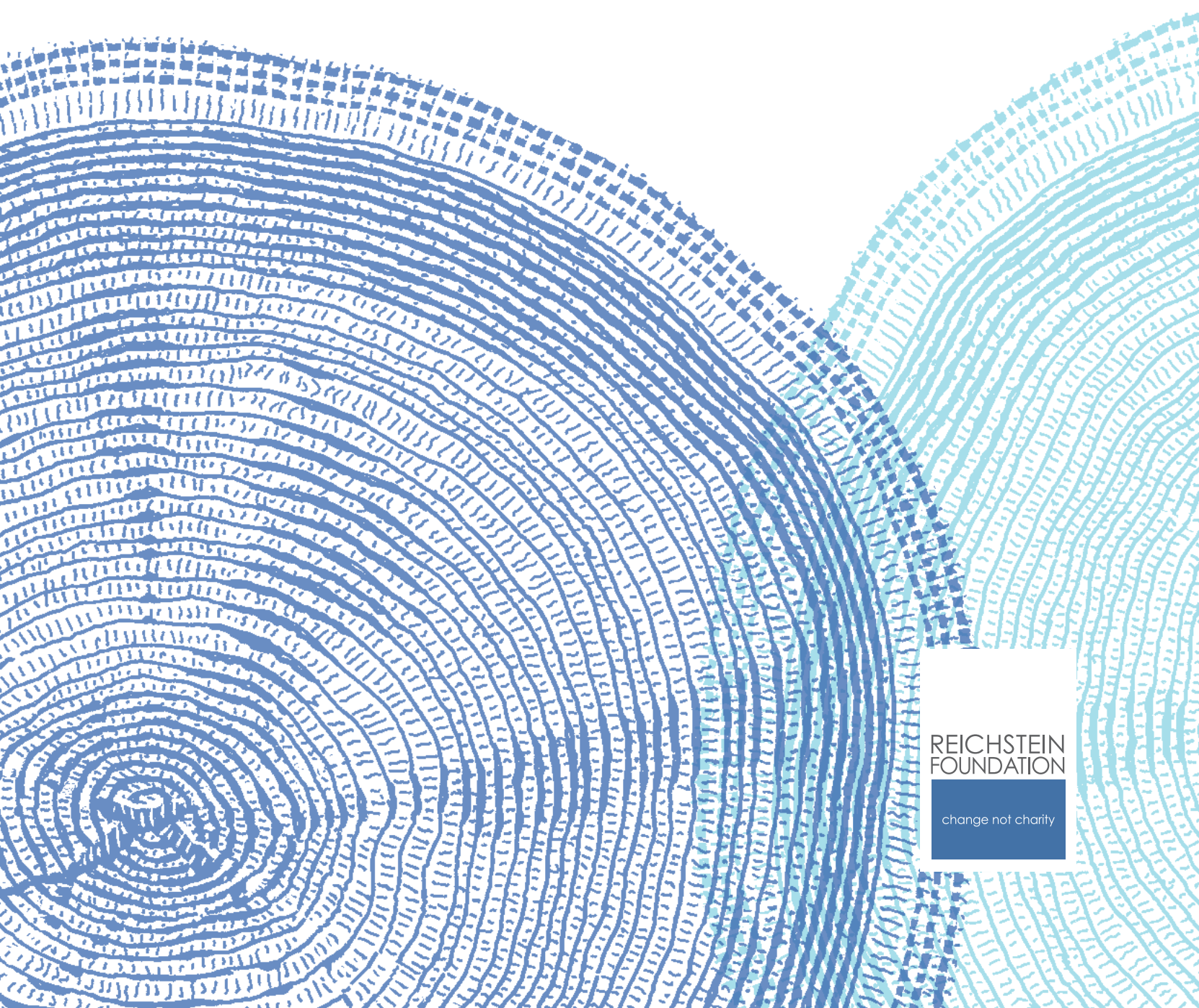


# Championing social change together

## Report 2017 & 2018



REICHSTEIN  
FOUNDATION

change not charity

# Reichstein Foundation

The Reichstein Foundation was established by Lance Reichstein in 1970. Lance was an engineer, industrialist, entrepreneur, civic leader and quiet philanthropist. Upon his death in 1979, the Foundation inherited a significant proportion of his wealth.

Jill Reichstein, Lance's daughter, is Chair of the Foundation and, with many partners and supporters, has reshaped the Foundation. From a traditional supporter of established charities, the Foundation is now actively involved in nurturing positive social change and community and changemaker development.

The Foundation is also working to catalyse more effective public and private giving in Australia both by example and by sparking and supporting networks of donors. These include the Australian Women Donors Network, the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, the Law and Justice Funders Network and the sector peak body Philanthropy Australia. The Foundation has been part of collaborative efforts to safeguard the right of civil society organisations to advocate in the public interest.

The Reichstein Foundation respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land where we conduct our business, in particular those peoples of the Kulin Nation where IEL and the Foundation have largely operated.

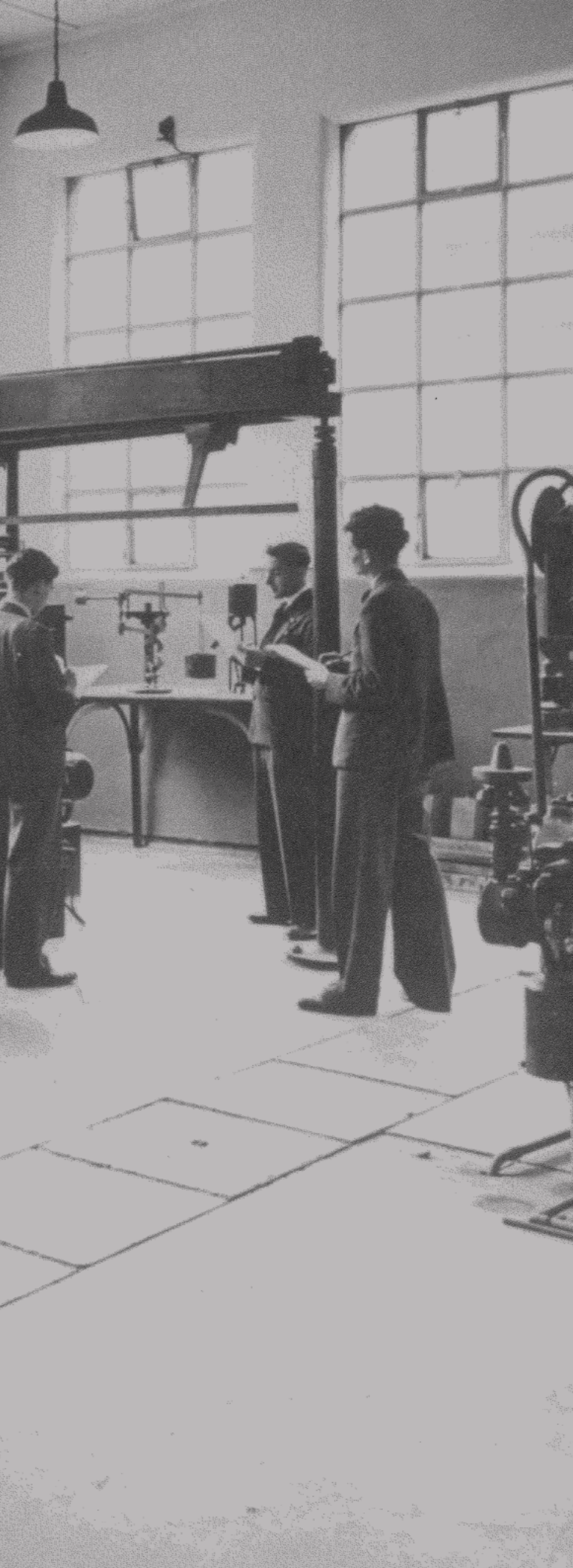
To date, the Foundation has made available more than \$17M in grants to more than 1600 projects.

