



JULY 2018

WELCOME

Welcome to Issue 89 of the VWT newsletter! In this extra special community grants edition, hear all about our 25 new community grants, and get an insight into *Rosie in the Classroom*, our new (free) harm prevention resource kit for secondary educators. Plus, read about the launch of the Humanitas Sub-Fund, find out why Cathy McGowan acknowledged VWT in parliament, and hear all about our recent events. The list goes on. Enjoy!

NEW SUB-FUND LAUNCHED

On 19 April, we were joined by 80 guests at the Footscray Community Arts Centre for an evening celebration to launch the Humanitas Sub-Fund. Established by Prue Brown and her daughter Liz, this new Sub-Fund will serve women from African countries living in Victoria, including those who are refugees or asylum seekers, helping them to access educational, employment and other economic opportunities in Australia.

Throughout the night there was a buzz of excitement about the prospects of this fund and the positive impact it will have in the community. Guest speaker Lorraine Baloyi, co-founder of African Family

Services, explained, “the Humanitas Sub-Fund gives me hope to continue our work, as it validates what we’ve been doing. We can’t build with empty hands. We need financial resources such as this Sub-Fund to strengthen our work. There is no better time than now to establish this Sub-Fund. So, thank you on behalf of African Family Services.”

We were also joined by Victorian Multicultural Commissioner Dr. Mimmie Claudine Ngum Chi Watts who gave an address about the experiences of the African Australian community. “I am honoured to be part of something that supports our most marginalised women,” she said. “Think about how gender affects women. Then add colour. Then an accent. But the good news is, there’s people like you in this room who understand these things and come together to move this along.”

Excitingly, the Humanitas Sub-Fund will make its first grant this year. Applications are now open (closing 31 August).

Apply now:

vwt.org.au/applying-for-a-grant/

If you would like to know more about setting up a Sub-Fund with the Victorian Women’s Benevolent Trust, please contact Bryony Green, Grants and Development Manager; at bryony@vwt.org.au



Top Image: Prue Brown and Ajak Kwai. Right Images (top to bottom): Dr. Mimmie Claudine Ngum Chi Watts, Liz Brown, Mary Crooks AO, Prue Brown, Lorraine Baloyi (Photo credit: Breeana Dunbar Photography)



OUR 2018 COMMUNITY GRANTS

COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT IN WOMEN + GIRLS

Our Small Community Grants Program demonstrates the power of what we can achieve as a collective. This year we are funding a record number of grants, thanks to the support of our dedicated donors and funding partners.

With 25 grants (worth over \$225,600) we are supporting hundreds of women and girls across Victoria. Each grant will help provide economic stability for women and girls through a variety of approaches such as building their financial capability; creating new employment and education pathways; and helping individuals to find secure housing or address economic abuse.

We would like to extend a special thanks to all our donors and funding partners, in particular Grosvenor Foundation, Bokhara Foundation, Private Trust, Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust and EC White Charitable Trust.

The level of support we received this year reinforces that when we stand together, we are building an equal future.

2018-19 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Wellsprings for Women

Dial a Sista - \$10,000

Wellsprings for Women's *Dial a Sista* initiative will provide training, employment and support through a social enterprise in which women assist other women with paid services such as washing, sewing, cooking and cleaning. Working women, women recovering at home from illness or injury, and elderly women who are not eligible for other services, are amongst those who will benefit.

Northern Bay College/ Rosewall Community Centre

Supporting young/expecting parents to access childcare and education - \$7000

This initiative assists young mothers to re-engage with education and strengthen their community networks. Young mums can undertake online Certificate II/ III courses with program support across coursework and childcare/ social services available within the same location. A dedicated early

childhood educator will provide consistent and expert childcare and modelling for parents.

Lighthouse Foundation

Homeless Mothers and Babies Program - \$7000

Lighthouse Foundation's *Homeless Mothers and Babies Program* will support young mothers and their babies to come home from hospital to a richly supportive environment with live-in carers. Sharing a six bedroom home, they will have access to support services such as counsellors, maternal health and mothercraft nurses, and playgroup.

Camcare Incorporated

FLEW (Financial Literacy for Every Woman) - \$10,000

This four-week pilot program will take place in a range of community locations free of charge to women in the inner eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Program topics will include simple budgeting, bills, debt, saving, gambling and other important financial skills. The program will support women in the inner east to become self-sufficient, increase their confidence and build life skills.

