



# Grants Bulletin

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

May 2007

## Changing times at the Trust

The first quarter of 2007 has been very eventful at the Trust.

It was with great sadness in February that we saw the retirement of Barry Hutchins, a trustee of some 37 years, due to ill health, followed by his subsequent passing in March. Many grant recipients will know of Barry and the tremendous contribution he made to the community, not just through his work at the Trust but in his many other community roles, particularly at Odyssey House.

As announced in our previous Bulletin we were pleased to announce the appointment of Keith Smith to the Trustees. Keith is a great nephew of Helen Macpherson Smith and is based in London. He was in Australia in April for his first meeting in his new role.

It is with pleasure that the Trust announces the recent appointment of a third trustee, Mrs Frances (Fran) H. Awcock, AM.



Our new trustee, Fran Awcock

Fran is probably best known in Victoria for her work as the former State Librarian and CEO of the State Library of Victoria, a position from which she retired in 2002. Since then Fran has been involved in a variety of community organisations including her current roles as Chair of the Victorian Tapestry Workshop, and a Member of the Council of RMIT University.

Due to these recent events at the Trust, the March meeting of the Trustees was postponed until April. Once again, we received many more applications for grants than we had funds available. Deciding which

## Grant Statistics:

### Grants Approved Round 2: April 2007

Total number of applications received:	85	
Total number of grants approved:	47	
<b>Grants approved by Sector</b> <i>(includes amounts payable in future years)</i>	<b>No.</b>	<b>\$</b>
Aged Care	4	66,800
Arts, Culture & Heritage	6	93,925
Community Support	24	573,234
Disability Care & Support	7	114,970
Environment	1	20,000
Health	5	159,709
<b>Total for this round:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$1,028,638</b>
<i>Total for previous round</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>\$1,778,968</i>
<b>Total Approved 2006/2007:</b>	<b>\$2,807,606</b>	

grants to approve and which to decline is always difficult for the Trustees as we receive so many worthy requests. As you can see from the table on the right, we received 85 requests for assistance and were able to make grants to 47 of those. The full list of successful grants is published on pages 4-5 of this Bulletin.

The next meeting of the Trustees to consider applications will be held in late June as scheduled.

The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust has three grants rounds each financial year held in November, March and June, with closing dates being the last day of September, January and April accordingly.

For further information on our Trustees and on applying for a grant, please visit our website [www.hmstrust.org.au](http://www.hmstrust.org.au)

## Spotlight on:

### Arts, Culture & Heritage

#### The first step in preserving our cultural heritage

The Bendigo Historical Society has a significant collection of material which is almost entirely uncatalogued and currently stored in numerous boxes within the de-commissioned Bendigo gaol. The Society recently approached the Trust for assistance and was given a grant of \$10,000 for the first phase of a two-stage solution for the future of the collection.

The grant will enable the Bendigo Historical Society to engage a professional conservator/curator to assess the collection and prepare a strategic plan for future action. The aim is to eventually have the collection displayed in a museum or regional history centre.

The successful completion of this first phase of the project will help to ensure the preservation of this vital collection for future generations.

### Community Support

#### Finding A Way Home - housing & support for homeless elderly

A grant has been made to a pilot project run by HomeGround Services. *Finding A Way Home* is a pilot and demonstration model of housing and support for long-term homeless older people. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of co-ordinated housing and support packages for this sector of our community.

HomeGround has negotiated access to a number of “hard to let” apartments in a Kensington public housing block. The organisation aims to support older clients into these properties, provide material aid to assist them to furnish their new homes, and provide the necessary support to help them sustain their tenancies there and reconnect with the broader community.

The project will be targeted at clients assessed by other services and themselves as not “housing ready” - a common term used to describe long term homeless people who are severely marginalised and vulnerable with complex issues and needs.

In the longer term, the project will serve to demonstrate that underutilised and “hard to let”

public housing can be made comfortable and liveable, and that with appropriate support services, older people with long histories of homelessness can sustain successful tenancies.

The project mirrors best practice programs internationally, reflecting the latest thinking in other Western nations with similar circumstances to that here.

*Finding A Way Home* will be evaluated by RMIT and the evaluation will be used to prepare a case for better integrated support packages for homeless people.

### Disability Care & Support

#### Creating systemic change in the areas of disability and employment

In 2006, the Trust made a grant of \$20,000 to Action for Community Living (ACL) towards a \$69,550 research project being undertaken by Australians for Disability and Diversity Employment (ADDE), an ACL action group attempting to create system change in disability and diversity employment issues. The project was funded by the Trust in partnership with the Reichstein Foundation and aims to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the not-for-profit disability service sector in Victoria.

With the Federal Government planning to implement changes to the criteria for new applicants for the Disability Support Pension, there is an expectation that more people with disabilities will gain employment. As a consequence, more people with disabilities will be seeking work.

