

# VFFF Annual Report 2015



Vincent Fairfax Family  
Foundation





Condobolin Annual Show 2014 (photo credit: Michael Holmes)

Cover image:  
New England  
Conservatorium of  
Music Side by Side  
choir winter 2014  
(photo credit Simon Scott)

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# Creating a lasting legacy

As the inheritor of a long family philanthropic tradition, and a belief that wealth and position bring a responsibility to serve the community, Sir Vincent Fairfax established the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation in 1962.

*'This action was taken on the basis that my children are well provided for and, hopefully, in their turn will contribute further assets to this family pot of gratitude for all the benefits we have received since landing in Australia in 1838.'* Sir Vincent Fairfax, CMG 1973

Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation has distributed in excess of \$120 million across Australia. Sir Vincent and Lady Nancy Fairfax's children and grandchildren continue the family philanthropic tradition today. VFFF strives to honour its Founders' legacy and to play the most useful role it can, joining the efforts of many to meet contemporary Australia's challenges and opportunities.

## Vision

In honouring our founders' beliefs and intentions, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation seeks opportunities to benefit and care for Australians and our country.

## Mission

VFFF aspires to a stronger and brighter future for Australians in NSW and remote areas of the north.

We help disadvantaged young people reach their educational and social potential.

We enhance services and opportunities for rural and regional communities and support the viability of the Australian agricultural sector.

We support a spiritually rich society that values Christian faith in action.





Sir Vincent and Lady Nancy Fairfax

## Sir Vincent and Lady Nancy Fairfax

*The imprint of Sir Vincent and Lady Nancy Fairfax remains strong across the work of the VFFF today.*

**‘When a man has been given much, much will be expected of him; and the more a man has had entrusted to him, the more he will be required to repay.’ (Luke 12:48:)**

**VINCENT FAIRFAX** was born in rural Queensland and maintained links to the land throughout his life. He held numerous directorships and official positions in the business and media fields.

*He was a Christian man who was patient, generous and set people from all walks of life at ease. His integrity and interest in others were strong and as a family man, Vincent Fairfax was in his element.*

In 1960 he was made a Commander of St Michael and St George (CMG) and created a Knight Bachelor in 1971.

**NANCY FAIRFAX** was an advocate for the needs and rights of young children and the value of early childhood education.

She was VFFF Chairman from 1993 to 2001 and Patron until her death in 2007.

Lady Fairfax bequeathed a large part of her estate to the Foundation and was awarded an OBE, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters and an Order of Australia for her work.

## Chairman's Report

*VFFF continues to find collaboration an effective way to increase the impact of our work.*

A grant to the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing towards The Dementia Momentum was made in conjunction with the Yulgilbar Foundation, providing VFFF with valuable access to their medical experts during the due diligence process. We worked with Social Ventures Australia and the Origin Foundation to extend to Western Sydney the National Exceptional Teachers for Disadvantaged Schools Program, with the Cages Foundation to assist Barnardos to establish partnerships in Indigenous-led out of home care organisations and with the Caledonia Foundation and Dusseldorp Forum to provide ongoing operational support to The Social Outfit.

We sought innovative ways to assist our grantees, such as providing a ‘challenge’ grant to the Refugee Advice and Casework Service and supporting the Australian Futures Project to convene Actions for New South Wales Agriculture.

We also continued to devote time, expertise and funding to enhance capacity in Condobolin and we thank the community for assisting us to target areas they see as important.

**We continue to seek systemic change through our Children and Prison program. Further, I am pleased to see that by working closely with the Dusseldorp Forum we are responding to the findings of our research report, *Dubbo Conversations*, most significantly by supporting a capacity building position in Dubbo.**

You may read about this important work to decrease the over-representation of indigenous children in the juvenile justice system further on in this report.

I formally note my thanks to my fellow Directors for generously giving their time and insights to VFFF, to members of the Audit Finance and Investment Committee for protecting our corpus and to CEO Jenny Wheatley and her team for their contribution to the smooth operations of the Foundation and engaging with the wider philanthropic sector.

In accordance with our rotation policy and having served the VFFF very well Joy Yeo and Annabel Dulhunty have retired and we warmly welcomed Ruth Armytage and Sue Cridge as new Directors. Ruth Armytage is the youngest daughter of Sir Vincent and Lady Nancy Fairfax and was an early childhood educator and teacher.