**Our vision** is a more equitable society that celebrates diversity and mutual respect for all peoples, seeks the elimination of discrimination and oppression and strives for environmental sustainability

**Our mission** is to stimulate and invest in policy change and inspirational organisations and people to achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth and power and a healthy and sustainable environment

**Our lens** is the lived experience of people facing economic or social injustice, discrimination or the transition to environmental sustainability.

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples please be aware that this report contains images and names of people who have passed away.



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← Engineering Department testing laboratory, Gordon Institute of Technology (now The Gordon), Geelong. Lance Reichstein was head of mechanics and engineering at this Institute from 1924-1935. Photo: Reichstein Foundation archives.

# Message from Jill Reichstein: Championing social change together

Philanthropy in Australia is increasingly important in promoting social and economic fairness and advancing the cause of greater environmental sustainability. Just as well, because growing inequality and the climate crisis are urgent issues that the country can no longer consign to the 'too hard basket'.

As we look back over 2017 and 2018 and survey the next few years, we see growing potential for Australian philanthropy to support significant social change. Some recent examples of philanthropic leadership include:

- energy and resourcing for the marriage equality campaign in 2017 - the philanthropic sector was critical in enabling a massive community outreach and engagement effort.
- environmental funders, through the leadership of Rob Purves, being instrumental in working with grassroots activists to turn around land clearing policy and practice in Queensland. This has produced multiple benefits for biodiversity, soils, water and local communities.
- unity of the sector in the face of recent attempts to heavily constrain issue-based advocacy on the environment and other key areas. Our collective voice was a factor in the Australian Government not proceeding with a series of dangerous proposals.



↑ Jill Reichstein, Chair. Photo: Ben Weinstein. Reproduced with kind permission of the Australian Communities Foundation.

Social change is about shifting the dynamics of power that exclude or marginalise people affected by injustice or inequality. Philanthropy can assist those people to have a voice, to move from having the crumbs that fall from the table to having a seat at the table.

The Reichstein Foundation has modest resources and capacity; we are simply catalysts seeking to influence policy, communities and funders towards greater social and environmental justice.

We place a strong emphasis on innovation and seed funding; on taking calculated risks and encouraging others to collaborate with us to achieve enduring change. And we know that strategy and diligence are at the heart of driving change. John Spierings explains the types of social change work we support in these words: 'shifting the dominant narrative with powerful stories; providing people and communities with tools and resources to have their voices heard and to prototype the change being sought; moving from abstract principles to workable, practical projects and initiatives that embody the way forward.'

There are many examples in this report including early stage funding for Farmers for Climate Action, which is empowering farmers to have their say on climate policy; support for Totally Renewable Yackandandah, which is transforming energy supply and retailing in north east Victoria; and partnering with the Sydney Peace Foundation to bring leaders of Black Lives Matter to Australia to open up new possibilities about how we talk about racism and justice in this country.

### **“Fairness cannot advance if decency is lacking in the conduct of debate and consideration of policy”**

We acknowledge that while philanthropic funding can spark an idea or plant a seed, long-term, untied funding is needed to make progress on tough, deeply entrenched social problems. Hence our continued support for gambling industry reform; our call for greater police accountability and a fair complaints process in Victoria; wage justice advocacy for grossly under-paid workers in Australian Disability Enterprises; and solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples seeking justice and an end to race discrimination and over-incarceration.

Central to all this work is the need for a high-functioning democracy. Positive outcomes cannot be achieved if there isn't trust in institutions to deliver for the common good rather than special interests. Fairness cannot advance if decency is lacking in the conduct of debate and consideration of policy.

Philanthropy can have a positive influence here, stepping up to support high quality journalism to support informed political participation and arguing for changes to party political donations to reduce the influence of 'big money', for example. The establishment of the Public Interest Journalism Initiative and the \$100 million gift to investigative journalism announced by Judith Neilson are evidence of what can be done.

## MESSAGE FROM JILL REICHSTEIN

Advancing a healthy democracy and strengthening the voice of civil society will be an increasing area of focus for the Reichstein Foundation over the next few years. Inspired by advice to funders from the founders of Black Lives Matter, we will also refine our grantmaking processes to fund at ‘the speed of trust’ while undertaking the due diligence and strategic analysis to support not-for-profits in a timely way and to provide other funders with confidence about the investments we make.

Collaboration is central to what we do, working closely with our grant partners to advance their goals and outcomes, and with other funders to ensure impact can be achieved at scale.

In 2018, we partnered with the Australian Communities Foundation to facilitate the Community of Giving hub in East Melbourne, an amazing common space for funders and philanthropic infrastructure entities to enhance learning together and to build a stronger, strategically focused civil society.

The future of the Reichstein Foundation depends on the quality of the partnerships and relationships we build into the future.

To do that, the Foundation has dedicated Trustees and we thank them for their strong inputs and leadership. We especially thank Fiona Smith AM, who stepped down as a Trustee in 2017 after more than a decade of wise counsel. Fiona continues to be part of the DNA of the Reichstein Foundation. We welcomed Andrew Jackomos PSM as a Trustee in 2018 and valued his insights until work commitments compelled him to retire. Malinda Wink joined as a Trustee in 2017 and is making a significant contribution.

The Foundation's asset portfolio is managed by Boag Financial and we thank Sandy Boag, Mark Cashinella and the team for doing this diligently with the support of our Investment Committee.

**“Social change is about shifting the dynamics of power that exclude or marginalise people affected by injustice or inequality”**

Special thanks to Helga Birgden and Brad Davis for their expert advice and input on the Committee. And on many matters, we benefit from the support of Peter Seidel and Arnold Bloch Leibler law firm.

This report identifies the extensive network of partners and collaborators that are crucial to what we do. Over the past few years we have especially valued strong relationships with Philanthropy Australia, the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, Australian Women Donors Network, The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund and the Australian Communities Foundation. We all share an interest in advancing systemic social change.

It is a pleasure to welcome Rachael Hambleton to the Foundation as Communications Manager, and to the Law and Justice Funders Network as Project Manager. Rachael joins a terrific staff team of Program and Operations Manager, Clare Land, Finance Manager, Karen Price, and Executive Officer, John Spierings.

The year 2020 will be an important moment of reflection as the Foundation marks fifty years of fighting for fairness, social justice and environmental sustainability. Please stay tuned as we move into the next phase of the Reichstein Foundation.



**Jill Reichstein OAM**  
Chair

→ Patrisse Cullors (Co-Founder, Black Lives Matter) and Rodney Diverlus (Co-founder Black Lives Matter Toronto), Koorie Heritage Trust, 4 November 2017. Photo: James Henry.



REICHSTEIN  
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change not charity

BLACK LIVES MATTER  
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# Saying YES to love Philanthropy stood by LGBTIQ communities during the YES campaign

## The sector's efforts in support of marriage equality in 2017 was a turning point for many funders.

Same-sex marriage was banned in Australia in 2004 when the Howard Government changed the Marriage Act 1961 to define marriage as 'between a man and a woman' only. As many comparable countries such as the US, the UK and New Zealand allowed or legislated for same-sex marriage, pressure grew on the Australian Government to legislate. In 2015 the Coalition party room agreed on a national plebiscite, although this was not necessary for the law to be changed. Labor, the Greens and other opposition parties blocked the proposed plebiscite in the Senate in November 2016 and August 2017, which led the Turnbull government to announce a \$122 million voluntary postal survey.

