaggering things have bust or are busting'. He did not hesitate to spend on causes he approved, including buying 'desirable things'. One of the last pages of his diary begins 'Wealth! Get it spent'.

Dying in January 1904, Felton left an estate valued at almost half a million pounds. His will surprised everyone except his solicitor. After paying a large number of small legacies to relatives and friends, the residue, some £380 000, was left in trust, half the income to be spent on charities (especially for women and children), and half on works of art for the National Gallery of Victoria. The Gallery suddenly gained acquisition funds greater than those of London's National and Tate galleries combined, and a great many charities a source of regular support. Expenditure was to be decided by a committee, consisting of three of his friends plus a nominee of the Trustee company and another of the Trustees of the National Gallery. The charity bequest was relatively straightforward, but Felton, a man who succeeded in never sitting on a committee in his life, created a problem by making art purchases dependant on the agreement of not one committee but two. The Felton Bequests' Committee had to satisfy itself that the works bought were of 'educational value', calculated to 'raise and improve public taste', but they could only buy what the Gallery Trustees were willing to recommend, and were not obliged to buy everything they did recommend. Disagreement was inevitable; fortunately, over the following century, the Bequests' successes far outweighed the public contention, and Felton's intentions have been abundantly achieved.

* John Poynter is the Author of *Mr Felton's Bequests* published by the Miegunyah Press of Melbourne University Publishing.

Alzheimer's Australia Vic

Dementia is an extremely stressful condition that impacts the sufferer and the sufferer's family. The Felton Bequest assisted Alzheimer's Australia Vic to fund a supportive intervention program with the aim of connecting dementia sufferers and their carers to one another for peer group support. The support networks created during the program were self-sustaining and the impact of this project has continued well beyond the life of the funding provided by the Felton Bequest.

During 2000 the Felton Bequest assisted Alzheimer's Australia Vic by providing financial support for the establishment of 'Tele-learning' groups for isolated family members and carers of people with dementia.

With the ageing of Australia's population, dementia is being recognised as a major public health issue that will affect a rapidly growing number of people. By 2016, it is anticipated that dementia will be the leading cause of disease burden for women, and the fifth largest for men.

Alzheimer's Australia Vic is the peak state body providing specialist support and information services to people affected by dementia. The organisation offers services which focus on assisting sufferers, and the wider community, to adjust to the significant impact of dementia.

Our organisation and the services we offer have grown over the years to now include a telephone help line, counsellors in metropolitan and regional areas, education and information sessions, links with support groups and a comprehensive website and library.

In endeavouring to reach out to as many people in the community as possible, it is important not only to encourage people to come to us to link into services, but also to provide alternative ways to be involved and obtain assistance.

Living with a person with dementia poses challenges to family members and carers, and information and support can make a significant difference. But for some it is much more difficult to access these services because of geographic, financial or transportation reasons.

With the generous support of the Felton Bequest, tele-learning groups now provide an alternative means of linking into the services of Alzheimer's Australia Vic. 'Tele-learning'

is a self-directed telephone link-up support program that assists family members of people with dementia. The eight week program is facilitated by a counsellor from Alzheimer's Australia Vic and the content is designed by the six to eight participants in each Tele-learning group.

An indication of how valuable this program is to family members and how it impacts on their lives can be seen in Maree's* story. Maree's mother was living in Bendigo when she was diagnosed with dementia and Maree was trying to cope with the challenges in her life and was considering moving her mother to Portland (Maree's home) to be closer to her.

Maree had very little time to be able to link into services but very much wanted information and support. She spent two hours per week with the Tele-learning group and was able to obtain the education she needed about dementia and gain an understanding of the behaviours associated with dementia. The Tele-learning group provided her not only with valuable information to help her make decisions on her mother's behalf but also, very importantly to her, she was able to find ways to improve her ability to communicate with and relate to her mother. Maree has remained in telephone contact with several of the other group participants, which has been of great assistance to her.

Since its inception, around 100 people have been able to link into the tele-learning service. Feedback from all participants has been very positive, indicating that they received significant benefit from the program. What is most gratifying is the number of people who have continued to provide each other with support after the eight week program finishes. It is clear that programs such as this provide an important and often critical link for people who otherwise may find themselves isolated in geography, human contact and support.



Dementia sufferers and their carers are able to enjoy the networks and friendships formed by Alzheimer's Australia Vic's Program.

It is also a very cost-efficient program for Alzheimer's Australia Vic to run with one professional counsellor to support each group's members and, if needed, to then link individuals into other support programs when the tele-learning group program has finished.

We would like to thank the Felton Bequest for the contribution it has made to Alzheimer's Australia Vic and we look forward to a continuing relationship.

* Name has been changed.

Ardoch Youth Foundation

Many disadvantaged children have difficulty accessing quality schooling. Teacher and Welfare Coordinator, Ms Kathy Hilton sought support from the Felton Bequest to assist one homeless student find accommodation and continue her schooling. From this initial grant, the Ardoch Youth Foundation grew to become a state-wide body, committed to improving access to education for disadvantaged Victorian youth.

Ardoch Youth Foundation is a unique community development organisation that empowers young people to recognise and achieve their dreams through an education system that is accessible and relevant to all.

The Felton Bequest was the first philanthropic trust to fund Ardoch and has been instrumental in Ardoch's growth – from a single person reacting to the crisis of youth homelessness at the school base, to a professional community development organisation.

Ardoch Youth Foundation originated at Ardoch High School where Founder and Director, Kathy Hilton, was working as a Teacher and Welfare Coordinator. In 1988 Kathy was approached by a 16 year-old student who was living in a Brotherhood of St Laurence clothing bin and finding it increasingly difficult to remain at school due to her circumstances.

Kathy sought help from 'experts' but no government bodies or service could take responsibility for the young student and her needs. Moral responsibility prompted Kathy to organise the student's housing, clothing, financial and health needs through family, personal contacts, and school support. With this support, the student managed to finish Year 12 and, happily, complete a University degree.