Ruth has been on several not for profit boards which focus on early intervention, young children and youth and is a current member of the Board of The Boys and Girls Brigade.

Sue Cridge is a passionate educator with over 30 years’ experience and is the Director of Bright Spots School Connection for Social Ventures Australia. In 2003 Sue was acknowledged as an Outstanding Education Leader by the state of Victoria and awarded a Sir Winston Churchill Fellowship in Education. Sue spent five years as Executive Director of Citizens Schools New Mexico, establishing expanded learning opportunities for underserved public schools and led the Innovation Program at the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership.

I look forward to their contribution to the Board in the coming years.

*Tim Fairfax AC*  
**Chairman**





# Chief Executive Officer's Report

In 2014/15 VFFF embarked on a program to approach our grant making in a different way and determine levers that would improve educational equity in New South Wales.



The Fair Education Working Group was established in December, comprising Board members, family members, subject matter experts and the VFFF team.

Over the next six months, through a series of presentations, reviewing research and considering what might be a key area upon which to focus, the Working Group defined a goal that if implemented would improve educational equity.

It also defined a series of outcomes aimed at helping school leaders in low socio-economic areas involve parents and communities in student learning.

You may read more about the workings and outcomes from the Fair Education Working Group, later in this report.

I thank Pete Goss from the Grattan Institute and Eric Jamieson from the New South Wales Education Department for giving freely of their time and expertise to the Working Group. This was a rich and challenging experience and sets VFFF up well for further impactful grant making in the area of Education.

**We also enhanced our grant making process by increasing the remit of the (formerly "small") Grants Committee, which consists of younger family members, from \$25,000 to \$50,000 allowing the Board to focus on larger more complex opportunities.**

Recognising the importance of transparency and feedback, VFFF will participate in the next round of benchmarking of philanthropic organisations and allow this to inform our future work. As the year concluded we went "live" with our enhanced online grants management system, which will streamline our application and acquittal process for grant seekers.

We continue with our Grants Trainee program, farewelling Rebecca Ninness and welcoming Candice Van Doosselaere. Rebecca has taken her learnings and is making a valuable contribution to another family foundation while continuing her studies.

Candice has been instrumental in improving the experience for our grantees by enhancing processes and providing effective guidance to those with early stage enquiries.

Thank you to the Board, members of AFIC, the Cambooya investment team and the VFFF team for your support, energy and commitment to having the VFFF deliver the best possible impact.

I look forward to another year of effective contribution to Australian philanthropy in 2015/16.

*Jenny Wheatley*  
Chief Executive Officer

# Finance and Investment Report

The investment of the corpus of VFFF and VFELF in a diversified portfolio is overseen by the Audit, Finance and Investment Committee (AFIC) with the assistance of Cambooya Pty Limited and JANA Asset Consultants.

	VFFF		VFELF	
	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14
Portfolio market value	\$186.6m	\$177.5m	\$6.4m	\$6.5m
Distributions	\$7.1m	\$6.4m	\$0.4m	\$0.35m
Cumulative distributions	\$122.6m	\$115.5m	\$4.92m	\$4.52m
Distributable income 2014/15	\$7.8m	\$6.3m	\$0.48m	\$0.52m
Future commitments*	\$6.1m	\$3.2m	\$1.6m	\$2.0m

\* Future commitments are conditional on available funds in the distribution account.

Directors have set a distribution target of \$8.7 million for VFFF in the 2016 financial year.

Combined operating expenses	2015	2014
Operating expenses	\$868,214	\$842,039
Operating expenses as a % of distributions made	11.60%	12.50%
Operating expenses as a % of net assets	0.40%	0.50%

During the financial year AFIC met on four occasions in relation to the financial governance of VFFF and VFELF. The Board extends their appreciation to KPMG who provide their audit services on an honorary basis.

## Audit, Finance and Investment Committee Members

James Millar AM, Chairman  
Nicholas Fairfax  
Michael Murray  
Christopher White





# 2015 Highlights



**Tim Fairfax AC, Chairman**  
The engagement of the Next Generation with VFFF would delight Vincent and Nancy Fairfax, they are contributing in a very special way, which is encouraging for the future. With our excellent staff they are able to learn and practise philanthropy from a grassroots level, something I certainly never had the opportunity to experience.