Reichstein worked intensively with funders including The Myer Foundation, Snow Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation, Perpetual, EQT Trustees and Ian Darling to enable the Equality Campaign to deliver an intense media and communications effort over the course of the survey. This effort involved telling the unique stories of thousands of everyday Australian families, mounting a national advertising campaign and conducting a neighbourhood by neighbourhood field campaign to dispel myths and deal with negative attacks on gay and lesbian families. In 2017 Reichstein coordinated a statement of support for marriage equality from the philanthropic sector and the invitation was taken up by close to fifty philanthropies.

The survey in September-November 2017 asked respondents: "Should the law be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry?" and offered two tick boxes, "yes" or "no". With a participation rate of 79.5%, the voluntary survey found that 61.6% of respondents had ticked "yes". Several hours after the results were released, Liberal Senator Dean Smith introduced the Marriage Amendment (Definition and Religious Freedoms) Bill 2017 into the Senate. The bill passed the Senate and House of Representatives without amendment and received royal assent in December 2017.

### Together we:

- co-funded the Equality Campaign with numerous other funders and donors.
- facilitated a statement of support for marriage equality from close to 50 philanthropies.

→ Image reproduced with kind permission from the Equality Campaign.





# Saving the Great Barrier Reef

## Are the Australian and Queensland governments doing enough to prevent climate change?

**Time is running out, says the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres: if we do not change course by 2020, we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for humanity and all the natural systems that sustain us.**

Among the major world assets at risk is the Great Barrier Reef, which is highly vulnerable to chemical runoff from land agriculture, ocean warming, acidification and other consequences of increasing greenhouse gas emissions. The Australian and Queensland Governments have been put on notice by the UN's World Heritage Committee that they must respond to the state of the Reef to avoid it being put on the Committee's Endangered List with all the reputational damage and tourism industry fallout this would entail. The Governments are responsible for a Management Plan to bring the Reef back to health.

In 2018 the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) worked assiduously to ensure that the Committee and its advisers updated the 2007 UNESCO World Heritage climate change policy. This aimed to ensure that climate change and its consequences would be incorporated as an obligatory element of the Management Plan for the Reef. Through direct lobbying of the Committee, AMCS was successful in requiring that an updated policy be completed and brought back for adoption at the 2019 annual meeting of the Committee.

As a result, the performance of our Governments in relation to climate change and the Reef will be subject to close international scrutiny for the first time. A smart, strategic, highly engaged effort by AMCS will lead to greater scrutiny of the Management Plan, its scope and implementation and the broader practical climate action steps being put in place by the two Governments.

### Together we:

- organised (through the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network) at least twelve funders to support AMCS' initiative.
- streamlined the reporting process for AMCS through collaboration amongst funders.

→ Coral reef fish. Photo: Steve Rothfield.  
Reproduced with kind permission.



# Moral panic over ‘African Gangs’

## Support for those speaking up against the misuse of race in the ‘law and order’ debate

During 2017 and 2018 some mainstream Victorian media outlets amplified race-baiting, sparking panic about the idea of a crime wave by ‘African gangs.’ This had the immediate effect of increasing racist verbal abuse and assaults against individuals, according to reports by Victorian community legal centres in multicultural areas.

Over several weeks and months Victoria Police provided a voice of reason, consistently moderating the idea of a ‘gang problem’ by reiterating more accurate and specific data regarding the real extent of offending.

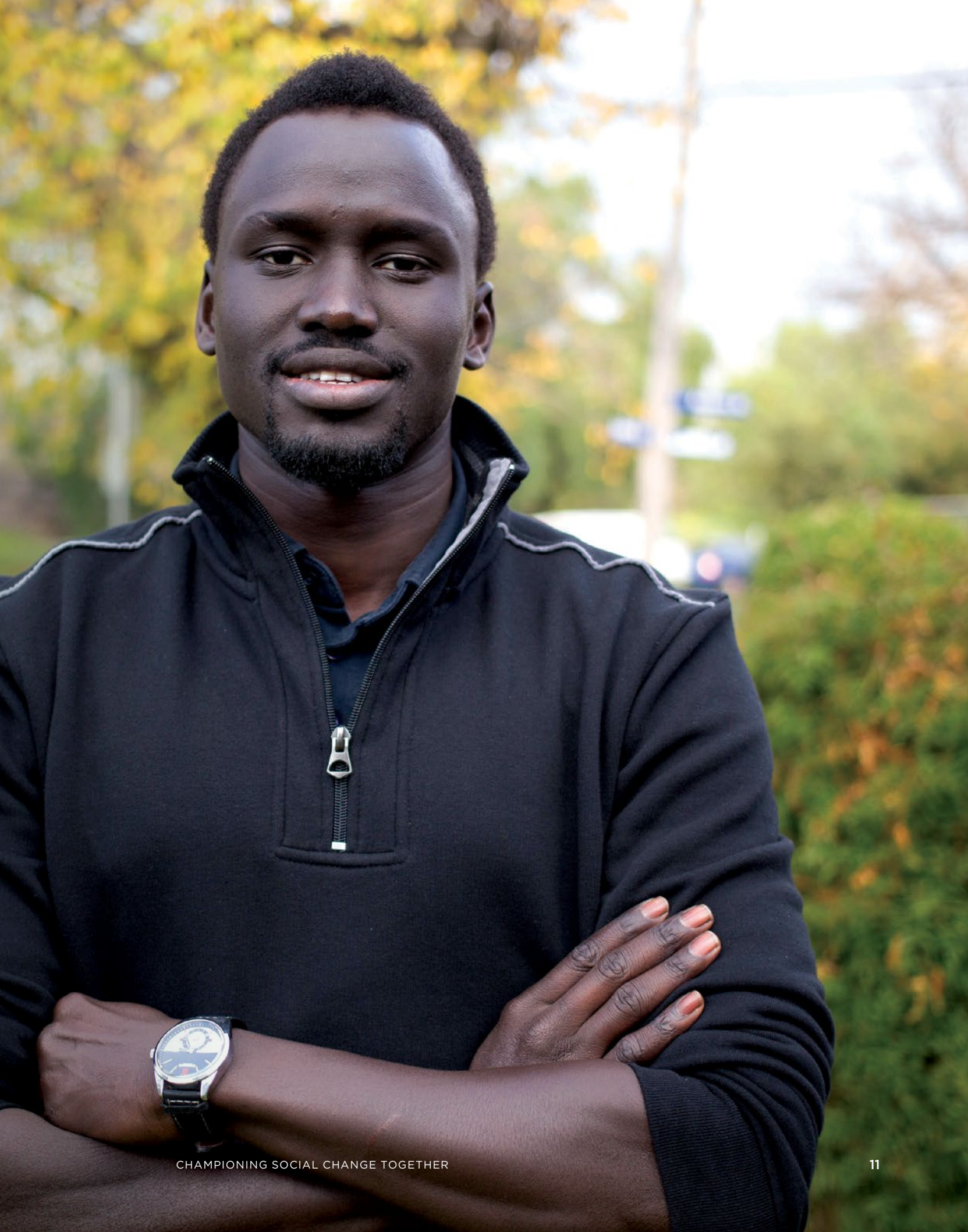
Alongside this positive approach by Victoria Police, however, media reports arose of several incidents in which police appeared to use excessive and questionable force against a range of vulnerable people in the Victorian community.