Between 1988-1992 Kathy was approached by 100 young people from across the state experiencing homelessness. To manage this, Kathy developed a larger community base of support, and alongside forging corporate and community partnerships, successfully applied to the Alfred Felton Bequest for funding of a Youth Worker.

This funding assisted Kathy to develop a holistic range of programs including:

- Basic Needs, a program that provides good quality clothing, food and toiletries
- Breakfast and Lunch Clubs
- Homework Help
- Referral/Support Programs



Kathy Hilton, founder of Ardoch Youth Foundation, with one of the students supported by Ardoch's programs.

In 1990 Kathy established Ardoch as a Foundation and developed a school-based model of early intervention to assist young homeless people to complete their education.

Ardoch High School was closed in December 1992, but by then Ardoch Youth Foundation was legally incorporated and could continue to enhance the philosophies and programs which it now runs from an Education Support Centre in Balaclava.

The Centre employs 16 staff, manages over 400 volunteers, and has a number of strategic partnerships in the corporate and community sector. The Ardoch Education Support Centre provides assistance and support to children and families, including those experiencing homelessness and disadvantage. Ardoch also currently manages demonstration projects at 12 early childhood, primary and secondary school sites.

In the last two years, Ardoch has experienced increasing requests from schools and services to assist them manage students' welfare needs. To respond to this, Ardoch has created a Training and Consultancy service that aims to replicate its projects and programs nationwide.

The Alfred Felton Bequest has maintained its interest and support of Ardoch since its early inception. The Bequest is currently supporting Ardoch's Secondary School Project at Elwood College, which includes:

- Literacy and Vocational Programs
- Tutor Mentor Programs
- Student Referral and Support Programs
- Enrichment Programs
- Personal Development Programs
- Life Skills Programs

Due to the programs offered, students have more opportunities to engage in the school community, and with external corporate and community agencies, enabling families and students to gain access to greater support, resources and opportunities.

The project has also harnessed and coordinated the resources, time and skills of community and corporate volunteers, and has 15 community volunteers who provide educational and small group support, and run lunchtime activities and homework clubs.

The Felton Bequest has witnessed the growth of Ardoch from a simple concept to an entire community development organisation that delivers early intervention and prevention projects for thousands of students.

Ardoch is proud to be part of the Alfred Felton legacy and Centenary celebration. It looks forward to continuing to work with the Bequest into the future to make education a reality for everyone!

Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre

Preventative child safety programs are extremely valuable. The Felton Bequests' Committee granted funding to the Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre for the Farm Safety is Fun program due to an understanding of the importance of preventative child safety measures in the farming environment. Beechworth had the skills to plan and execute the program through a well-established community network, ensuring the information was widely spread and productively used.

Beechworth is situated in rural North East Victoria in the Shire of Indigo and has a population of approximately 4,500 consisting mainly of rural producers. The Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre has been operating since 1985 and exists to foster community spirit and provide opportunities for personal and community growth. The Centre runs adult education programs, community development initiatives and invites visiting agencies to utilise the space.

The Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre worked closely with Ms Vicki Connell, a Preschool Teacher and Beechworth resident, to develop the 'Farm Safety is Fun' Early Childhood Farm Safety Program. The impetus for the program was Ms Connell's belief that health workers and teachers in rural communities had an ethical obligation to protect children's safety.

"One child dies, on average, every 10 days in Australia through a farm related incident"

Child Safety on Farms Strategy, 2002, Farmsafe Australia

The high number of childhood fatalities caused by farm-related accidents concerned Ms Connell and led her to commission research into child farm safety programs in Australia and abroad. The research indicated a lack of developmentally appropriate educational resources available for young pre-school aged children. Furthermore, few of the existing kits and resources for farm safety were relevant to rural Australia.

With grant money received from the Felton Bequest and the Forest Hill Early Childhood Foundation in 2002, the Centre developed an Early Childhood Farm Safety Program and Resource Kit. The program is aimed predominantly at pre-school children and teaches an understanding of farm hazards through play and exploration.

The program goes beyond targeting children directly, aiming to inform the rural community of these hazards and the need for all carers to educate children under their supervision. The kit has been loaned to Early Childhood Centres, Schools and Community Health Workers in the Wangaratta and Indigo Shires in North East Victoria. It includes activities, toys, and ideas for implementing the program with young children.

Evaluation of the program by teachers and community health workers indicated that children had increased their level of understanding about what 'safe' and 'unsafe' play meant after they had run the program at their pre-school. The program provided useful information to parents, teachers and carers about farm safety, ensuring that children received consistent farm safety messages.

Since development and trial of this program there has been wider awareness among community, farming and educational organisations of the importance of teaching young children consistent farm safety messages. The Beechworth Community Centre was instrumental in this process, connecting the community and raising public awareness of this important issue.

One of the long-term outcomes of the project was the development and promotion of a national farm safety program. Two early childhood centres in New South Wales have applied for and received funding for the development of a kit for their regions.

Farm Safe Australia recently reviewed the 'Farm Safety is Fun' Program and Resource Kit. It is the only Early Childhood Farm Safety Program in Australia and it has been granted the Farm Safe Australia 'tick of approval' and listed as a resource on the website.

Ms Vicki Connell won a National Excellence in Teaching (NEITA) Award for developing and leading the project. She has since secured funding from the Australian Scholarship Group and the Grain Corp Foundation to travel to the United States to conduct further research on child farm safety projects. Ms Connell will also be speaking at the XXIV World Congress of OMEP – the World Organisation for Early Childhood: Birth to Eight Years, in Melbourne during July 2004.

Berry Street Victoria

Berry Street Victoria is dedicated to helping children and young people at risk – it is involved in early intervention and provides care to marginalised youth. The Felton Bequest funded a flagship project at Berry Street Victoria through a major charitable grant for the establishment of the BEST Centre. The Centre, launched in March 2004, is a facility for young people who have been unable to complete their education through the public school system. It provides an alternative setting that offers the support they need to achieve success in education.