**Jenny Wheatley, CEO**  
Supporting the growth of the impact investment pool and working with School for Social Entrepreneurs, Social Traders and SVA as VFFF seeks to achieve our ambitious goal of investing 5% of corpus on a social returns first basis by June 2017.



**David Hardie, Senior Program Officer**  
I so enjoy my work with the next generation of the Fairfax family. By offering a variety of ways for family members to engage with VFFF, I believe we take a step up each year in relation to how the family participates in the foundation's work. This thoughtful preparation means that the future of VFFF is in very safe hands.



**Suzanne Cridge, Director**  
As a new Director, chairing the Fair Education Working Group was both an exceptional induction and an opportunity to develop a substantial VFFF investment in education. The expertise of a range of community leaders and the contributions from family and team members, was an inspiring testament to the calibre of the VFFF reputation and the ability to impact through this important work.



**James Millar AM, Director, AFIC Chair**  
I was pleased VFFF chose to devote time and resources to identifying a goal and outcomes which will seek to make a truly catalytic contribution to improving equity in New South Wales education.



**Angus White, VFFF Director and VFELF Chairman**  
It's always great to visit regional NSW, and meeting with the communities around Condobolin with VFFF Foundation Manager Emily Fuller was a highlight. I had a first-hand update on the use of VFFF funds, and witnessed her quietly engaging and highly productive relationships with the community.



**Ruth Armytage AM, Director**  
A highlight was visiting Condobolin and witnessing the BackTrack program "Paws Up". 14 young people from Armidale who 'have lost their way' training, working and handling dogs for jumping. Three similar boys from Condo watched on initially, and within the hour they were handling the dogs and communicating with the other kids. Dogs are not judgemental.



**Sally White OAM, Director**  
I was thrilled and proud to attend St Andrew's Cathedral School Year 12 Valedictory Service which included five Gawura students, who had navigated their way through nine years of school. Gawura was established in 2007 as an indigenous primary school set within the Cathedral School and was VFFF's first indigenous project. VFFF funded fellowships for two of those graduates.



**Emily Fuller, Foundation Manager**  
Finishing the *Dubbo Conversations* report and seeing its findings and recommendations start to come to life; the community's views informing what VFFF could do to try and keep kids out of prison. We are lucky to have started working with a great bunch of Dubbo people who are giving their all to help kids having a tough time.



**Annabel Dulhunty, Research Officer**  
Funding in rural and regional Australia is an area close to our founder's and my heart. Actions for NSW Agriculture is an exciting early stage initiative that has brought together a diverse and dedicated group of people, with a common interest in the future success of agriculture. The connections made through this process will be invaluable not only for the participants but rural philanthropy.



**The Honourable Robert Cartwright, Director**  
The site visit to the Social Outfit at Newtown, an excellent example of giving the dignity of work and purpose to those previously locked out of these in our community.



**Sue Goudie, Executive Assistant**  
I am grateful for the work of the Walter and Eliza Hall Supplementary Trust who assist so many in surviving a crisis. Their small grants program is a tribute to the generous spirit of their founders.



**Candice Van Doosselaere, Grants Officer**  
Having lively conversations on topics as wide as politics, physics and social justice at The Aspiration Initiative's Study Intensive camp was a wonderful experience. The students' prospects of studying abroad at prestigious universities when they finish school highlighted the valuable support of their mentors and peers throughout the five year program.