There is a dearth of information about the employment practices of organisations in the Disability Service Sector in relation to employment of people with disabilities. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a capacity for these organisations to open up employment opportunities for people with disabilities and to develop models of best employment practice that could be promoted more widely, not only in the not-for-profit sector but also in government and private sectors. The research project aims to address these issues.

Since applying to the Trust, the issues have continued to gain momentum. The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust has made a further grant of \$7,275, matched by the Reichstein Foundation, to ensure work on the project starts immediately.

## Health

### Helping to cure MS

Cure-MS was established in 1997 with the specific aim of raising funds solely for medical research into multiple sclerosis. Entirely run by volunteers, it is committed to giving 100% of all funds raised to MS medical research. An independent Scientific Review Board ensures all MS medical research projects it funds are internationally significant and fall within the top 50 research projects world-wide.

Since it began it has raised \$1.9 million which has gone to the Monash University MS Research Centre. Cure-MS' goal for 2007 is to raise \$500,000 towards the purchase of a 7 Telsa MRI scanner for the Centre. The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust has approved a contribution of \$50,000 towards this.

The scanner is a highly specialised device which enables researchers to take very detailed images of the brain in living animals with diseases very similar to MS. The machine will allow researchers to track the progress of the disease rather than viewing it at a single stage. It will also assist researchers to develop new drugs by allowing them to track the activity of the disease and its response to treatment.

Many scientists believe stem cell research is the future of MS research, although at the moment in its infancy. As Professor Alan Trounstein, Director of the Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories, which houses the MS Research Centre says:

*" Researchers have found that primitive nerve cells, grown from stem cells in the lab, can reduce symptoms of an MS-type illness when injected into mice.*

*The cells have been able to pass into rodents' brains where they matured into myelin-producing cells. Myelin is an important protective coating around nerve cells that is stripped away in MS sufferers, causing messages to become scrambled.*

*Using these cells to reverse conditions like MS, I think is highly probable in the next five years, perhaps even less."*

## Outcomes

### Mind Your Mind: Reducing the Risk of Dementia

In November 2005, the Trust gave \$250,000 to Alzheimer's Australia Vic over two years to implement and promote its activities and programs aimed at reducing the incidence of dementia in the Victorian community. These include Dementia Awareness Month and *Mind your Mind*, a program which aims to educate us about how health and lifestyle choices we make in mid-life may reduce the risk of developing dementia in later life.

With our ageing population, neurodegenerative disorders such as dementia are becoming the leading cause of death and disability. In February 2005, the Access Economics report *Dementia Estimates and Projections: Australian State and Territories* forecast that by 2050 the numbers of people with dementia will have grown from 220,000 today to 731,000, and that dementia will be the number one cause of disability burden by 2016.

**Like it or not, dementia will impact every aspect of our community either directly or indirectly as this epidemic continues to grow**

*Access Economics*

A booklet titled *Mind your Mind: A user's guide to dementia risk reduction* lists seven signposts you can take to improve your health, lower your risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and dementia. It points out although "(D)ementia cannot yet be prevented or 'cured'... the choices you make will help keep your brain healthy as you age. While following the seven signposts in this booklet cannot guarantee that you won't develop dementia, studies of large groups of people do show that those who adopt 'brain-healthy' lifestyles have a reduced risk".

The booklet was launched during Dementia Awareness Month in September 2006. Every year Dementia Awareness Month has grown and 2006 was the most comprehensive program of community information delivered to date. It included a range of events such as a major forum *100 Years of Alzheimer's*, in recognition of the centenary of the first description of the disease, a reception at Government House and more than 40 community education events throughout Victoria focussing on the *Mind your Mind* principles, as well as extensive media coverage on television and radio.

## Full List of Grants Approved April 2006

(Due to events at the Trust, this year the March meeting of the Trustees was delayed until April)

### Aged Care

#### Australian-Polish Community Services Inc

Purchase of a Community Bus  
\$20,000.00

#### Havilah Hostel Inc

Development of a 20 bed Dementia Specific Unit  
\$20,000.00

#### Mirboo North Community Care Inc.

Redevelopment of residential aged care facility  
\$20,000.00

#### Nazareth House

Request 1: Purchase of Airconditioning for Dining & Request 2: Purchase of equipment to access bore water  
\$6,800.00

### Arts, Culture & Heritage

#### Bendigo Historical Society Inc.

Pilot project to scope collection & prepare strategic plan for future action  
\$10,000.00

#### Chamber Music Australia

Present Masterclasses as part of upcoming 5th Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition.  
\$25,000.00

#### Melba Foundation Limited

'Helene' - Production of a world premier recording featuring Orchestra Victoria  
\$10,000.00

#### Regional Arts Victoria

Fresh & Salty - a state-wide arts project exploring the issue of water in five regional Victorian communities  
\$20,000.00