Berry Street Victoria is one of the organisations that has benefited from the foresight and generosity of Alfred Felton and the Felton Bequest. In 2002, we were most fortunate to receive funding of \$200,000 to establish and support the Berry Street Victoria Education School and Training (BEST) Centre. The school was registered as an independent school and opened in July 2003. The official opening by Sir Gustav Nossal took place on 17 March 2004.

For over 127 years, Berry Street Victoria has worked with the most disadvantaged children, young people and families in Victoria. We are known as an organisation that is determined to 'hang in there' with these children and young people, because we know that this is what is needed if they have a chance of recovering from the trauma of serious abuse and/or neglect.

Too many of our young people have dropped out of, or been excluded from school at a young age. Their literacy and numeracy skills are way behind and they often lack the communication and social skills that they would have learned at school. Our attempts to

influence the school system had not enabled the young people with whom we work to be meaningfully engaged in education.

The BEST School is the result of our staff's determination that the young people with whom we work will have access to education.

The grant from the Felton Bequest was our 'venture capital' to establish the school. Now that it is established, we can access Government funding and we are also developing linkages with business.

The school operates from a warehouse in Noble Park. Up to 30 young people are enrolled, each with their own individual learning plan. Our staff adapt the curriculum to fit the needs of the young people and our aim is to get each person a year 10 pass. Our staff need to be extremely flexible and have endless patience to help the young people re-engage in learning. As part of the project, we also completed an Education Scoping Study, which looks at the needs of this group of young people, alternative models for education and training and best practice in Australia and overseas.

The project is guided by a School Advisory Committee, which is chaired by Board member Kate Jenkins and includes representatives from the Department of Education and Training, Victorian Schools Innovation Commission,

Department of Human Services, Monash Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Victoria Police Schools Involvement Program, a young person advocate and the ANZ Trustees (Felton Bequest). This group will provide valuable advice about the future of the BEST Centre and how we can share our experience and learning with the wider education system.

Perhaps the significance of the school is best summed up by the following words:

"Most people don't know these kids exist. These kids are smart. You've got to be smart to survive on the streets. What we want to give them is a better future"

Principal, Aidan Burns

"If it wasn't for the School, I would still be hanging around on the streets. I never thought that I was good at anything. Nobody ever told me I was. Now I'm doing woodwork and working with cars and I think I'm going to be a mechanic one day"

Young person from the School

A century of philanthropy is a wonderful achievement and we send our congratulations to all those involved.

Broadmeadows Special Developmental School

Providing a suitable and stimulating environment for children with severe disabilities has always posed a challenge. This is the core work of Broadmeadows Special Developmental School. Providing recreational opportunities for disabled children is integral to their development. The Felton Bequest funded the construction of an interactive playground designed for the special needs of the students.

Broadmeadows Special Developmental School gratefully acknowledges the assistance and support offered by the Alfred Felton Bequest. The contribution given to our school last year has enabled us to construct an interactive playground, purpose built for students with severe disabilities.

This new facility offers a secure and stimulating environment with sound sculptures, a sensory garden, an interactive sound box, and a grassed and soft fall play area.

The school community has benefited greatly from the interactive playground as it can be accessed by the whole school for both instructional sessions and recreational use.

Providing a stimulating environment for students with severe disabilities has posed a challenge in the past, but this new facility has provided us with this much needed resource.

Again, we would like to thank the Felton Bequests' Committee for their generous contribution and for their support offered to students with disabilities.

Bulleen Heights Specialist School

Expanding educational options for children with intellectual disabilities is always a challenge. Bulleen Heights Specialist School dedicates itself to this area, with the aim of teaching both academic and life skills and assisting the children to reach their potential. To help with this process the Felton Bequest granted a donation towards a new school bus, enabling the children to take part in work experience, become involved in a number of traditional courses, and take part in excursions and sporting events.

The Felton Bequest's donation of \$10,000 towards the replacement of a school bus for Bulleen Heights Specialist School facilitated the Inclusive Learning Program for our students with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disabilities. The school bus has afforded the children opportunities such as:

- Inclusion in regular schools' teaching and learning programs
- Participation in vocational education and work experience in business
- Enrolment in Vocational Education & Training (VET) at TAFE Institutes
- Activities, excursions, sporting and camping within the community

Thank you Felton Bequests' Committee!
The bus has made a vast improvement in the diversity of educational opportunities we are able to offer the students.

The bus has made possible the Inclusion Learning Program which has had a very positive effect on the lives and attitudes of our student body. School Councillors, teachers and families observe that students are happier, more independent, better socialised and their learning competencies have improved markedly.

Since 1999, when the School Bus Replacement Project commenced, the school has grown from 116 students to 184 students. Parents, in large measure, seek placement for their children at Bulleen Heights School in order to access its highly successful on and off-campus Teaching and Learning Programs. The combination is a huge drawcard.



A new bus for Bulleen Heights Specialist School. The bus was partially funded by a grant from The Felton Bequest.

Collingwood College

Kitchen Garden Program

Learning to prepare food is an important aspect of a child's development toward self-sufficiency. The Felton Bequest supported Collingwood College's Kitchen Garden Program believing it had the potential to provide important nutritional information and change eating behaviours. The innovative model of The Kitchen Garden Program is a fresh approach to curriculum and education, and benefits the health and wellbeing of Victorian children.

Over the last few years Stephanie Alexander has thought more and more about the ways children learn about food. For many urban children there is no way they can relate the food they see in bottles, packets and jars with the goodness of soil, sunshine, ripeness and delicious tastes. These children grow up tentative in their efforts to feed themselves, and unable to offer themselves one of life's most accessible joys – the sharing of delicious food with family and friends every day.

The Kitchen Garden Program is a partnership between the Victorian Schools Innovation Commission, the Education Foundation and the Felton Bequest. It is designed to actively promote the joys of growing and preparing your own food, and is also being developed as an educational model that can be replicated in other settings.

The Kitchen Garden at Collingwood College is a hands-on primary school program that involves students in gardening, cooking, preparing and sharing fresh food. The program is based on positive messages about good food and its pleasures rather than tired and dull nutritional pyramids and charts.