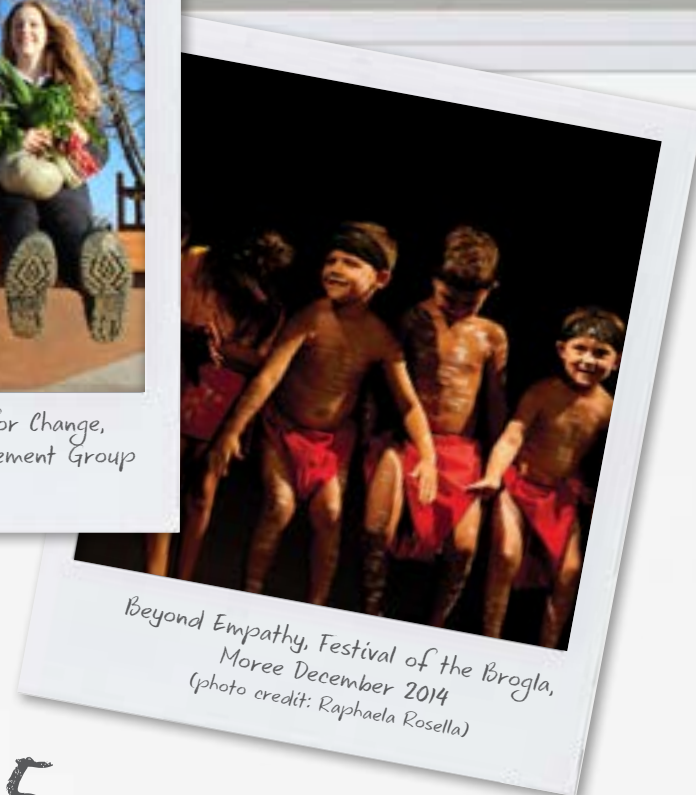


**Geoffrey White OAM, Trustee Emeritus**  
Having been asked to investigate the Moore Theological request some time back I was pleased that the VFFF decided to support the College: it is an important training institution for young people destined to work for the community as church workers and leaders. The VFFF is one of the few foundations able to make large distributions to strengthen Christianity in Australia.