In mid-2018 a Victorian bipartisan parliamentary committee recommended the establishment of an independent police complaints investigative system in Victoria – a long-term goal of the Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre (FKCLC). Greater police accountability and transparency now looks possible in Victoria.

### Together we:

- funded FKCLC in concert with generous donors and philanthropies to establish a Peer Advocacy program to support victims of systemic racial discrimination by Victoria Police.
- enabled the Sydney Peace Foundation to bring key members of the Black Lives Matter movement to Melbourne; and resourced an in-depth workshop by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and African Australian community advocates with Black Lives Matter members, in partnership with the Federation of Community Legal Centres (FCLC).
- supported a prominent South Sudanese Australian lawyer and writer in her extensive media advocacy against racism at the height of the ‘law and order’ debate in late 2018, in partnership with the FCLC.

→ Deng Maleek Deng, Peer Advocacy Coordinator,  
Flemington & Kensington Community Legal Centre.



# Defending the right to advocate

## Seeking to influence public policy is crucial to our democracy

**During 2017 & 2018 philanthropic interest in advocacy as a force for powerful charitable outcomes reached greater recognition than ever before. Philanthropy Australia's 2017 Philanthropy Meets Parliament summit and its 2018 report, The Power of Advocacy, galvanised this interest. Growing numbers of trusts and foundations now see that seeking to influence public policy is crucial to achieving enduring change for people experiencing poverty and discrimination.**

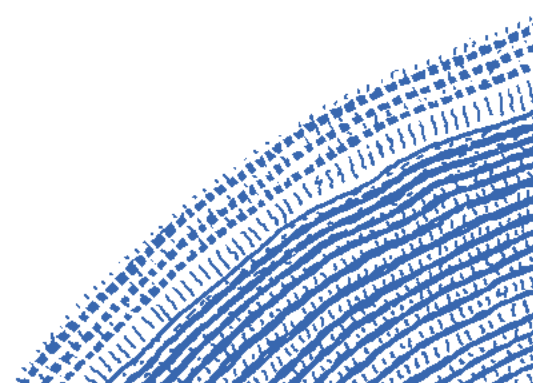
And yet in the same period, the Australian Parliament considered a suite of legislation that threatened to radically constrain public interest advocacy by charities, philanthropies, researchers and other not-for-profit organisations.

The Foundation joined with the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN) and the broader philanthropic sector, led by Philanthropy Australia, to voice our concerns about the legislation through submissions to the Commonwealth Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. We were also part of a funding collaboration which enabled a coalition of not-for-profits, Hands Off Our Charities (HOOC), to run a campaign for the suite of bills to be withdrawn for extensive consultation and re-drafting. HOOC reached out across the Parliament, eventually securing significant amendments which were passed with bipartisan support – a powerful result.

### Together we:

- funded Philanthropy Australia's paper, The Power of Advocacy, with The Myer Foundation. It was launched at a Roundtable of philanthropies in Melbourne on 9 February 2018.
- collaborated with seven other philanthropies to fund the Hands off our Charities campaign, in partnership with the Australian Conservation Foundation.
- facilitated submissions to the Senate Committee from six other trusts and foundations that were acknowledged by Senators in debate.
- published the op-ed "Rules around foreign donations threaten to cripple our charities" (The Age, 28/2/2018), co-authored by Jill Reichstein and Myer Foundation president Martyn Myer.

→ Esther Abram, Grant Mathews, Jill Reichstein and others, AEGN 10-year anniversary celebration, 24 October 2018, Melbourne.





# Get together and get inspired!

## Five ways to learn and engage

The challenges facing our nation and environment are complex and profound. And the appetite for collaboration amongst donors across the philanthropic spectrum is making a difference.

Within Australian philanthropy there are numerous ways to learn and engage.

# 1.

### Joining a granting network

The Australian Women Donors Network - Champions gender-wise philanthropy and inspires greater giving to women and girls. A helpful toolkit enables funders to put gender-wise philanthropy at the forefront of their practice.

Philanthropy Australia - The sector peak, and a platform for numerous funders' networks across a range of issues. Growing capacity to support giving circles.

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The Law and Justice Funders Network - **Featured in this report.**

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The Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network - **Featured in this report.**

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# 2.

### Establishing your own fund

There are many places to go for assistance to establish your own fund, one being the Australian Communities Foundation (ACF). ACF combines donor services, funds management and the provision of due diligence on projects and organisations.





3.

**Funding at the speed of trust**

Achieving social change can be time-critical. Moving funds rapidly can help get a cause over the line or ensure that a good project does not go under. And small amounts of money can often make a huge difference. As a Black Lives Matter founder said, there are times when changemakers need donors to ‘fund at the speed of trust’.

If you are interested to know more, please visit our website to sign up to our rapid response list.

4.

**Giving with your head and your heart**

Jill Reichstein and the Foundation’s staff team have a wealth of knowledge and experience about philanthropy that can nourish and sustain social change. Jill is an outstanding leader in the sector with over forty years of accumulated wisdom, networks and strategic smarts that can be tapped by emerging and experienced donors alike.

5.

**Leaving a proud legacy**

From time to time we have been delighted and humbled to receive contributions to our corpus, including bequests. This enables us to build our giving capacity over the longer term.

GET TOGETHER AND GET INSPIRED!

# Protect, Conserve, Sustain

## The AEGN is building a powerful community of donors for the environment

At a time when protecting the environment and preventing dangerous climate change is clearly urgent, the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN) is needed more than ever.

In the words of some of its founders and drivers, the AEGN exists to:

“Inform and encourage environmental grantmakers in Australia”  
(Steve Mathews, Mullum Trust)

“Help its members become more effective environmental grantmakers through information sharing, collaboration and networking”  
(Simon Herd, Myer Foundation)

“Address the enormous environmental issues we face by working together rather than alone - and being smart with our philanthropy”  
(Amanda Martin, AEGN CEO)

The AEGN is a strong community of committed funders: large and small, individuals and foundations - every contribution is valued and needed. There are 134 members in Queensland, NSW, SA, NT, WA and Victoria. They support practical projects for bio-diversity, strengthening soils and protecting rivers and seas. They also resource the advocacy that is so essential to ensure Australia takes strong and sustained action on climate change and its consequences.

For more information and to get involved visit [www.aegn.org.au](http://www.aegn.org.au)

### Reichstein Foundation and AEGN:

- the Reichstein Foundation was a founding member along with other committed environmental funders including the Dara Foundation, Bindy Gross, The Ian Potter Foundation, the Mullum Trust, Michael Batchelor, Rob Purves, RE Ross Trust and The Myer Foundation.
- Jill Reichstein has served on the board since March 2008 and been Chair since October 2010.
- we share the Community of Giving space in East Melbourne with AEGN and a range of other members of the philanthropic sector.
- in December 2018, the AEGN celebrated 10 years since it was officially founded.



↑ AEGN Central Australia Field Trip with Tjakara Rangers near Uluru, 2018.

# Truth, Justice, Harmony

## An emerging network for funders in social justice and the law

The Law and Justice Funders Network (LJFN) is a collective of philanthropic trusts, foundations and private donors with a shared interest in informed strategic funding in criminal justice, incarceration and human rights issues. There are 43 individual members from 24 organisations (trusts, foundations, law firms, corporates and individual donors).

LJFN is engaging with some of the most difficult and protracted social policy issues, including Indigenous over-incarceration, youth criminal justice policy, and women and incarceration.

LJFN's quarterly meetings are a space to explore issues around funding in law and justice; and, for interested members, to explore possibilities for funding coordination and collaboration to achieve greater impact at scale.