The Kitchen Garden encourages pleasurable and fulfilling experiences in the belief that these experiences will lead to changes in the food choices that young people make.

During weekly classes, children in years three to six are involved in the creation and maintenance of an extensive vegetable garden and the preparation of a multi-part meal using produce grown in that garden. The project

was established as a model of excellence for other schools to follow and a dedicated website facilitates the sharing of information.

The children take an interest in the garden and can often be seen 'checking up' on their plants at recess, lunchtime and before and after school. The garden really is a positive focus for the students. Having said that, some crops have been subject to early picking, for either eating or playing with. We hope to combat this problem in the future with designated picking areas that will allow children to pick as they please but also ensure that we have a reasonable harvest.

A major part of the project was the establishment of a Learning Network which was central to the project's mission:

"to openly communicate the experiences of the Kitchen Garden to other schools through a variety of mediums".

This is a two fold exercise involving the establishment and use of a dedicated project website (www.collingwood.vic.edu.au) and the promotion of the website to other schools.

There has been a great deal of genuine interest from many other metropolitan and country schools. Two hundred people from schools around the state attended the workshop held as part of the Kitchen Garden Open Day on 14 March 2001. Some are contemplating a garden only, some are more interested in linking education about food with the general curriculum, and others want to follow the Kitchen Garden model exactly.

Representative groups from 12 Victorian primary schools were given guided tours of the Kitchen Garden in the first 12 months. Upper Hume Community Health Service in collaboration with two Wodonga schools (Bonewatha and Wodonga Primary) started their own Kitchen Garden program in mid-2001 and Melbourne's King's Park Primary School will commence its Kitchen Garden Program in Term one, 2004.

The project will continue for at least a further four years to facilitate an in-depth study of behavioural and attitudinal change in the students. We plan to submit this study to the Department of Education, Employment and Training in order that the issue of food is put on the educational agenda. La Trobe Honours student, Lucinda Brewer, is collating the findings.

Initially the Kitchen Garden project was funded for a 12-month pilot period. However, due to the overwhelmingly enthusiastic response of the students and school community, the school has committed to extending the pilot period for a minimum of three more years, allowing the long term impact of the program to be properly evaluated.

The Felton Bequest Koorie Scholarships (1999-2004)

Education Foundation & Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated

Koorie students often have difficulty continuing their schooling beyond the compulsory age due to lack of financial and other support. The Felton Bequest commenced funding this flagship project in 1999. To date, over 200 Koorie students in Victoria have received this encouragement.

The Felton Bequest is interested in supporting community and cultural life – this is reflected in the Felton Bequest Koorie Scholarships, first funded in 1999, and the Recipient Mentor Program, which commenced in 2002.

This initiative supports Koorie students in secondary schooling. There is an alarming drop off rate of Koorie students in year 10, the year following compulsory schooling. Many students lack the confidence and self-esteem to continue at senior level, and coping with the financial expenses of post-compulsory schooling often forces them to cease formal education. These students may also be under pressure to earn an income to help their families.

Since the introduction of Koorie Scholarships, more than 200 Koorie students aged 13-17 have received assistance with their education. The response to the scholarships has been overwhelmingly positive. Students say the greatest area of improvement, outside academic achievement, is their self-esteem – indicating that students are gaining far more than just academic reward. In 2002, the school retention rate of students receiving a scholarship had risen to 75 per cent for year 9 and 10 students and 91 per cent for year 11 and 12.

The administrator of the scholarships is the Education Foundation. This independent, not-for-profit organisation supports young Australians by funding and facilitating innovation in the public education system. Since 1989 it has funded more than 450 school-based projects that support student outcomes. More than 70 per cent of these have been in schools where young people are faced with educational or economic disadvantage. The Education Foundation believes that the lives of our children, the health of society and the productivity of our economy

are defined by the quality of the education that we, as a community, provide. The Foundation is committed to the philosophical and practical support of a strong, innovative public education system. The Education Foundation is a vehicle through which members of the community and organisations (both philanthropic and business) can get involved in supporting the education of young people.

In 2002, the Alfred Felton Bequest enhanced its support of young Koorie students by funding a Mentoring Program through the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI). The Mentoring Program gives young people the opportunity to gain further support within their culture and meet with each other to talk about their goals and aspirations.

VAEAI represents the Koorie community in relation to education policy development and strategic programming at the local, regional and state level. It advocates a lifetime philosophy of education, and supports the provision of education and training that reinforces the community's cultural identity and aims to increase awareness in the wider community of Koorie culture and aspirations in education. VAEAI's local advisory arrangements are solidly embedded in local Koorie communities throughout Victoria.

With funding assistance from the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), VAEAI was able to create a residential component for the mentoring program. The focus was to highlight local and regional Koorie education support mechanisms and the concept of 'mentor' from a Koorie perspective. The two day residential forum central to the mentoring program is an opportunity to celebrate and congratulate each scholarship recipient, encouraging them to

continue their schooling feeling proud and inspired by other Koorie scholarship winners and their communities. The links made in the forum enable recipients to connect to the people and structures that are in place to encourage, support and inspire them throughout and beyond their schooling.

"The Felton Bequest Koorie Scholarship has helped me to understand that I can get help to go for the career that I find exciting and be able to say I went all the way with my schooling"

Student, Felton Bequest Koorie Scholarship Program

"Coming together is a valuable experience; meeting people from other places and hearing their stories is very inspiring"

Student, Felton Bequest Koorie Scholarship Program

Quality outcomes for Koorie education have been achieved through the generosity of the Felton Bequest and the diligent work of:

- Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc, which has drawn other partners into the program, notably the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) through their VEGAS fund;
- the Koorie Education Strategy Unit of the Department of Education and Training (KESU) which has provided the network expertise for dissemination of scholarship material; and
- the Education Foundation which has assisted the establishment, growth and evaluation of this contribution to Koorie education in Victoria.