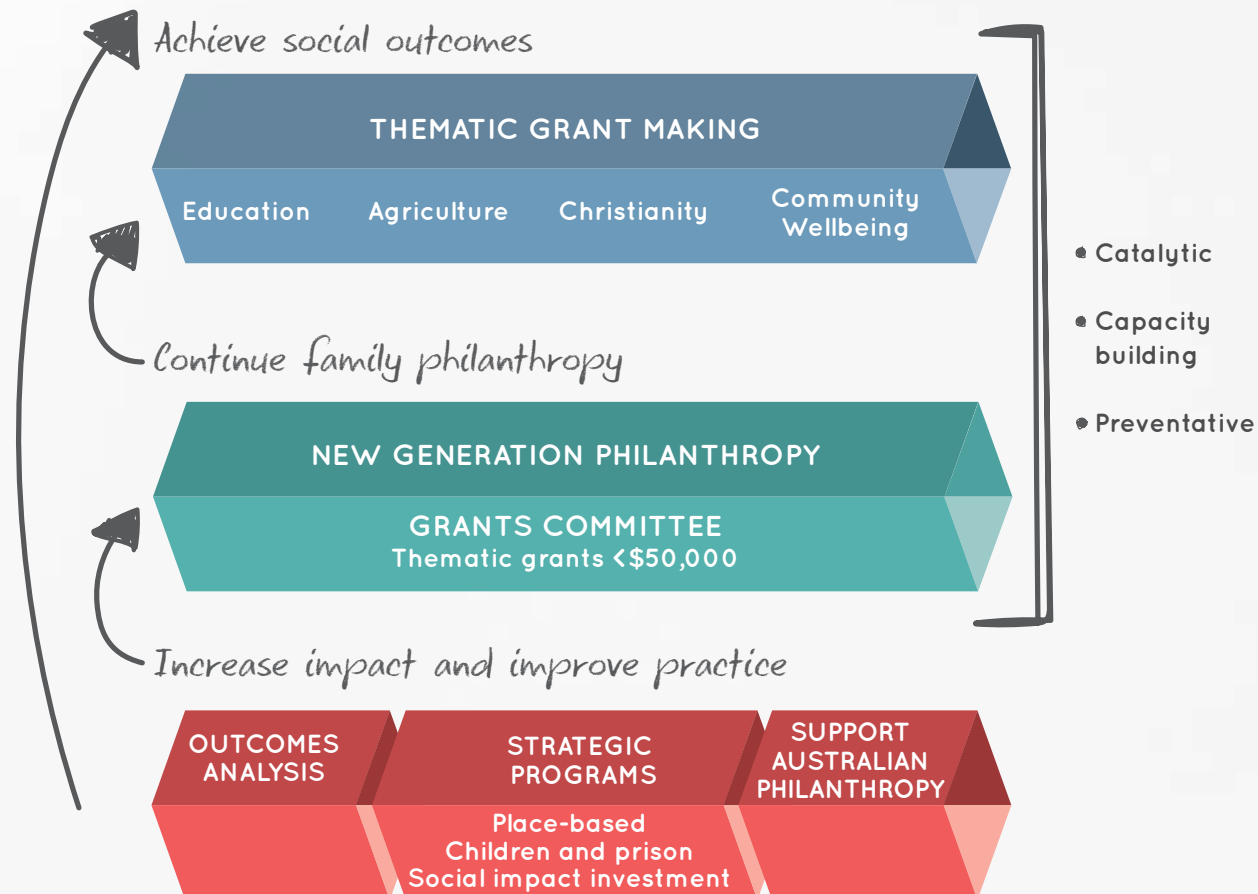


FRRR ABC Heywire, Boots for Change,  
Northern Gulf Resource Management Group



Beyond Empathy, Festival of the Brogla,  
Moree December 2014  
(photo credit: Raphaela Rosella)

## Our work in 2015



## Distribution overview

79  
Distributions

\$7,106,126  
Distribution total

75%  
Of distributions were multi-year commitments

\$89,951  
Average distribution size

### Funding by theme



	%	Theme	Distributions	Total funding
	28%	Christianity	10	2,006,132
	26%	Education	30	1,835,820
	22%	Community Wellbeing	22	1,567,802
	5%	Agriculture	4	379,000
	5%	Place-Based Program	5	389,499
	4%	Children & Prison Program	3	298,600
	1%	Social Impact Investment	1	80,000
	3%	Supporting Australian Philanthropy	3	225,000
	5%	Founders' Interest	1	324,273
		<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>7,106,126</b>

### Geographical snapshot

Region	No. distributions	% of funding	\$
New South Wales	62	81%	5,775,094
National	15	18%	1,267,032
Remote Northern Australia	2	1%	64,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,106,126</b>

81%  
Of funds directed to initiatives in NSW





Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation, APY Lands, SA, August 2015 (photo credit: Hailey Bartholomew)

## Thematic grants



# Education

### Philanthropic objective

To provide opportunities for disadvantaged young people (0-25 years) to reach their educational and social potential.

### Funding snapshot

**\$1,835,820**  
Total funding

**26%**  
Proportion of funding

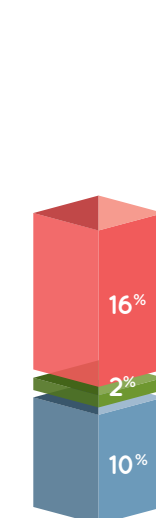
**30**  
Distributions

**67%**  
Multi-year distributions

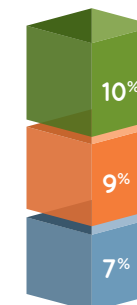
**\$61,194**  
Average distribution size

**57%**  
Of distributions reach rural and regional areas

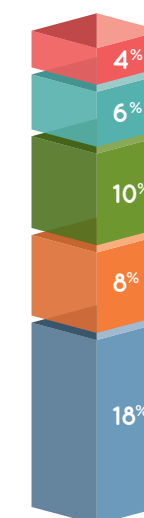
### Priority outcomes



School readiness



Retention in education or training



Access and opportunity

### Beneficiaries

- Indigenous young people
- Young people in rural and regional areas
- Young people in disadvantaged areas of Greater Sydney
- Young people with disabilities
- Multiple beneficiaries



Prairiewood High School students raising awareness of homelessness in the community (photo credit: Simon Bennett)



## High Resolves

High Resolves' Global Citizenship and Leadership Programs provide students in Years 7 - 10 with the tools and confidence to be purposeful global citizens and lead their communities.

High Resolves has made the most of what they describe as a catalytic grant to evolve their core work and develop their organisation. They have redeveloped their curriculum and its delivery to engage better with students in low SES areas and made their program scalable and sustainable through a revised pricing structure. Curriculum development has shifted to focusing on affective and behavioural learning domains through action-based learning.

High Resolves reached over 11,000 Western Sydney students over the funding period. Year 8 students took part in interactive simulations, hands-on activities and group discussions to develop their skills. Students in Years 9 and 10 put their skills into practice to benefit the community, carrying out 42 separate projects, covering a diverse range of social issues such as depression, homelessness, social inclusion and gender equity.