LJFN's highlights during 2017 and 2018 included:

- a collaborative response to the Victorian Government announcement of a new youth detention facility. A number of LJFN members pursued a focus on Youth Justice resulting in significant co-funding for an important project by Jesuit Social Services.
- a special screening of *After The Apology*, a film focused on the continuing removal of Aboriginal children from their families and the campaign by Grandmothers Against Removals to stop this. This was screened by LJFN for the philanthropic sector in Melbourne in collaboration with the Out of Home Care Funders Network, Annamila Foundation, Reichstein Foundation and Philanthropy Australia.

For more information and to get involved visit [www.reichstein.org.au/ljfn/](http://www.reichstein.org.au/ljfn/)

### Reichstein Foundation and LJFN:

- LJFN's first meeting was in 2013, co-convened by the Reichstein Foundation and the Victoria Law Foundation.
- LJFN welcomed its first paid coordinator, Rachael Hambleton, in 2018. The position is funded jointly by several LJFN members including the Reichstein Foundation. We also house the position.



↑ Supreme Court, Melbourne. Reichstein Foundation image collection.



# Tackling some great challenges of our time: 2017 & 2018

Our funding during 2017 and 2018 was focused on tackling the four great challenges that we see facing us: economic inequality; impacts flowing from climate change; cultural and racial divisions; and distrust in democracy and its capacity to resolve these complex issues. We supported changemakers who are tackling these issues with a mixture of rapid response funding (see pages 6-13) and long-term core support.

We highlight six selected projects in the pages that follow, and provide a full list of grants on pages 32-40.

**“Philanthropy needs to be bolder and look towards creating systemic change, which is done in partnership with other foundations and individuals.”**

Jill Reichstein

→ Photo: John Rice. Reproduced with kind permission.  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jariceiii/6878532941/in/album-72157627457140418/>





↑ Former gambler Anna Bardsley addresses the AGR 'Women against pokies' rally on Parliament house steps, Melbourne, 31 October 2017.

# Challenging the power of Australia's gambling industry

## We need sensible, evidence-based policies to prevent gambling harm

**Australia loses more money to gambling per person than any other country. Victorians lost a record \$2.726 billion on the pokies in 2018, a \$103 million or 3.9% increase over losses incurred during 2017. The retail giant ALH/Woolworths now accounts for almost \$700 million of poker machine losses in Victoria.**

The addictive nature of gambling creates financial stress that exacerbates mental health problems, family breakdown and family violence. Recent research found that gambling causes twice as much harm to the health of Australians as diabetes, bipolar disorder and cannabis dependence combined.

Fortunately, there are a wide variety of sensible, evidence-based policies that could significantly reduce gambling harm. They range from reducing the maximum bet to \$1, reducing operating hours and the number of machines. For state governments to implement these policies, strong public support is needed.

The Alliance for Gambling Reform (AGR) is pivotal in challenging the power and reach of the gambling industry in Australia:

- Coles has recently exited the pokies industry.
- the future of the industry in Tasmania and South Australia was a major issue at recent elections in those States.
- iconic AFL teams like the Western Bulldogs, Melbourne and Collingwood recently announced they will get out of the pokies business after pressure built by the Alliance in the media and among fans. And ALH/Woolworths and AFL clubs have agreed to cap their pokies licenses in Victoria – this is a major advance in reducing their dependence on gambling revenues over time.

- impact investors are growing new hospitality industry business models and patrons are challenging the dominance and reliance of the industry on gambling.

AGR so far has attracted over 12,000 new supporters and 18 local governments around Australia, many of which are successfully opposing applications for new poker machine pubs and clubs.

It is using online engagement, traditional media, education and advocacy events, strategic litigation, and direct lobbying of key business and political decision-makers to better regulate an industry with too much power and influence. Importantly, AGR will empower people who have lived through the damage done by gambling to become powerful advocates for change, often directly with decision makers.

### Together we:

- supported AGR alongside the Collier Charitable Fund, the Australian Communities Foundation, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Jack Brockhoff Foundation and private donors.
- supported a public education campaign by Anglicare in Tasmania through co-ordinated philanthropic efforts.

# A fair go for all!

## We could tackle poverty for thousands of Australians by raising the rate of Newstart

**Australians who rely on Newstart, the unemployment payment, as their core income are at high risk of living in poverty. Newstart has not been increased in real terms in 24 years. The payment is now so low that people receiving it cannot afford the basics like rent, keeping the lights on or putting food on the table.**

While Newstart is designed to be a temporary source of support while looking for work, three quarters of all Newstart recipients are on the payment for more than 12 months, reflecting the difficult nature of labour markets in key regions around Australia.

ACOSS, the national peak social services body, is leading a campaign to raise the rate of Newstart and other allowances by at least \$75 per week, and index it to wage movements. The current base rate for a single person is a little over \$250 per week.

The ACOSS campaign has won broad political support and is backed by influential economists such as Chris Richardson, who argue that raising the rate is the single most affordable, efficient and important response to Australia's poverty rate. An estimated 2.9 million people - 13.3 percent of all Australians - are living below the internationally accepted poverty line.

In 2019, the ACOSS campaign will:

- tell the story of people living on Newstart, exposing 'dole bludging' myths and highlighting the fact that 60% of people now support an increase in spending on social security.
- mobilise high profile and diverse supporters across many walks of life and key regional and urban electorates.
- build a grassroots and online campaign with more than 2000 community organisations and local governments and more than 18,000 individual supporters participating.
- engage with political parties and crossbenchers to ensure policy change.

### Together we:

- collaborated in philanthropic funding led by The Wyatt Trust in South Australia, with key contributions from the Sidney Myer Fund, the Snow Foundation, Fay Fuller Foundation, RE Ross Trust and others.

→ ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie at a rally outside the ALP Conference urging political leaders to commit to an increase to Newstart. ACOSS provided bursaries for Newstart recipients to attend events at the ALP Conference.







↑ Yarriambiack Silo Art trail (at Rupanyup), which is generating a lot of visitation and helping to liven up the town.

## Reviving Rupanyup

### This Wimmera township is on the brink of major economic renewal

When its supermarket started to decline and looked like closing altogether, residents in the north west Victorian town of Rupanyup resolved to act. Without a viable supermarket, local retail spending would leach out of the town, ultimately threatening its economic viability. Located in the Wimmera dry cropping region, Rupanyup is a place where the loss of each person and each dollar is counted like each drop of rain.

But now Rupanyup is on the brink of achieving its economic renewal plan through a new Market Centre on its main street. A partnership between Bendigo Bank, Yarriambiack Shire, Enterprise Rupanyup (E-Rup) and the local community raised more than \$500,000 to develop the Market Centre, and in October 2018 E-Rup finally secured a State Government grant of \$500,000. The then Minister for Regional Development, Jaala Pulford, said “Instead of standing back and watching their town lose important services, Rupanyup has come to the Government with an innovative solution – and we’re right behind it”.

The Rupanyup Market Centre will include a community supermarket, farmers’ market and plaza occupied by other businesses and public facilities. The Market Centre’s community-driven finance model cements Rupanyup’s growing reputation as an innovator: in 1998, with neighbouring town Minyip and the Bendigo Bank, it successfully piloted Australia’s first Community Bank when the traditional banks left both towns. Since 2000 local agriculture is increasingly focused on the growing consumer demand for legumes, producing and processing soy beans and lentils for the Australian market and export around the world.