The Jean Hailes Foundation

Healthcare in rural and regional areas is hard to access, and rates of hospitalisation and fatality are high for a number of diseases. The Felton Bequest provided support to the Jean Hailes Foundation to develop and implement a health education and training program that would assist rural women to better manage their own health interests – on a day-to-day basis and in extenuating circumstances. The Jean Hailes Foundation is a visionary organisation that delivers evidence-based programs finely tuned to specific needs.

The Felton Bequest has played an invaluable role for Victorian women by supporting the Jean Hailes Foundation's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of women in rural and remote communities.

The Bequest's support of the first program in 1996 laid the foundations for an innovative 'Train the Trainer' program in 2002. Both programs have received widespread acknowledgement for their positive impact on rural women and their families.

As the rural, regional and remote population ages, women will be highly represented in the older age groups. Health services and educational resources need to be shaped to meet women's needs and encourage active participation. There are around 650,000 women living in regional and remote Victoria and the rates of hospitalisation and death are higher for many diseases including heart disease and diabetes. In these areas, women aged between 40 and 60, face a specific set of difficulties relating to health and healthcare, including limited access to services and up-to-date health related information.

In July 1996 The Felton Bequest fully funded a project to improve the health, wellbeing and independence of rural women at mid-life through a community education program. More than 5,000 women and 200 health professionals participated in 42 programs held in eight regional areas in Victoria.

The Jean Hailes Foundation's emphasis is on offering women strategies which enable them to take responsibility for their own health, thus preventing disease and ensuring optimum personal wellbeing. Each program was designed to address the concerns and needs raised in each area during extensive consultation with health professionals and women's groups. Successful community involvement was integral to the program.

The community program's main focus was a large seminar featuring women's health specialists from a variety of disciplines including gynaecology, endocrinology, nutrition and physiotherapy. An expo of local service providers and resources increased awareness of the local services. The program provided an opportunity for health service providers to develop networks and combat geographical isolation. Breastscreen, Community Health Centres, Women's Health Centres, and Neighbourhood Houses were among the organisations involved.

The Jean Hailes Foundation provided buses from key points up to 100 kilometres from the seminar to ensure women in remote locations could access the seminar. This initiative had the added benefit of linking women with others from their local community.

A series of smaller interactive workshops were held four weeks after the major seminar in conjunction with local community health centres in surrounding regional areas, ensuring women who could not attend the seminar still had access to the information. These sessions also provided women with the opportunity to discuss their personal issues with an experienced educator.

The community education programs were a great success, drawing interest from regional newspapers and radio ensuring our messages reached an even wider audience!

A health professionals' workshop was implemented to complement the community education programs and encourage a partnership approach between women and their healthcare practitioners. Excellent networking opportunities existed for those attending and an opportunity for general practitioners and allied health professionals to discuss the issues together. Ongoing support was provided to these professionals through telephone and written advice.

The demand for further programs has indicated a high level of community need for health education by rural women and rural health practitioners. To address this challenge, The Jean Hailes Foundation asked for further financial assistance from the Felton Bequest.

With the additional funding, a two-year project was implemented allowing the Foundation to develop a Rural and Remote Health Professionals' Resource Kit titled *Midlife – a resource for health professionals*. The kit equipped health professionals with a manual, a CD ROM, a video, teaching aids, brochures and information about how to set up and run menopause education sessions in rural communities.

Over a 12 month period, workshop training days were held across Victoria. This kit and training will be a self perpetuating 'Train the Trainer' model. The steering committee will start this process by training health professionals who will then take the kit back to their respective communities to work with local women.

The Felton Bequest's compassion and foresight about the health and wellbeing needs of women in rural communities has enabled the Jean Hailes Foundation to drive improved health outcomes for these women and their families. This strong partnership has delivered innovative programs that reach into communities and make a difference.

Lighthouse Foundation

The Youth for Youth project is an innovative pilot supported by the Felton Bequest and designed to engage youth in community volunteer service. The project provided benefits for the disadvantaged and the homeless and was also rewarding for the youth volunteers. Furthermore the project facilitated a sustainability model for Lighthouse Foundation's work – building capacity by introducing a new generation to a wonderful community organisation.

Generous financial support was provided by the Felton Bequest to establish the Lighthouse Youth For Youth Project in early 2003. This exciting pilot project explored a model to engage youth in philanthropy and community work. Senior student volunteers from local schools were appointed ambassadors of Lighthouse. By learning about the young people that Lighthouse supported, and by contributing to development projects at Lighthouse, these students developed an understanding of the issues facing young people who are homeless. Volunteers engaged in the project came from St Kevin's College and Lauriston Girls' School.

At the core of the project was the Lighthouse Friendship Garden, a large vegetable garden at the rear of the Pines Lighthouse in Cheltenham. The other programs included a self-paced learning program that encouraged volunteer students to research youth issues, and a fund-raising program designed to develop their appreciation of the importance of philanthropy.

The Garden Program began with site preparation. During their weekly visits, the volunteer students removed weeds and cleared trees and debris from the site in preparation for the installation of the garden beds. Once the beds were established, seedlings donated by Floriana were planted. The magic had begun!

Each week the volunteer students recorded their thoughts in a garden diary and the entries tell of their pride in the project, and the fun they had. They followed the progress of

'their' plants in a way that surprised and delighted their teachers, parents and the Lighthouse team.

Lighthouse Foundation cares for young people 15-22 who are at risk and homeless. In 2003 there were seven Lighthouse homes, two in regional Victoria and five in metropolitan Melbourne. Each home accommodates up to six young people supported by two live-in carers. The young people who call Lighthouse their home receive emotional support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Foundation offers life membership to young people – we invite them to join the Lighthouse family and remain connected even after moving from a Lighthouse home to reintegrate into the broader community.

A voluntary community committee surrounding each home has the responsibility of raising the annual operational funding, and supporting the Lighthouse carers and young people. They do this through mentoring, seeking job placements for the young people, cooking and gardening. These volunteers from the local community give generously of their time – delivery of the Lighthouse Model of Care would not be possible without them.