#### University Of Melbourne

3-D Digital Access Project  
\$18,925.00

#### Victorian Music Library

To support capacity building of the organisation  
\$10,000.00

### Community Support

#### Bundji Bundji Partnership

Bundji Bundji Partnership - culturally appropriate outreach support service for Indigenous young people involved in the Juvenile Justice system.  
\$25,000.00

#### Court Network

Remote Access: Piloting the Availability of Court Network Support in outlying Remote Victorian Courts  
\$25,000.00

#### Footscray Community Legal Centre Inc.

Contribution to participate in the VOCAT Family Assistance Project  
\$6,000.00

#### Gippsland Women's Health Service Inc.

Upgrade of library resources: video & audio tapes to DVD & CD formats  
\$2,182.00

#### Hanover Welfare Services

Research Project: Evidence-Informed Care Management Practice for Homeless Persons Agencies  
\$100,000.00

#### HomeGround Services

Finding A Way Home pilot project  
\$35,000.00

#### Life Education Victoria

Evaluation of the the Life Education Family Forum (PAKT) program  
\$25,000.00

#### MacKillop Family Services Ltd

Feasibility study for larger project - Benchmarking in the Community Services Sector  
\$10,000.00

#### Melbourne Citymission Inc Agora Think Tank Conference

\$20,000.00

#### PILCH

Funding to ensure viability of the Consumer Advisory Group for the PILCH Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic  
\$35,752.00

#### St Kilda Gatehouse Inc

Strategic Review Outcomes Project  
\$10,000.00

#### St Kilda Police & Citizens Youth Club Inc

Youth Leadership Camp Program 2007  
\$5,000.00

#### St Paul's Drug Prevention, Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program

Drug rehabilitation program  
\$5,000.00

#### Stepfamily Association of Victoria Inc

External Evaluation of Stepfamily Education & Training Programs  
\$22,000.00

#### The ALSO Foundation

'Behind Closed Bars' project  
\$5,000.00

#### The Haven Foundation

Refurbishment of former South Yarra convent to provide supported housing for singles with a mental illness  
\$100,000.00

#### University Of Melbourne

Research Project: Partnerships between Governments and Communities: What have we learned and how do we move forward?  
\$11,200.00

#### Victorian Council of Social Services

VCOSS CEO and Presidents' Leadership Program  
\$20,000.00

#### Victorian Council of Social Services

Communications Capacity Building Workshop for the community sector in Victoria  
\$7,500.00

#### Victorian Immigrant & Refugee Women's Coalition

Purchase of computers and printer  
\$3,600.00

#### Violence Against Women Integrated Services

Support for the Violence Against Women Integrated Services Program  
\$40,000.00

#### WISHIN (Women's Information Support & Housing in the North)

No Need to Go It Alone Project  
\$10,000.00

#### Women's Health Victoria Inc

Victorian Gendered Database  
\$30,000.00

#### Youthlaw

Development of a Children's Rights Monitoring Kit  
\$20,000.00



## Helen Macpherson Smith Trust – Grants Bulletin

### Disability Care and Support

#### Action for Community Living

Disability Employment in the Disability Services Sector in Victoria Research Project

\$7,275.00

#### Bayley House

Development of a Transition Unit

\$25,000.00

#### BEST Community Development

Cafe Best Gourmet Cafe & Catering Service - an employment & training initiative for young people with a disability - Assistance with purchase of fittings & equipment

\$30,000.00

#### CAUS (Communication Rights Australia)

Development, Trial & Implementation of a Human Rights monitoring tool & initial database for people with communication or speech difficulties

\$25,000.00

#### Hawthorn Community House Inc.

Me Time for Mums: Improving mood & wellbeing in mothers of children with a disability through a community leisure education program

\$2,695.00

#### Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria Inc.

Medical Support for RDA Centres

\$15,000.00

#### Woodbine

Purchase & installation of a hydraulic wheelchair lift for commuter bus for prematurely frail clients

\$10,000.00

### Environment

#### Dolphin Research Institute

Research Project: A multidisciplinary investigation of the population dynamics & ecology of bottlenose dolphins in the Gippsland Lakes, Port Phillip & Western Port

\$20,000.00

### Health

#### Bass Coast Regional Health

Purchase of a 24 seat community bus for the Bass Coast Regional Health Volunteer Transport Program

\$10,000.00

#### Cure-MS

Purchase MRI Scanner

\$50,000.00

#### Knox Community Health Service Inc

Research Project: Identification of Practice Change Models for Improving Chronic Disease Care

\$44,709.00

#### Monash University

Support for a Respiratory Biopharmaceutics Research Laboratory - Monash Uni Re: 2006002584

\$50,000.00

#### SIDS & Kids Victoria

Equipment for Training/Workshop Room

\$5,000.00

## Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

### Trustees:

Darvell M. Hutchinson AM, Chairman

Fran H. Awcock AM

Keith B. Smith

### Staff:

Tony Baird, Investments Executive

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