While the Market Centre seemed just a dream at times, the character, talent and vision of the community, the obvious need for renewal, the solidity and experience of the key consultant Wayne Street, and the track record of the town and its leaders in embracing innovation meant that ultimately this vision was going to be achieved.



#### Together we:

- supported Rupanyup’s journey, with the Reichstein Foundation first providing project development funding to the Rupanyup-Minyip Finance Group in 2014 and the Sunshine Foundation contributing vital support in the second year. We have sustained our support with a grant in each subsequent year.

↑ Left to Right: Gayle Emmett (E-Rup Director), Calinda Hurley (E-Rup Director), Claire Morgan (E-Rup Director), Malcolm Uhe (E-Rup Chairman), Ray Kingston (E-Rup Director), Minister Pulford, Sarah Pathirana (E-Rup Director), Tom Hamilton (Yarriambiack Shire Councillor), Corinne Heintz (Yarriambiack Shire Councillor), Graeme Massey (Mayor of Yarriambiack).

## Don't talk about it – just do it

### Yackandandah's push towards 100% renewable electricity can be a model for communities across Australia

**Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) is a community initiative committed to reducing overall energy consumption, carbon emissions and dramatically increasing the town's use of renewable electricity. TRY aims to power Yackandandah with 100 per cent renewable electricity by the year 2022. One third of the town currently has roof-top solar. But getting to 100 percent involves hard yards.**

Power generated by households as well as larger facilities within the town will be locally bought and sold. TRY is establishing a community energy retailer (Indigo Power) to achieve this.

Power needs to be stored for periods of higher demand. TRY is supporting households to install batteries and is working on a major pumped hydroelectricity energy storage scheme for Yackandandah.

Power needs to be shared between households. TRY is creating mini-grids by organizing solar households into neighbourhoods to buy and sell electricity, and by partnering with major distribution company, AusNet Services.

Leaving any household behind is not an option. TRY is currently developing a proposal to support low-income households and renters to participate.

With community participation and key partners AusNet Services and local government, TRY is building all the elements necessary to create an integrated generation, distribution and retailing network. TRY organisers have learnt so much

along the way and the final 25 per cent of their target is harder to achieve than the first 50 per cent. But TRY's work is recognized by community energy groups as a model for other regional communities in Victoria and across Australia: it is complex, technically detailed work that will pave the way for others with a similar vision, strategic smarts and deep commitment to sustainability.

#### TRY's journey:

- in 2016 the Reichstein Foundation provided TRY's first philanthropic grant to support the intensive community organizing required to build the knowledge, support and cooperation critical in establishing the town's first mini-grid. TRY has since attracted investment from the Victorian State government to build 3 mini-grids to date.
- in 2017 the Reichstein Foundation also assisted TRY to develop a business plan for an energy retailer; also supported by the New Energy Jobs Fund.
- local fundraising as well as support from community foundations, environmental grantmakers and environmental NGOs has been crucial to realizing this multi-faceted initiative.

→ 90kW solar-panel system at Yackandandah Health Service. Image kindly supplied by TRY.





## Save our bushland

# Hard-won safeguards against tree-clearing were reversed in 2016, sparking a new crisis of de-forestation

**Australia has an alarming rate of de-forestation that poses an immediate bio-diversity threat to many species including the iconic koala. De-forestation also holds long-term consequences for our soils, water and local communities. Tree-clearing contributes significantly to rising global carbon emissions given the important role that trees play in storing dangerous greenhouse gases.**

Successful efforts by local communities and environmentalists in the 1990s and 2000s to reform land clearing laws were reversed by Queensland and New South Wales (NSW) Governments in recent years. Lax legislation in Queensland and NSW is a significant factor in de-forestation, allowing tree-clearing on private property with little restraint or consideration of conservation values.

Rob Purves has led a major philanthropic response to support advocates to bring back these hard-won safeguards. The Purves Environmental Fund matched contributions from more than twenty environmental funders including the Reichstein Foundation to raise a total of \$2 million in a major campaign to stop excessive tree-clearing.

A significant coalition of environmental NGOs has conducted vital monitoring and tracking of the extent of tree-clearing, as well as community outreach and engagement in regional communities to influence attitudes to tree-clearing. The coalition is guided by an advisory council of representatives from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Australia, The Wilderness Society and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

As a result of these activities and a raft of complementary work, Queensland legislation was changed in 2018 to significantly tighten land clearing policy and laws. The Queensland Government has also announced a \$500 million Land Restoration Fund.

Similar efforts are under way in NSW, with the release of the Towards Zero Deforestation in NSW report in November 2018 and similar outreach programs occurring in the lead up to the 2019 NSW State Election.

An integrated national policy regarding deforestation and land restoration is in development. That policy will spell out the positive steps that can be taken to grow forests and protect woodlands as part of a comprehensive approach to land conservation, bio-diversity preservation and carbon emission reduction.

### Together we:

- contributed to the funding collaboration led by Purves Environmental Fund, along with 26 other AEGN members. The collaboration went on to win Philanthropy Australia's 2018 Environmental Philanthropy Award.

## Our media in crisis

# Philanthropy steps up to highlight the crisis in our media and develop long-term solutions to sustain a healthy democracy

**Our media is in crisis: the flight of advertising dollars to digital platforms has devastated the business model underpinning public interest journalism. An estimated 3,200 Australian public journalism jobs have been lost over the past six years, equating to one quarter of the workforce.**

This means that scrutiny of the courts, business, state parliaments and other key sectors is eroding. Specialist coverage of local and regional issues, environment, education and industrial relations is declining. Confidence in the veracity of the media is falling and the civility and seriousness of public debate is at a tipping point.

During 2017 and 2018, against the backdrop of major media ownership changes, cuts to the national public broadcaster and more journalists being made redundant, concerned funders convened discussions with senior media leaders and public intellectuals to explore how progressive philanthropy could best respond in this context. This led to a scoping paper, then the establishment of the Public Interest Journalism Initiative (PIJI).

PIJI now has a solid plan to promote new business models, regulatory change to encourage greater community investment in media platforms and increased government support for high quality journalism and reporting.

Over the next three to five years, PIJI will stimulate a deep and informed public debate about the future of the media; build public support for regulatory reforms and public investment and become a strategic centre for innovation and best practice.

### Together we:

- joined with key philanthropic supporters, including the Susan McKinnon Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation and subs funds, Hecht Trust and the Ruffin Falkiner Foundation to support PIJI. The Reichstein Foundation also provided the initial staff and backbone support for the Initiative.





# Grants 2017 & 2018



↑ Clockwise from left: Andreana Reale (Urban Seed), Julie Reilly (Australian Women Donors Network - AWDN), Emma Dawson (Per Capita), Elaine Czulkowski (Australians for Equality), Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil (Farmers for Climate Action), Shahleena Musk (Human Rights Law Centre), Lou Malcolm (tilde: Melbourne Trans and Gender Diverse Film Festival), Deng Maleek Deng (Flemington & Kensington CLC), Kelvin Thomson (Alliance for Gambling Reform), Nick Moraitis (Australian Progress), Gabrielle Fakhri (Australian Muslim Women Centre for Human Rights), Susan Rennie (North East Primary Care Partnership), Clare Land (Reichstein Foundation), Amida Cumming (AWDN). Tools for Social Change Workshop for Reichstein Foundation partners, Melbourne, 2017.

## A Special Thank You

To over fifty different foundations and individual donors who worked with us in 2017 and 2018 to provide funding and support to dozens of projects listed in this report.

As Peter Goldmark, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, has remarked, ‘The most effective philanthropy comes when a group of people grant together. We need to be practising “give and learn” as a lifelong commitment. We need to create safe spaces so leaders will take risks.’