Women's Health Goulburn North East (WHGNE) and North East Local and Employment Network (NELLEN)

There is Capacity (TIC) - \$10,000

WHGNE and NELLEN will deliver a scoping project to identify the educational, vocational and community supports available to women with disabilities as they transition into employment in the Wodonga region. Stage 1 of a longer-term project, *TIC* will evaluate the community connections available currently. A framework will be established connecting the women to a community mentor network, relevant agencies, and programs. This project will make a real difference to the lives of women with disabilities who live in this region.

Migrant Resource Centre North West (MRCNW)

Pink Warriors - \$10,000

The *Pink Warriors* project, designed and delivered in partnership with Bendigo Kangan Institute of TAFE, will support newly arrived young migrant women with their English language studies. *Pink Warriors* project will provide a safe space for young women to increase friendships, build confidence and develop resilience, helping each participant to learn how to navigate educational and career pathways. *Pink Warriors* leave the program as educated, strong and capable role models for their families and communities.

Justice Connect

Getting involved in community groups: supporting pathways to workforce participation for women in prison - \$9726

Justice Connect in partnership with Tarrengower prison will deliver this training and volunteer program. Women will be supported to get involved in prison committees and

be trained in areas of governance, committee participation, and volunteering. Each participant will have the chance to practise their new skills in a supported environment.

Monash University-Gender and Family Violence: New Frameworks in Prevention, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts

Identifying economic abuse amongst women with disability in Victoria: A toolkit for service providers and victim/survivors - \$10,000

The *toolkit for service providers and victims/survivors* will support women with disabilities to better understand, discuss and recognise economic abuse. The toolkit, which includes a series of questions using Auslan, Easy English and images, will ensure service providers in the disability and domestic and family violence sectors can identify abuse and respond quickly and help those experiencing abuse to recognise it.

Global Sisters

Design for Success - \$10,000

Global Sisters' *Design for Success* program enhances women's small business skills and increases their capacity to earn a steady income whilst being role models for others in their community. *Design for Success* will focus on each woman's online business, providing education, practical business support and coaching, business plan development, marketing, branding, as well as graphic and web design assistance. Each participant will be supported and nurtured by mentors from the broader Global Sisters' network.

SisterWorks

Economic Empowerment of Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker women : SisterWorks Label Food Products - \$5000

Sisterworks' *Label Food Products Project* welcomes women who are experiencing cultural, social, economic or domestic challenges and supports these women to use their existing cooking skills to create an income stream. Using their own homegrown recipes, their produce will be marketed under the Sisterworks' label, and each participant will be mentored to further their small business skills.

Women's Health West

Enhancing Economic Security - \$10,000

Women's Health West's *Enhancing Economic Security* is a mentoring and leadership program for young women, helping them to engage with their local community whilst enhancing their employment prospects. This program is designed to improve young women's financial capability, with a specific focus on supporting newly arrived migrant and refugee women in building a future for themselves and for their children.

Emerge Australia

Women Thriving and Surviving with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) - \$10,000

The Emerge Australia project supporting women with ME/CFS will develop webinars and workshops to educate sufferers, service providers, medical professionals and community groups on the socio-economic impacts of living with ME/CFS. This educational program will focus on ways to survive and thrive, helping everyone to better understand these conditions and how to access or improve financial and disability support networks.

Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL)

Developmental Evaluation of BSL's 2Gen Program - \$8000

BSL's *2Gen Program* seeks to deliver direct support to mothers of children under 3 years, helping them to develop career pathways and financial stability. Programs will be tailored to each individual to improve their confidence, English skills, job seeking and goal setting skills. Mothers will receive 'on the job' training and volunteering experience and their young children will enjoy quality early education. The *Developmental Evaluation of BSL's 2Gen Program* will evaluate the effectiveness of BSL's intervention model and opportunities for further expansion in Australia.

First Step

Healthy Parents, Thriving Children - \$10,000

First Steps' *Healthy Parents, Thriving Children* initiative incorporates group parenting program *Tuning into Kids*, developed by Melbourne University, with ongoing financial counselling sessions delivered by First Step. Guided by a mental health social worker and a counsellor, parents are encouraged to share thoughts and ideas, helping each other to develop new strategies and insights into how to best parent and respond to the emotional needs of their children.