While the Lighthouse Youth For Youth project relied on volunteer participants, the funding granted enabled Lighthouse to employ a part-time project manager who sourced the materials needed for the garden and attracted and managed volunteers who donated their time and energy to the project.



Student volunteers at work in the Lighthouse Friendship Garden.

In developing this project, Lighthouse achieved a new way to involve the community, demonstrated a model of self-sufficiency by growing vegetable produce for the Lighthouse homes, and provided an opportunity for their own Lighthouse young people to explore new and positive experiences in the garden. These outcomes are in balance with the Lighthouse philosophy.

The project had many positive outcomes – the extensive land behind the Pines Lighthouse was put to great use with an abundant garden providing a visual and practical feast. The volunteer students learned about youth homelessness, about themselves, and ways they could contribute to the community. Those who participated and those who visited the garden during 2003 were enthused by what the project had achieved. Lighthouse hopes that in the future, those who become involved will be equally captivated.

The pilot project culminated in a Lighthouse Youth Forum. Parents, Lighthouse volunteers and staff, teachers and project supporters were witness to the volunteer students' presentation of a diversity of positive personal experiences resulting from their involvement in the project.

The impact on Lighthouse Foundation has been extremely positive and allowed our organisation to learn new skills, attract new supporters and develop our capacity for self-sufficiency. Some of the volunteer students have remained with us and begun new projects that will involve working with our young people, and we look forward to some great outcomes in 2004. Our Lighthouse Youth For Youth team is grateful to have received funding to allow these wonderful outcomes to be realised.



Student volunteers at work in the Lighthouse Friendship Garden.

Mirabel Foundation

Mirabel Foundation is an organisation truly dedicated to assisting children at risk. Mirabel's core focus is to break the cycle of disadvantage by assisting children who have been abandoned due to parental illicit drug use. The Felton Bequest granted funding to Mirabel Foundation for the Youth Support Program. The program addressed the social and emotional needs of the children by involving them in educational and recreational activities and working closely with carers.

The Mirabel Foundation was established in Victoria in 1998 to assist children orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use. These children are now in the care of extended family (kinship carers), who are, more often than not, elderly grandparents. Current legislation does not recognise blood relatives as foster parents so kinship carers receive very little financial or emotional support. However, if relatives relinquish the care of these children they would be placed in an overburdened foster care system and siblings would be separated, losing all sense of family and belonging.

Recent Government statistics show that children without a sense of community or family are 30 per cent more likely to suffer mental illness and other related disorders. They are more likely to use drugs themselves or attempt suicide later in life.

Mirabel works at restoring a child's sense of self and belonging to break the negative impact of trauma and bereavement they may have experienced as a result of their parents' drug abuse.

Support and opportunities are given to assist these children to reach their full potential as young adults. Mirabel's most modest intent is to offer every child the childhood they deserve, their most ambitious to break the cycle of addiction.

In the beginning of 2001 when Mirabel was a new charity, we were encouraged by the Manager of ANZ Charitable Services to apply for a grant from the Felton Bequests. The previous twelve months had seen a dramatic increase in referrals and Mirabel desperately required extra staff and funding to meet the growing demand.

Attracting financial support for a new charity can be problematic, but the initial meeting between The Felton Bequests' Committee and the Mirabel Foundation proved to be an encouraging and significant milestone in Mirabel's short history. The Chairman, Sir Gustav Nossal, and the Committee Members had utter belief and confidence in the importance of our work and in May 2001 they approved a two-year grant for The Mirabel Youth Support Program, focused on children aged 7-16 years.

Mirabel was finally able to deliver a service which could be adequately staffed and evaluated. Subsequent applications for funding to other philanthropic trusts were met with interest due to the The Felton Bequests' Committee's involvement with Mirabel.

Most importantly though, the Mirabel children were benefiting from the Youth Support Program. Their kinship carers were being provided with relevant information to assist them and the children were experiencing a sense of belonging, and optimism for their future restored.

A range of programs were implemented to address the children's emotional and social issues and also to involve the children in recreational and educational activities. Mirabel continued its advocacy role by lobbying Governments for changes to legislation – not only to help ease the financial burden to these families but also to gain recognition of the emotional problems they faced. Sir Gustav Nossal wrote to the State Government on more than one occasion, validating Mirabel's work and highlighting the need for Government to look at these pressing social issues.

Not for profit organisations rarely enjoy financial security and avenues of funding need to be constantly sought. However, to look at the cause of the problem provides a clearer understanding of the long term solutions. The foresight, diversity and wisdom of Trusts such as the Felton Bequest make an enormous, invaluable contribution to the future of our society.

Support from the Felton Bequest has allowed Mirabel to not only give a voice to these children but also to look at ways to prevent them falling into the justice, health or unemployment system later in life. The Youth Support Program has brought together many children with shared experiences. The older Mirabel children are now mentoring the younger ones. The Alfred Felton Bequests' Committee provided Mirabel with vital resources to invest in our next generation.

Over the past few years Mirabel has grown into a multi faceted service. Our research and model is currently being documented and we have been acknowledged as the first organisation in the world to focus on the needs of this group of children. The growth and changes we have witnessed in the Mirabel children is testament to the fact that by working together we can make a positive, measurable difference to those most vulnerable in our community. To see children completing school, and having dreams for their future whilst making some sense of their past is proof that early intervention can make all the difference. For their kinship carers, to still be coping with the exhausting demands made upon them and not be forced to relinquish the children into State care is undoubtedly providing these children with their best chance of experiencing a sense of family and belonging.

Due to the involvement of the Felton Bequests' Committee it has been possible for Mirabel to have a positive impact on the lives of these children and their carers while bringing Mirabel's belief – 'that every child deserves a childhood' – one step closer to a reality.



Mirabel's Youth Support Program.



VACRO

Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders

Rehabilitation of prisoners and support for their families is an imperative part of reintroducing offenders into society. The Felton Bequest has supported many necessary programs run by VACRO, including the establishment of Alfred Felton House close to Pentridge Prison. VACRO provides a wide range of support and educative services to prisoners, their spouses, and their children. The Felton Bequest supports VACRO's principles of early intervention and non-judgmental support.

