

# The Con Irwin Sub-Fund



A Sub-Fund of the  
Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust

## At a Glance

The Con Irwin Sub-Fund was established in 2008 by the Trustees of the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust (VWBT). The Sub-Fund reflects the desire of Hilary Irwin to honour her mother. In consultation with Trustees, the Sub-Fund will support innovative social justice projects that offer circuit-breaking solutions to long-term problems of:

- discrimination,
- violence against women and children, and
- inequality of educational opportunity.

Trustees intend that a large proportion of the annual interest on donations (minimum 80%) will be released as grants.

## Management of the Con Irwin Sub-Fund

### Grant Process

The Sub-Fund application process follows the timelines of the VWBT's General Grants Program. Applications can be made from mid-October to mid-January. Guidelines and forms are available from our website or by contacting the Trust's office.

Applicants require Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR) and Tax Concession Charity (TCC) endorsement by the Australian Taxation Office. Beneficiaries primarily need to be Victorian women. Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss ideas with the Grants Officer prior to making an application.

### Advisory Process

An Advisory Committee supports the work of the Con Irwin Sub-Fund. It considers applications, taking into account research and advice of the Grants Officer, before making recommendations to the Trustees.

The Committee includes a member of the Irwin family, Trust Executive Director or delegate, and one other person with expertise in the area of focus (either internal or external to the Trust).

### Accountability and Decision Making

Decisions on allocation of grants are made by the Board of Trustees, following recommendations from the Advisory Committee. They have the sole discretion on grant decisions.

I shall pass through this world but once. If therefore there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do, let me do it now. Let me not defer it, or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.

Etienne De Grellet, attributed  
French Quaker Cleric  
1795

## Donating to the Con Irwin Sub-Fund

The Con Irwin Sub-Fund welcomes donations. All contributions help build the financial pool for making grants and are fully tax-deductible.

I would like my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ made out to the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust, to be directed to the Con Irwin Sub-Fund.

You will need to complete this section and post to VWBT Level 1, 388 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000 or fax to 03 9642 0016.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations will be listed in the Annual Report. Please circle your preference.

1. Your gift is acknowledged in name
2. Your name is kept anonymous

### Payment details

Cheque	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visa	<input type="checkbox"/>	M/Card	<input type="checkbox"/>
Card no	<input type="text"/>				
Cardholder	<input type="text"/>		Exp Date	<input type="text"/>	
Signature	<input type="text"/>		Date	<input type="text"/>	

## Honouring a Special Person

Your donation can be made in honour of a woman who is special to you. If so, you will need to complete this section as well.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person you wish to honour: \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to this person: \_\_\_\_\_

You may wish to provide some brief details about her life, achievements and activities.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

These honouring donations will also be listed in the Annual Report. Please circle your preference.

1. Both the donor and the special person are acknowledged
2. Details are kept anonymous

## Starting a Sub-Fund

You can start a named Sub-Fund. In order to generate adequate interest for grant making, a minimum endowment of \$100,000 is required.

Donors can name the Sub-Fund and, in discussion with staff and Trustees, can identify the main purposes or objects to be served by the Sub-Fund. There are no establishment or management fees. It is important that you first contact the Executive Director to explore potential areas of interest.

All noble things we do and dare must be fruitful,  
sometime, somewhere.

Tilly Aston  
Entrance Foyer  
Vision Australia Foundation  
Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong, Victoria

(Tilly Aston was also featured in the Victorian Women's Trust 2001  
exhibition *Ordinary Women Extraordinary Lives*)

I feel immensely privileged to be able to remember  
my mother this way.

Hilary Irwin at the launch of the Con Irwin Sub-Fund  
9 September 2008

## Constance Irwin (nee Berry)

Constance Irwin (Con) was born in 1916 in Kent, Southern England. When she was nine, the lease on her family's farm was not renewed, potentially leaving them with no livelihood. They migrated to Australia and farmed at Merbein, near Mildura. Con's family were the only English people in the district, and she always felt different from other children, especially as everything about her family, their accents and clothing seemed to stand out.

Academically strong, Con was one of the first students from Merbein High to attend university. She thrived at the University of Melbourne, then carved out a successful career teaching English at several secondary schools. Con was passionate about teaching and after her marriage to Bill in 1944, taught at Lauriston Girls' School. (Married women were not permitted to work in the State system.)

By the mid 1950's she had two young children, Hilary and Stephen (dec). As was common for many women of the time, Con took on the largely invisible role of organising the household, and caring for her family, while supporting her husband's successful engineering career. Con took great pride in her husband's work, as well as her family responsibilities and was the foundation for everything her husband and children did, providing wisdom, planning ability, problem solving, empathy, loving care and fun for all the family.

Con also worked as a volunteer over many years. In particular she worked with newly arrived migrants in Melbourne, providing friendship and personal support, including helping people learn English and to deal with bureaucracy. She was a progressive thinker and took a liberal view of birth control. This led to part-time work as a receptionist with the Family Planning Clinic. As the first point of contact, she provided support and kindness to many women facing difficult decisions regarding contraception and pregnancy.

Con had a keen sense of social justice and was active in her opposition to the Vietnam War. She also had a strong appreciation of the importance of media independence and was involved in the development and operation of community radio station 3MBS, seeing it as an important and accessible cultural medium. Con died in 1993. Her life, work and personal qualities are honoured by this Sub-Fund.

*Victorian*

WOMEN'S @ TRUST

*making a difference*

**Victorian Women's Trust**

Level 1, 388 Bourke St Melbourne 3000

Phone: (03) 9642 0422 Fax: (03) 9642 0016

Email: [women@vwt.org.au](mailto:women@vwt.org.au) Website: [www.vwt.org.au](http://www.vwt.org.au)