

The Essie Burbridge Sub-Fund



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

At a Glance

The Essie Burbridge Sub-Fund was established in 2006 by the Trustees of the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust (VWBT). It provides funding to community organisations in support of leadership and achievement in cross-cultural understanding and strategies for combating racism.

The purposes are to:

- Promote values critical to a vibrant and non-racist society;
- Build bridges between European, Middle Eastern and Asian cultures; and
- Advance tolerance, compassion and understanding in the community.

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

Management of the Essie Burbridge 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 considers applications, taking into account research and advice of the Grants Officer, before making recommendations to the Trustees. The Committee includes Trust Executive Director or delegate, and two other people 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 in July. Trustees have the sole discretion on grant decisions.

The essence of multiculturalism is the recognition that there are many ways to live one's life. It is based on the understanding that liberal democracy is precious precisely because it maintains a core set of principles and institutions that allow differences to flourish. It took years to evolve, and is worth defending.

Arnold Zable,
The Sunday Age,
24 July 2005

Donating to the Essie Burbridge Sub-Fund

The Essie Burbridge 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 Essie Burbridge 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 Visa M/Card

Card no

Cardholder Exp Date

Signature Date

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.

It is only by the community taking action that the spread of prejudice, discrimination and harassment can be halted. Each and every one of us has an important role to play in promoting equality in our political, economic, social or cultural field.

Dr William Jonas AM

Acting Race Discrimination Commissioner

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Australia, 2004

Ma Burbridge had the warmest smile, love and tireless care for many overseas students in Victoria – the best ambassador Australia ever had.

Raj Kannan, Bachelor Civil Engineering

Victoria University 1988

Managing Director, Tusk Investments P/L

Honouring Essie Burbridge

Agnes 'Essie' Burbridge was born in 1908 in Donald in regional Victoria. She moved to Footscray in the 1930's and ran her own business, the Tucker Box Café. When she saw people starving during the Great Depression, she opened a soup kitchen at the same café.

Essie met her husband locally and brought up their two sons in Footscray. She became an integral part of the local community, working tirelessly for local school, youth and community groups. Through her many activities she not only raised funds, but helped make a significant difference to the lives of others, including overseas students studying in Melbourne's West.

Essie was called 'Ma Burbridge' by many students in the area, some of whom were sick, homeless or lonely overseas students struggling with a new language and culture. She opened her heart and home to non-European students when Australia was still in the shadow of the White Australia Policy and welcomed them with kindness, acceptance and generosity. By her words and deeds she made an enormous difference to their quality of life, helping them learn English, complete studies and realize their talent and potential.

The Victorian Women's Trust first learnt about Essie when she was nominated to be part of the *Ordinary Women Extraordinary Lives* exhibition, which marked the contribution of women to Victorian society since Federation. Essie was featured in the section 'Always Work to be Done' and attended the launch at the Melbourne Museum in 2001.

Essie was awarded an Order of Australia medal in 2001 in recognition of her service to the community. She was also made a life governor of the Western General Hospital in recognition of decades of fundraising.

Essie died in 2004. The legacy of her work to advance tolerance, compassion and understanding in the community continues through this Sub-Fund.

V i c t o r i a n

WOMEN'S  TRUST

m a k i n g a d i f f e r e n c e

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