Established in 1872 as the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, VACRO has developed into a multi-faceted welfare organisation, providing a wide range of support and educative services to offenders and their families. These services include:

- Parenting programs for prisoners
- Support groups for the parents of prisoners
- Intensive outreach support to newly released prisoners
- Support and education programs for families of sex offenders
- A prison helpline and information service for people needing to negotiate the criminal justice system
- An employment program for prisoners seeking work on their release.

One of the ongoing problems faced by VACRO over the years has been the difficulty in securing funding for the cause of offenders and their families. Whilst VACRO in no way condones the offending behaviours of its clients, we recognise the importance of rehabilitating offenders and supporting their reintegration into the community.

Well resourced prison rehabilitation programs and post-release support services are essential if these people are to successfully avoid the pitfalls of recidivism and become productive and law-abiding members of the community. VACRO also recognises the families of offenders as secondary, and largely invisible, victims of crime, who are frequently ostracised by the community and treated as guilty by association.

VACRO is therefore particularly grateful to those philanthropic bodies who have the vision to see past the stigma associated with crime to the underlying humanitarian need. The Felton Bequest is one such organisation, having supported VACRO's work over many years.

In 1985 the Felton Bequest provided funding for new premises for VACRO, in Gaffney Street Coburg, close to Pentridge Prison, where ex-prisoners could visit and receive assistance and where prisoners' families were also encouraged to attend. The premises were named Alfred Felton House in honour of this contribution.



Construction of Alfred Felton House.

Alfred Felton House played a significant role in the history of VACRO. It was from this era that the needs of families of prisoners began to be identified and documented. VACRO responded to this by employing social workers to work specifically with the families. Many years later, the Felton Bequest is still supporting VACRO by funding family-related programs within the Victorian correctional system. VACRO regards the continuation of these programs as vital, not only for the welfare of the families, but also in the ongoing effort to reduce recidivism. There is a significant body of local and international research that indicates that strong family ties are one of the key protective factors against reoffending.

Equally as important as programs that support the maintenance of ties between prisoners and their families are programs that intervene proactively in the lives of the children of prisoners. One such program which the Felton Bequest has supported is the Good Beginnings Program which operates at Dhurringile Prison, providing parenting education and support with child-related issues for prisoner fathers. Research has demonstrated that the children of offenders are more likely to become offenders themselves than other children. Many prisoners want better outcomes for their children than this. However, they frequently have experienced abuse or neglect in their own childhood's and lack any role model for sound parenting.

The Good Beginnings Program aims to equip these men with the skills they need to foster positive relationships with their children, with the ultimate aim of breaking the disheartening intergenerational cycle of offending.

The results so far have been encouraging and poignant. Many of the imprisoned fathers have indicated that these programs are the first opportunity they have had to learn what the mainstream community would consider to be basic skills relating to child-care. As part of this innovative fathering program model, the children are allowed to visit their fathers without the primary caregiver. Within a facilitated and supported environment, they share a father-child visit which incorporates creative play, simple cookery, reading and other interactions that are rarely experienced by the children prior to their fathers' imprisonment.

Another important program which the Felton Bequest has supported provides mentoring to women prisoners. The program aims to match female prisoners who are due for release with mentors from the community. The mentors offer emotional and practical support for the offenders on release, as well as providing pro-social role modelling. The mentoring scheme was originally founded as a response to research indicating a very high death rate amongst female offenders following release. However, the original program was entirely unfunded and the scheme would have been unable to continue if not for the generous support of the Felton Bequest, which has helped to fund a full-time coordinator for the program for a period of three years.

The support of the Felton Bequest has been vital in enabling VACRO to provide programs with important benefits not only for our clients – offenders and their families – but for the community as a whole. This support has been deeply appreciated, and VACRO applauds the Felton Bequests' Committee for its vision in supporting an unglamorous, but vitally important, cause.

Wintringham

Wintringham is a visionary organisation, established by a group of humanitarians who recognised the need to cater care facilities specifically to the needs of aged homeless people. The Felton Bequest granted seed funding to Wintringham to develop and implement programs for the aged and homeless. These programs have expanded significantly since the initial grant from the Felton Bequest and are an example of best practice in the sector.

Wintringham is a not-for-profit welfare company working primarily with elderly men and women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

During Wintringham's establishment in 1989, frail elderly people were living and dying in homeless night shelters, unable to access government funded mainstream aged care services.

After a number of unsuccessful attempts to place homeless people in traditional services, Wintringham resolved to establish a new organisation that would develop aged care services for elderly, homeless men and women. The then Federal Minister for Aged Care (1988-1993) Peter Staples, gave initial support to the concept, as did the Brotherhood of St Laurence and charity organisation Hanover.

The first hurdle was finding money to support a Project Worker – the Felton Bequests' Committee kindly met half of this cost with an initial grant of \$15,000.

Some 15 years later, the company has grown beyond a sole employee to a charity organisation that employs 160 people. Wintringham currently provides an extensive range of housing, aged care facilities, community-based home care solutions and extensive outreach support services to over 650 people every night.

The initial grant from the Felton Bequest planted the seed that funded our growth. Using that initial grant, Wintringham was

able to seek philanthropic and government support to progress the concept of creating specialised care and support for homeless men and women.

Wintringham was fortunate to receive two additional grants from the Felton Bequest to assist its ongoing work with elderly homeless people.

In 1999, we approached the ANZ Trustees and the Felton Bequests' Committee for funding to support a pilot Recreation Program. The funding allowed Wintringham to employ a professionally qualified Diversional Therapist to design a program in consultation with 60 residents on three different Wintringham housing sites. The funding also allowed Wintringham to purchase a wheelchair-accessible bus for use during the program and the resources to evaluate the program with the help of Victoria University.

The Felton Bequest contributed \$54,000 to the Recreation Program. The evaluation demonstrated that the program was a significant success with resident satisfaction scales and general health and wellbeing indicators, all pointing to positive benefits.