Women's Health in the North (WHN)

Let's Talk Money - \$10,000

WHN works every day with migrant and refugee women, supporting them to find pathways to financial stability and better health outcomes for themselves and their families. WHN's program *Let's Talk Money* will teach financial literacy and money management skills and train women to share their knowledge with other women. Using a bilingual peer educator model, *Let's Talk Money* will partner with community

health organisations to recruit, train and support women from diverse cultural backgrounds to deliver practical financial literacy workshops to women in their own language and community.

Fitted for Work

Financial Literacy for Women - \$10,000

Financial Literacy for Women is a collaboration between community sector organisations, Fitted For Work, Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network Ltd (ICAN), and Women and Mentoring (WAM). This project will combine Fitted for Work's existing *WomanKind* program for women in need with ICAN's *Yarnin' Money* program, which uses a unique storytelling/narrative model to reduce barriers and build rapport amongst participants. By incorporating both programs, *Financial Literacy for Women* will extend the number and diversity of women who can access and benefit from support in financial literacy, superannuation and budgeting education.

The Big Issue, Australia (TBI)

The Women's Enterprise-Pathways to Employment - \$10,000

TBI's program *The Women's Enterprise - Pathways to Employment* employs women experiencing both homelessness and significant social barriers in procurement work for government and businesses. Through the project, TBI will expand the *The Women's Enterprise - Pathways to Employment* program by employing additional women. Every woman will be mentored with a personal goal setting plan, paid above Australia's minimum casual wage, and will develop transferable skills which will enable them to transition to mainstream employment beyond TBI if they so choose.

Chronic Illness Alliance

Working from our Strengths: building confidence and assisting women with disabilities seeking employment - \$10,000

Working from our Strengths is an accessible and hands-on online course that enables women living with a chronic illness to build their confidence in seeking employment. Throughout the 5 module course women are supported to explore their goals and reflect on their strengths, as well as identify areas for improvement, helping them to prepare and practise for future job interviews.

Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA)

Breastfeeding Friendly Workplaces - Return to Work Webinar - \$9595

The ABA will run a free online webinar, *Return to Work*, aimed at Victorian breastfeeding mothers and caregivers. Once online, this tutorial will provide information and guidance on effective breastfeeding, rights at work, leave entitlements, and general health and wellbeing.

RMIT University

Women in Economics Network: Australian Gender Economics Workshop 2019 - \$4000

Over the course of two days at the *Australian Gender Economics Workshop 2019* researchers will work on pressing issues in relation to gender equity, coming together to share their findings and converse with policymakers on how to translate research outcomes into action. The workshop will connect researchers, government, industry and community organisations, collectively identifying actionable strategies to tackle gender inequity in Australia.

SYN Media

Hear Me Roar - \$9281

Hear Me Roar will bring together a group of 10 young women and gender non-conforming young people to learn media and broadcasting skills. They will work to create a weekly radio show for a school term. Each participant will also receive extra in depth training in the form of a day workshop, in addition to the standard SYN Media training, and will be supported by media mentors in their media career aspirations.

Reading out of Poverty

Let's Read Mother & Daughter - \$8500

Let's Read Mother & Daughter is a bilingual literacy project that provides new mothers from migrant and refugee backgrounds with baby books and literacy resources in both their mother tongue and English. The program will effectively mentor mothers in guiding the literacy, play and language development of their babies, whilst improving the English skills of the mother.

Groomed to Go Inc

Dressed for Success Mornington Peninsula Job Support Centre - \$7,500

Groomed to Go Inc's *Dressed for Success MP Job Support Centre* supports unemployed women with a range of personalised job workshops and training sessions. Located alongside the Dressed for Success boutique, women can access the dressing service as part of their preparation for employment.

St Kilda Gatehouse Inc

Breaking the Cycle - \$10,000

St Kilda Gatehouse's *Breaking the Cycle* program has been created to empower young women aged 12-25 years to break the cycle of poverty and unhealthy behaviours associated with sexual exploitation, physical, domestic or sexual abuse, supporting them to re-enter or continue in the education system or workforce. This holistic approach to recovery supports girls and young women as they learn practical life skills including budgeting, employment, success in study, health

and nutrition. Group work and art therapy will help them develop resilience and an understanding of self, helping them to build social connections and support others who are at risk.

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Inc (ASRC)

Keeping Women and Children Seeking Asylum in Safe Housing - \$10,000

The ASRC Housing program provides rent assistance to people seeking asylum, currently supporting 48 women and 30 girls with no form of income or social safety net who are unable to maintain rental payments. The rent assistance model is a cost-effective and holistic method that keeps women and children seeking asylum in safe and secure housing, prevents destitution, and keeps people connected to community supports.