That’s what championing social change together is about!

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network**

Sustaining Supporter Donation

\$9,500

Supporting greater effectiveness in charitable giving to environmental and conservation groups

**Australian Farmers for Climate Action**

Community organiser project: Farmers protecting precious groundwater; and Regular Donor Program

\$15,000

Mobilising farmers and rural communities in QLD opposed to mines that threaten groundwater tables; building public support for renewables; and assisting FCA to develop organisational infrastructure to establish and manage a regular donor program

**Australian Solar Council**

Powering North Queensland Summit

\$1,865

Supporting renewable energy in North Queensland through communications costs to promote the Powering North Queensland Summit

**Climate Council of Australia**

Communications hub

\$30,000

Encouraging public support for strong policy action on climate change by increasing the quality of media coverage of the state of the climate

**Documentary Australia Foundation**

Our Power: The Hazelwood Mine Fire

\$5,000

Contributing to the post-production costs for a documentary about difficulties faced by communities in the La Trobe Valley due to 1990s electricity privatisation and the 2014 Hazelwood mine fire

**Environmental Defenders Office QLD**

Protect the May 2017 Acland Mine Expansion Court win

\$2,000

Preventing the risk of damage to groundwater and prime agricultural land posed by a proposal to expand the New Hope Coal mine near Acland, NSW, through an environmental legal case

**Environmental Justice Victoria**

Capacity Building

\$2,000

Building the organising capacity of communities in the La Trobe Valley by supporting Wendy Farmer to participate in the 2018 Change Agency Community Organising Fellowship

**Purves Environmental Fund**

Stop Tree Clearing

\$30,000

A contribution to the collective philanthropic effort to stop excessive tree-clearing in Australia following the 2016 repeal of laws in QLD and NSW governing land use

**Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network**

Building organisational capacity of Seed and our staff team

\$20,000

Building the skills and leadership of Seed's volunteer network through leadership training, skills-based workshops, strengthening relationships across Seed & AYCC

**Totally Renewable Yackandandah**

\$20,000

Supporting the creation of a mini-grid to connect houses with solar-power in Yackandandah and surrounding communities

REDUCING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

**Alliance for Gambling Reform**

Reducing the harm caused by poker machines through better regulation

\$50,000

Advocating for better regulation of the gambling industry to reduce its negative impacts on people, families and communities

**Association of Employees with Disabilities**

\$50,000

Supporting the campaign for justice for people with disability working in the Australian Disability Enterprise sector

**Disability Resource Centre**

DRC Accessible Public Transport Project

\$10,000

Boosting DRC's advocacy for accessible public transport in Victoria through funding for two consultation forums in regional Victoria to inform Government policy channels and DRC's policy advocacy

**Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership**

Paul Briggs salary contribution

\$5,000

Supporting Yorta Yorta leader Paul Briggs to continue his significant contribution to State and national community empowerment initiatives

**Job Watch**

Access to justice support

\$225

A contribution to out of pocket expenses enabling access to justice for an economically disadvantaged client

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE LAW

**Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd incorporating Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre**

Talking Justice 2017

\$1,200

Increasing public understanding and engagement around justice issues and the place of the law and justice in a free society in regional Victoria

**Australians for Equality Ltd**

Marriage Survey YES campaign

\$31,500

Supporting community outreach and public awareness to help underpin the Marriage Equality Survey YES campaign

**Australians for Equality Ltd**

Maintaining Campaign Capability Through 2017

\$25,000

Supporting organisational infrastructure and staff to underpin the YES campaign for marriage equality

**Federation of Community Legal Centres**

Black Lives Matter Organising Exchange

\$1,050

Supporting an in-depth workshop led by grass-roots Aboriginal activists and organisers of colour with three North American Black Lives Matter delegates

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE LAW

**Flemington and Kensington  
Community Legal Centre**

Jill Reichstein Award for Social Change 2017

\$12,000

Supporting outstanding changemaker Anthony Kelly to participate in the Australian Progress US Study Trip

**Islamic Council of Victoria**

Anti-terror laws: What do I do?

-\$6,200

Grant returned (project not able to be implemented as originally proposed)

**RISE: Refugees Survivors and Ex-detainees**

Participation in Australian Progress Digital Fundraising Fellowship

\$1,200

Building the digital fundraising skills of RISE through access to training

**Sydney Peace Foundation University of Sydney**

Black Lives Matter

\$8,000

Bringing three North American Black Lives Matter delegates to Melbourne to attend workshops with local grass-roots activists and organisers of colour in partnership with the Sydney Peace Foundation

**The Channel**

Founding member donation

\$1,000

Supporting the growth of philanthropic funding for LGBTQIA+ support in Australia through founding membership of a new giving circle

**tilde Melbourne Trans & Gender Diverse  
Film Festival Inc**

Filmmaking workshop 2

\$5,000

Supporting the capacity of trans and gender diverse people and their allies to represent their stories through a filmmaking workshop

SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRACY

**Centre for Australian Progress**

Core Support

\$30,000

Core support for CAP's work to build the advocacy capacity of progressive Australian civil society organisations

**Philanthropy Australia**

The Power of Funding Advocacy

\$10,000

Highlighting the importance of philanthropic funding of advocacy in partnership with The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network**

Grant and membership

\$18,954.55

Supporting greater effectiveness in charitable giving to environmental and conservation groups

**Australian Marine Conservation Society**

Saving the Great Barrier Reef 2018

\$9,000

Campaign groundwork to ensure UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee have a strong focus on climate change.

**Climate Council of Australia**

Climate Media Centre 2018-19

\$30,000

Encourage public support for strong policy action on climate change by increasing the quality of media coverage of the state of the climate

**Environment Victoria**

Protecting Westernport and stopping polluting fossil fuel projects

\$5,000

Preventing environmental damage from a proposed gas terminal and pipeline in Westernport Bay through advocacy for a strong environmental impact assessment process

**Environmental Justice Australia**

REST Super case

\$5,000

Protecting the future retirement incomes of superannuation fund members by ensuring that superannuation funds are managing climate change risks appropriately and transparently

**Purves Environmental Fund**

Stop Tree Clearing

\$30,000

Second contribution to the collective philanthropic effort to stop excessive tree-clearing in Australia following the 2016 repeal of laws in QLD and NSW governing land use

REDUCING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

**Alliance for Gambling Reform**

Poker Machine Harm Reduction

\$50,000

Advocating for better regulation of the gambling industry to reduce its negative impacts on people, families and communities

**Anglicare Tasmania**

Poker Machine Reform Advocacy

\$25,000

Supporting Anglicare's efforts to remove poker machines from hotels and clubs in Tasmania

**Association of Employees with Disabilities**

Wage Justice

\$30,000

Supporting the campaign for justice for people with disability working in the Australian Disability Enterprise sector

**Australia 21**

A Fair Go for All Australians Report Distribution

\$3,000

Supporting the findings of a roundtable on inequality in Australia to be published and distributed to policy makers and members of parliament

**Australian Council On Social Services**

Raise The Rate

\$10,000

Supporting a campaign to raise the rate of Newstart and other allowances by at least \$75 per week, and index it to wage movements, as the most affordable, efficient and important response to Australia's poverty rate

REDUCING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

**Enterprise Rupyup**

Renewing Rupyup Retailing: Stage 3 - Detailed planning, design and negotiations

\$12,000

Supporting a new model for community retailing in Rupyup with implications for many other small rural towns

**Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership 2017-19 Yr 2**

Paul Briggs salary contribution

\$5,000

Supporting Yorta Yorta leader Paul Briggs to continue his significant contribution to State and national community empowerment initiatives

**Sydney Peace Foundation University of Sydney**

Professor Joseph Stiglitz

\$8,000

Support to bring Professor Joseph Stiglitz to Melbourne to meet with philanthropists and local changemakers in partnership with the Sydney Peace Foundation

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE LAW

**Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd incorporating Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre**

Talking Justice 2018

\$1,200

Increasing public understanding and engagement around justice issues and the place of the law and justice in a free society in regional Victoria

**Brotherhood of St Laurence**

Journey to Give Stand and Respect

\$10,000

Commissioning a report from Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at the University of Technology Sydney to inform a collective of philanthropic funders about how best to advance Indigenous rights and empowerment

**Djirra Inc**

Change the Record Strategic Plan review

\$1,200

Supporting Change the Record to conduct strategy and campaign planning through support for their strategic plan review process

**Federation of Community Legal Centres**

Supporting African Young People

\$20,000

Bringing a more informed perspective to the public conversation around 'race' and 'law and order' through support for young people, organisers and spokespeople from African backgrounds to participate in workshops, events and media engagements on their own terms

**Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre**

Without Suspicion 2.0

\$50,000

Supporting young people and police to reduce discrimination and to advocate for greater police accountability and transparency

**Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd.**

Indigenous Rights Unit 2015-18 Year 3

\$30,000

Supporting the Indigenous Rights Unit to respond to Aboriginal people's legal needs



2018

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE LAW

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**The Channel Subfund**

Yearly donation

\$1,000

Supporting the growth of philanthropic funding for LGBTQIA+ support in Australia through membership of The Channel giving circle

**Jesuit Social Services**

Youth Justice Advocacy

\$30,000

Advocating to improve rehabilitation and reintegration options in Victoria's youth justice system; and to reduce recidivism

**Woor-Dungin**

Aboriginal On-Country Gathering

\$1,000

A 3-day gathering of all Woor-Dungin's Aboriginal partners, including a workshop with philanthropic representatives to promote effective and culturally respectful partnerships

SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRACY

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**Australian Conservation Foundation**

Hands off our charities

\$5,000

Coordination, administration and communications work for a campaign to stop laws proposed by the Commonwealth Government that would have a chilling effect on issue based advocacy by charities

**Centre for Australian Progress**

Sara El-Amine Visit: How Philanthropy can Support Advocacy, Capacity Building, and Organizing

\$3,296

A series of workshops and speeches to inspire donors about the potential of advocacy to be a force for progressive social change

**Centre for Australian Progress**

Core Support 2018-19

\$30,000

Core support for CAP's work to build the advocacy capacity of progressive Australian civil society organisations

**The Conversation**

The Civic Journalism Initiative: Developing a Strategic Blueprint

\$5,000

Developing a strategic plan for a campaign in support of the future of civic journalism in Australia

# Thankyou

Achol Kiir  
Adam Ferrier  
Alan Schwartz AM  
Amanda Martin  
Amanda McKenzie  
Amanuale Kidanu  
Anika Molesworth  
Anna Rose  
Anthony Esposito  
Aunty Di Kerr  
Aunty Eva Jo Edwards  
Australian Communities Foundation  
Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network  
Australian Women Donors Network  
Bec Wilson  
Belinda Duarte  
Ben Rodgers  
Boag Financial  
Brooke Horne  
Cathy Whelan  
David Ritter and the skipper and crew of the Rainbow Warrior  
Dawn Modkins  
Debbie Dadon  
Deng Maleek Deng  
Digital Storytellers – especially Pete Dowson  
Ellen Koshland  
Emily Myer  
Emma Dawson  
Eric Beecher  
Eric Sidoti  
Esther Abram  
Fiona Higgins  
Fiona Smith AM  
Genevieve Timmons  
Georgie Byron  
Gozer  
Grant Rule  
Hugh de Kretser  
Ian Roberts  
Jane Belfrage  
Jason Franklin  
Joseph Stiglitz  
Julie Kantor  
Julie Reilly

Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research  
Karrina Nolan  
Kerry Graham  
Kirsty Albion  
Kirsty Allen  
Koorie Heritage Trust, Krystian Seibert  
Larissa Behrendt  
Larry Kramer  
Lenore Taylor  
Leonard Vary  
Leslie Falkiner-Rose  
Lindon Coombes  
Maree Sidey  
Marianna Brungs  
Marion Webster  
Martyn Myer  
Meg Simons  
Nava Serra  
Nick Moraitis  
Patrisse Cullors  
Peter Aldenhoven  
Peter Mares  
Peter Seidel  
Philanthropy Australia  
Prof Peter Whiteford  
Quentin Dempster AM  
Rev Tim Costello AO  
Ricci Swart  
Ro Allen  
Rodney Diverlus  
Sajda Yakub  
Sam Mellett  
Sandra Jacobs  
Sara El-Amine  
Sarah Davies  
Sarah Wickham  
Shen Narayanasamy  
Sophie Oh  
Soreti Kadir  
Sue Ball  
Taj Mohamed  
Tanya Hosch  
Tom Snow  
Trudy Wyse  
Viola Design

## TRUSTEES

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**Andrew Jackomos**  
(April 2018-Sept 2018)

**Lucy Larkins**  
Deputy Chair (2001-)

**Tom Larkins**  
(2006-)

**Karen Mahlab AM**  
(2014-)

**Julian Pocock**  
(2016-)

**Jill Reichstein OAM**  
Chair (1973-)

**Fiona Smith AM**  
(2004-2017)

**Malinda Wink**  
(2017-)

**Peter Winneke**  
(2016-)

## INVESTMENT SUBCOMMITTEE DURING 2017 & 2018:

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Helga Birgden, Bradley Davis, Jill Reichstein and Peter Winneke

## STAFF

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**John Spierings,**  
Executive Officer  
(2013- )

**Clare Land,**  
Program & Operations  
Manager (2014- )

**Rachael Hambleton,**  
Communications  
Manager and Law & Justice Funders  
Network Project  
Manager (2018- )

## FINANCE MANAGER

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**Karen Price**  
(2010- )



## Our new home: A ‘powerhouse for social change’

In August 2018 the Reichstein Foundation moved into a sensational new office space shared with a range of inspiring philanthropic organisations, including the Australian Communities Foundation (ACF), the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, Ten20 Foundation, Opportunity Child, the Australian Women Donors Network, The Channel, Susan McKinnon Foundation, Invergowrie Foundation, Effective Philanthropy and the Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights Asia and Pacific.

The Community of Giving has forty permanent desks, three shared desks for use by visitors and volunteers, generous board and meeting rooms, and an event space that can accommodate fifty people seated and 120 people standing.

The excellent facilities are available to members, clients and NGO partners of the co-tenants.

In the words of Philanthropy Australia’s Nicole Richards, the Community of Giving is “an Australian first” and a “powerhouse for social change”. As she says, “an unmistakable spirit of collaboration pervades the air.”

The move was the culmination of more than 18 months of visioning, planning, searching and negotiating led by the Australian Communities Foundation and Reichstein. Huge thanks to Maree Sidey and all the ACF team for the significant work, dedication and creative talent crucial to realising our shared dream of creating a major hub for social change philanthropy.

↑ Maree Sidey (CEO, ACF), Jill Reichstein, David Murray (former Chair, ACF), Amanda Martin (CEO, AEGN), Hayden Ray-Smith (ACF Patron) and John Spierings at a preview of the Community of Giving space, June 2018, East Melbourne.

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