A paper describing the Recreation Program was presented to the Parks and Leisure Australia Conference in Perth (26-29 October 2003) and the evaluation has been presented to the Victorian Office of Housing to assist in seeking permanent funding for the program. This has not yet been successful.

In 2003, the Felton Bequests' Committee granted Wintringham a further \$60,000 towards meeting the costs of their most recent development, the Ron Conn Nursing Home.

The 60 bed nursing home is currently under construction in Avondale Heights and will be the first of its kind in Australia and will enable Wintringham to provide much higher levels of care to that currently available in Wintringham's hostels.

The nature of the work of Wintringham is such that it does not fit neatly within any of the funding program areas, but often overlaps departmental responsibilities including homelessness, housing and aged care. As departmental program areas are often reluctant to commit funds to projects which would not automatically meet their guidelines, many of our proposed solutions to problems need to be trialled as pilots and funded by independent grants.

Wintringham gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Felton Bequest in helping to provide lasting and dignified solutions to aged homelessness.

The Felton Bequest

Granting Policy for the Second Century

The Felton Bequest was established in the Will of Alfred Felton in 1904. The Will directs that the income be divided equally between:

- the purchase of works of art for the purpose of donation to the National Gallery of Victoria; and
- charitable purposes in Victoria, with favourable consideration being given to:
 - ‘charities for children, for example children’s hospitals and orphanages’;
 - ‘charities for women such as women’s hospitals’;
 - ‘institutions or societies such as general hospital societies for the relief of the educated poor and other charitable institutions of a general character’.

The Bequests’ Committee was appointed in Alfred Felton’s Will and is responsible for grant making. Hence, the Committee directs the Trustee (ANZ Executors & Trustee Company Limited) as to the distribution of funds. The Committee comprises one representative of the trustee company, one representative of the National Gallery of Victoria, and three individuals.

Vision

The Felton Bequest provides charitable grants to benefit the vulnerable and disadvantaged in Victoria. In accordance with the wishes in the Will, these grants provide particular benefit to women and children.

Grants made by the Bequest provide charitable organisations with opportunities to explore how they can make a better contribution to their area of work and to society in general.

The Felton Bequests’ Committee seeks out organisations with visionary leadership, which conduct projects that can have a catalytic effect, and projects that significantly improve practice and influence policy beyond the boundaries of the funded work. The Committee seeks to encourage organisations that contribute to solutions to complex contemporary problems.

In order to achieve its goals, the Felton Bequests’ Committee works in partnership with not-for-profit organisations, governments, business and other charitable foundations. The development and preservation of these close relationships is considered crucial to effective work.

Charitable giving

As a means of enhancing the impact of grant making, the Committee has concentrated on funding flagship projects which respond to a needy group in society and an organisation committed to making improvements in outcomes for them. Flagship projects are aimed at

exploring new solutions to existing problems and hence more broadly, to contributing to social change and reform.

Flagship and other projects funded by the Bequest may be in the form of:

- a pilot that can supply evidence to government and other funders that there is merit – both in monetary and social terms – in a proven approach that has been trialled; or
- a new venture that could in the future tap into an available funding source but needs seed funding to gain momentum; or
- an undertaking that has the potential to become self-funding, but needs establishment funds in order to achieve critical mass.

While flagship projects are a focused approach, the Committee strives for a balance with other projects that respond to immediate special need.

Sourcing projects

The Committee is open to applications for funding requests. The benefits of advertising for applications are:

- the Committee remains accessible to organisations that are responding to needs they have identified in the community;
- there is a formal and equitable channel through which new approaches can be brought to the attention of the Committee;
- the Committee can gain awareness about a range of different projects being conducted in the community;
- there is an opportunity to identify organisations working in spheres of interest; and
- there is an opportunity to assess projects against a broader context of need in the community.

The Committee remains available to approaches through its secretariat from applicants who believe they are conducting work that could bear the Felton stamp, and wish to involve the Bequest at the development stage of their proposal. Partnerships of this nature often come to fruition after a relationship with the organisation has already been developed through a smaller scale funded project.

Evaluation of charitable giving

The Felton Bequests’ Committee periodically reflects on the results of its grant making strategy by allocating significant time in its calendar to:

- conduct conversations with prominent community members, charitable organisations, grant seekers;

- review and analyse reports on project outcomes; and
- analyse other feedback from grant recipients.

In evaluating its results, the Felton Bequests’ Committee considers the following:

- ability to leverage the grant to achieve outcomes beyond the direct funding;
- ability to generate momentum around a particular issue or cause;
- knowledge creation and acquisition;
- impact on the gap between existing knowledge and service delivery; and
- leadership and achievement of best practice in the charitable sector.

The Committee is always mindful of the small picture as well as the big picture, a balance between achievements in both arenas will factor into any evaluation.

Challenges for the second century

As the Bequest commences making gifts in its second century, some challenges remain and some new ones emerge:

- **Benefiting women and children**
To re-visit and re-examine the wishes of Alfred Felton with respect to benefiting women and children, with a particular focus on child welfare.
- **Balancing the needs of big and small**
Increased focus on the discretionary charitable half of the Bequest may result in the desire to tackle ‘big picture’ issues. It is important to preserve a balance between the issues that are at the forefront of social conscience and those that are often forgotten, sidelined, or too small to warrant significant attention.
- **The role of the charitable foundation**
There is a new dialogue surrounding what activities and purposes constitute charity. This creates a challenge as the Felton Bequest considers its engagement with, and contribution to, the evolving definitions of charity and philanthropy. The charitable work of the Bequest, in the context of a changing landscape of funding partnerships and relationships will need to be considered and addressed in order that charitable grants continue to have true leverage and longevity.

As a participant in the ever-changing charitable landscape, The Felton Bequest recognises its role in defining and shaping the identity and character of philanthropy, and will from time to time add its voice to particular community issues. The Felton Bequest’s willingness to embrace this role and to strive for best practice can only see the Bequest’s contribution grow in its second Century of operation.

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