“GROUP WORK AND ART THERAPY WILL HELP THEM DEVELOP RESILIENCE AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF SELF, HELPING THEM TO BUILD SOCIAL CONNECTIONS...”

 **- ST KILDA GATEHOUSE INC**
BREAKING THE CYCLE

SUB-FUND GRANTS NOW OPEN!

Have you got a social change project that helps women and girls thrive?

We have 10 Sub-Fund grants open for application.

Applications close 31 August 2018. Head online so you don't miss out!

Apply here:
vwt.org.au/applying-for-a-grant/



MORE TRUST NEWS

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thanks to everyone who supported our end of financial year campaign to raise funds for the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust. We can now directly fund a record number of grants that help women and girls to have a safer, fairer, brighter future. People like you, who share our vision for an equal future, have made this possible. And we are truly humbled. So a big heartfelt thanks, from everyone at the Victorian Women's Trust.

ROSIE IN THE CLASSROOM

Rosie in the Classroom is our new harm prevention resource kit for teachers. Commissioned by the Dugdale Trust for Women & Girls, these resources were written by Briony O'Keeffe, leading secondary educator and facilitator of a high school feminist collective. Created for years 7-10, these educational modules are based on our original *Rosie* videos, covering topics such as friendship, healthy relationships, sexting, activism, wellbeing, and more.

The launch of *Rosie in the Classroom* has caused quite a stir in some parts of the media, with a focus on our *Rosie* video 'The Art of Safe Sexting'. Created in 2015, this video adopts a clear harm minimisation approach, helping young people to be safe

while navigating sexuality, consent, healthy relationships and technology in the modern world.

A number of misinformed articles appeared in the *Herald Sun* denouncing our video and education modules. VWT Communications Manager, Ally Oliver-Perham appeared on Channel Ten's *The Project*, *ABC Radio*, *3AW* and *Perth Live* to talk about why we advocate a harm minimisation approach with young people.

VWT Executive Director Mary Crooks AO wrote a response to the *Herald Sun* controversy surrounding *Rosie* which was published on 17 July; and which generated a significant positive response to the Trust office.

For more information head to: vwt.org.au/rosies-a-success-story/

A WHITE HOT FLAME

On 1 March, a full house eagerly took their seats inside ACMI for the official launch of *A White Hot Flame*, a biography of Mary Bennett written by historian Sue Taffe, and for the premiere of *Letters Across the Desert*, a Victorian Women's Trust documentary film by Stu Mannion.

The evening began with a Welcome to Country from the Executive Director of Koorie Women Mean Business Leanne Miller and speeches from VWT Executive Director Mary Crooks AO, author and activist Dr.

Jackie Huggins AM, and *A White Hot Flame* author Sue Taffe.

The evening was about Mary Montgomerie Bennett (1881-1961), and her powerful advocacy partnership with Shirley Andrews.

Bennett was an early voice for reforming ruthless laws repressing first Australians; the separating of children from their families and their educational exclusion; non-existent rights to traditional lands; and of due process for obtaining citizenship rights, equal pay and old age pensions.

As a teacher, writer and equality advocate, Bennett relentlessly pursued justice for the people she loved. As such, she is an extraordinary and under-recognised figure in Australian history. This event was a critical exercise, firmly marking the significant endeavours of unsung heroes like Bennett on the public record.

Watch our documentary here: vwt.org.au/projects/letters-across-the-desert/

EGGSHELL SKULL BOOK LAUNCH

On 28 May, the Victorian Women's Trust (VWT) partnered with Readings Foundation to host a conversation between author of 'Eggshell Skull' Bri Lee, and prolific feminist writer Clementine Ford, at the Church of All Nations in Carlton.

'Eggshell Skull' follows Lee's journey through the Australian legal system; first as the daughter of a policeman, then as a law student, and finally as a judge's associate in both metropolitan and regional Queensland - where justice can look very different, especially for women.

In another writer's hands, *Eggshell Skull* could pull you down into the mire of human suffering, leaving you feeling as though gender bias and notions of "believability" will never be overcome. But it doesn't. And much of that is to do with Lee's ever-present strength. While at times it may seem as though her pursuit of justice might break her, she is bolstered and motivated by her anger - a gift she is no doubt passing onto others.

You can buy a copy of Lee's book here: readings.com.au/products/25169943/eggshell-skull

CATHY MCGOWAN ACKNOWLEDGES VWT

We were proud to be formally acknowledged by The Hon. Cathy McGowan, Member for Indi, as part of her speech in early June to the Senate on the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and National Redress Scheme. Cathy honoured and thanked all those responsible for the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. She also commended our initiative, *The Paradox of Service*, for its research and action into achieving fair outcomes for those who leave religious orders:

"[I would like to] ... take a few minutes to talk about the importance of having a champion in your corner; the Victorian Women's Trust talks about the experience they'd had with nuns who had left religious orders and their ability to advocate on behalf of the nuns to get appropriate redress."

We are working to turn the *Paradox of Service* into a framework model that can be adopted by religious orders. This framework would demonstrate a better way to effect redress inequalities more humanely, sharing the stories of survivors and stating the responsibility of the order to provide support for those who choose to leave in future.

Watch The Hon. Cathy McGowan's speech: bit.ly/2KNzPNr



Top right: Eggshell Skull book launch at the Church of All Nations; The Hon. Cathy McGowan's address Bottom right: Clementine Ford (Photo Credit: Hilary Walker Photography)



ROSIE IN THE CLASSROOM
EDUCATION MODULES
YEARS 7-10

CLEM FORD BOOK LAUNCH COMING SOON!

Join us on 25 September at the Athenaeum Theatre in Melbourne to launch Clementine Ford's new book *Boys will be Boys* in partnership with Readings.

Ford's new book dismantles the age-old idea that entitlement, aggression and toxicity are natural realms for boys, and reveals how the patriarchy we live in is as harmful to boys and men as it is to women and girls. Tickets are \$50 per person (\$45 concession) which includes a signed copy of *Boys will be Boys*.

Book a ticket here: bit.ly/2OjAkwT

"The heart of the book is not that boys and men are bad, and it's not that boys and men are evil outliers that exist on the fringes of society, it's actually that these are all normal humans."
Clementine Ford, Radio New Zealand, 10 July 2018



Create a brighter future for women & girls by leaving a gift in your Will



Chris Friday is a former teacher and committed philanthropist. Originally from Mansfield, Chris is the founder of the Harry and Clare Friday Foundation, created in honour of her parents. In her spare time, Chris loves to travel and is currently on a 6 week trip to far North Queensland, where she will take in the sights of Lawn Hill and Carnarvon Gorge.

Chris' relationship with the VWT began in 2013, at the *Credit Where Credit's Due* event celebrating the efforts and achievements of Australia's first female Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Chris sang the Women's Anthem *Love and Justice* with over 200 women, led by composer Kavisha Mazzella AM. Around the time she was rehearsing for *Credit Where Credit's Due*, Chris decided to leave a gift to the Trust in her Will.

"I'm an only child and I have no offspring so, what do I do with my

money when I die?" Chris said later. "I thought, well, I need to leave it to charity."

Chris says she chose the Trust because the organisation and its values are special to her.

"To me [the Trust] seems like a worthwhile organisation," she said. "[It's] an organisation with integrity, that does good things at the grassroots level."

In 2016, both Chris and the Victorian Women's Trust were celebrating a significant birthday. She was turning 70, and the Trust had reached its 30th year of operation, which led Chris to think the timing was ripe to take an important next step.

She decided to use a portion of her bequest money to start the Chris Friday Sub-Fund as part of the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust. "100 sounded like a good year, and you need \$100,000 to start a Sub-fund. It made sense mathematically...I'm a little bit like that!" she jokes. "I just thought it was a good thing to do and why not do it now, rather than later?"

After starting a Sub-Fund at the Trust, Chris could clearly see how a small philanthropic investment could build and change people's lives for the better. "A few thousand dollars can be seeded to grow into something bigger," she said. "It's not necessarily giving hundreds of thousands of dollars, that's going to make the difference — it might be a matter of \$2000, \$5000, \$10,000 just to get something going. I figured that VWT fits that bill."

When asked why Chris created her Sub-Fund for Aboriginal women and girls in the areas of education, health and housing, Chris said, "I love the opportunity to stand with Aboriginal women and girls and support their community leadership. Given half the chance, they can prosper. And why shouldn't they?"

"I would encourage others to leave a gift to VWT because I do think that it's an organisation of integrity that manages on the smell of an oily rag and does good things. I'm very happy I did it."

Top Image: Chris Friday
(Breeana Dunbar Photography)

To find out how you can support the VWT by leaving a gift in your Will like Chris, please contact Grants and Development Manager Bryony Green on 9642 0422 or bryony@vwt.org.au

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