*"After today, I would like to remember that no matter where I am, who I'm with, what I'm doing or how I do it, I can always make a difference to the world I'm living in. This world is up to us to take care of and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn more and experience life to the fullest."*

- YEAR 8 STUDENT AT AUSTRALIAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF SYDNEY.

**\$909,000**

over three years towards the rollout of the High Resolves Global Citizenship and Leadership Programs to 40 schools in Western Sydney.

St John's Park High School student leaders working on school project (photo credit: Daniel Adobaw)



## Education (continued)

### 2015 Education distributions

#### Assistance Dogs Australia

**PAWS Sydney \$10,072**

To help families with children with autism to source and train a companion dog.

#### Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation

**Expansion of the Early Language and Literacy Program to Bowraville and Nambucca Heads, NSW \$187,000 (total \$561,000)**

To help community members prepare their children for formal literacy, to aid their transition to and success at school.

#### Bangarra Dance Theatre

**Rekindling \$100,000**

A dedicated education program using dance to connect Aboriginal youth with their cultures.

#### Barnardos Australia

**Partnerships for Out of Home Care \$200,000 (total \$600,000)**

To partner with Aboriginal agencies and communities towards better outcomes for Aboriginal children in out-of-home-care.

#### Be Centre

**Early Intervention Play Therapy \$25,000**

For early intervention play therapy for Aboriginal children aged 3-13 years in the Glebe area.

#### Belvoir Street Theatre

**Regional Workshop Program \$25,000**

Towards the delivery of theatre workshops for secondary students studying Drama, Textiles & Design, English, Visual Arts and VET Entertainment in regional NSW.

#### Beyond Empathy

**3Moree \$25,000**

A program to mentor teachers at Moree East Public School in new and innovative teaching and community engagement methods, to improve student educational outcomes.

#### Big Brothers Big Sisters

**Big Futures In-school Mentoring Program, Central Coast NSW \$50,000 (total \$100,000)**

To implement the program in 10 schools in NSW, reaching 600 high risk students in years 7-9.

#### Desert Pea Media

**Desert Stories \$24,000**

To deliver a song writing project with Indigenous young people in Yirrkala/ Maningrida, NT, exploring social and cultural issues.

#### KidsXpress

**KidsXpress Business/Strategic Development Team \$63,180 (total \$195,283)**

Supporting salary costs of three recently established part-time positions in business development, relationship management and communications, to facilitate business growth and free up funds for program delivery.

#### Liverpool Neighbourhood Connections

**Multi-purpose sports court in Warwick Farm \$25,000**

Towards construction of a court for young people in Warwick Farm to provide a safe space for recreational activities.

#### Monkey Baa Theatre

**Education Program \$80,000 (total \$300,000)**

Engaging young people in the arts through workshops, as well as creating professional development opportunities for young and emerging artists and teachers.

#### Moorambilla Voices

**Moorambilla Mums \$15,000 (total \$45,000)**

Towards the employment of 'Moorambilla Mums' to support the choir program in Far West NSW.

#### Queensland University of Technology

**National Exceptional Teachers for Disadvantaged Schools Program expansion to the University of Western Sydney \$135,561 (total \$199,622)**

A teacher training program that works to attract, prepare, support and employ the most effective teachers for historically underserved low SES schools.

#### The Song Room

**Arts Connect \$59,280 (\$118,560)**

A creative arts program in 10 primary schools in low SES areas of South Western Sydney.

#### University of NSW - Football United

**Creating Chances \$24,500**

Working with three Penrith High Schools, this project aims to support 45 girls who are disengaged from school through a life skills program using sport as an engagement tool.



Bangarra's Rekindling Program, Patrick Thaiday with participants (photo credit: Jung Boy Borja)



## Education (continued)

### White Lion

**Links to Learning - Men's Shed Training and Mentoring Program for young people \$20,000**  
Providing young people in Fairfield with mentoring and skills development through a partnership with Dural Men's Shed.

### Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

**Barbara Matthews Churchill Fellowships in early childhood education (\$45,000)**  
The Barbara Matthews Churchill Fellowship to explore research collaborations between music education programs and neuroscience laboratories - USA, Canada (Dr Anita Collins)

The Barbara Matthews Churchill Fellowship to investigate sustainable and successful models of Full Service Schools - USA, Canada, UK (Mrs Jacqui Hamblin)

## Continuing distributions

### Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth

**right@home, nurse-family partnership \$250,000 (total \$1,000,000)**

### Bell Shakespeare

**Regional teacher development program and two remote school residencies \$50,000 (total \$225,000)**

### Jobs Australia - BackTrack, Armidale

**Operational funding for BackTrack \$50,000 (total \$300,000)**

### Musica Viva

**In Schools Program in regional NSW \$35,000 (total \$105,000)**

### St Andrew's Cathedral School

**Gawura student scholarship \$26,630 (total \$79,710)**

### St Andrew's Cathedral School

**Gawura student scholarship \$24,064 (total \$92,130)**

## Recipients



### State Library of NSW

**FAR OUT! Treasures to the Bush \$30,000 (total \$90,000)**

### Sydney Story Factory

**Establishing a fundraising position \$31,533 (total \$74,283)**

### The Benevolent Society

**Cluey Kids Program in Western Sydney \$35,000 (total \$160,000)**

### University of Canberra

**The Aspiration Initiative in NSW \$50,000 (total \$350,000)**

### University of Technology, Sydney - Health Psychology Unit

**'Side by Side' Disruptive Behaviour Disorders Project \$100,000 (total \$300,000)**

### YWCA of NSW

**Community in the Kitchen, Lismore region \$40,000 (total \$150,000)**

## Scholarships

### University of Western Sydney

**Vincent Fairfax Scholarship awarded to Georgia Fait-Jeboult to study a Bachelor of Natural Sciences (Animal Science)**

### Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

**The Nancy Fairfax Churchill Fellowship to understand effective ways to use early childhood data with Indigenous communities - Canada, USA, UK (Ms Jennifer Lorains)**

**The Nancy Fairfax Churchill Fellowship to explore factors for the participation of Indigenous families in early childhood programs - Canada, USA (Mrs Sandra Lascelles)**

**The Nancy Fairfax Churchill Fellowship (in honour of Barbara Matthews) to explore how findings in neuroscience can optimise student outcomes in Australian primary schools - UK, USA (Mrs Fiona Walker)**

## Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation

*This program uses best practice early childhood education and speech language pathology to develop pre-literacy skills among young children.*

Delivered across 62 sites in five states, the program has up-skilled 424 adults to support the language and literacy development of more than 4700 children. The program was specifically designed by Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) to compensate for learning challenges such as hearing loss and developmental delays. At the core of the program is a five day Certificate IV course to improve the capabilities of early years educators, teaching assistants, parents and community members to enable them to support children with the basics of English language development. ALNF also provides participants with practical resources and ongoing mentoring to build their confidence and capability to be literacy supporters.

The project in Bowraville and Nambucca Heads is an expansion of an existing Macleay Valley/Kempsey project, supported over a number of years by the CAGES Foundation. The Macleay Valley project has successfully grown from three sites in 2008 to 24 sites in 2014. Working closely with the CAGES Foundation, VFFF reviewed strong research and anecdotal evidence of the program's efficacy, with measurable pre-literacy improvements and high levels of parent engagement with the ALNF resources and strategies. This provided a strong basis for VFFF to support a staged expansion to the nearby communities of Nambucca Heads and Bowraville.

**\$561,000**

*over three years to expand the Early Language and Literacy Program to Bowraville and Nambucca Heads, NSW*



*ALNF, Two Ways Early Language and Literacy Program, Groote Eylandt, NT (photo credit: Hailey Bartholomew).*



# Fair Education

The Fair Education Program is a joint initiative of the VFFF Board and extended Fairfax Family arising from a shared motivation to make a catalytic contribution towards educational equity in NSW.

To inform this work, VFFF established a Fair Education Working Group that drew on existing knowledge and experts in the area of education and equity. The Group included representatives from Grattan Institute and the NSW Department of Education & Communities alongside members of the Fairfax Family and VFFF Board. A Theory of Change framework was used to guide a staged process, starting with the desired goal and working backwards to envisage a philanthropic program that would be effective in achieving that goal.

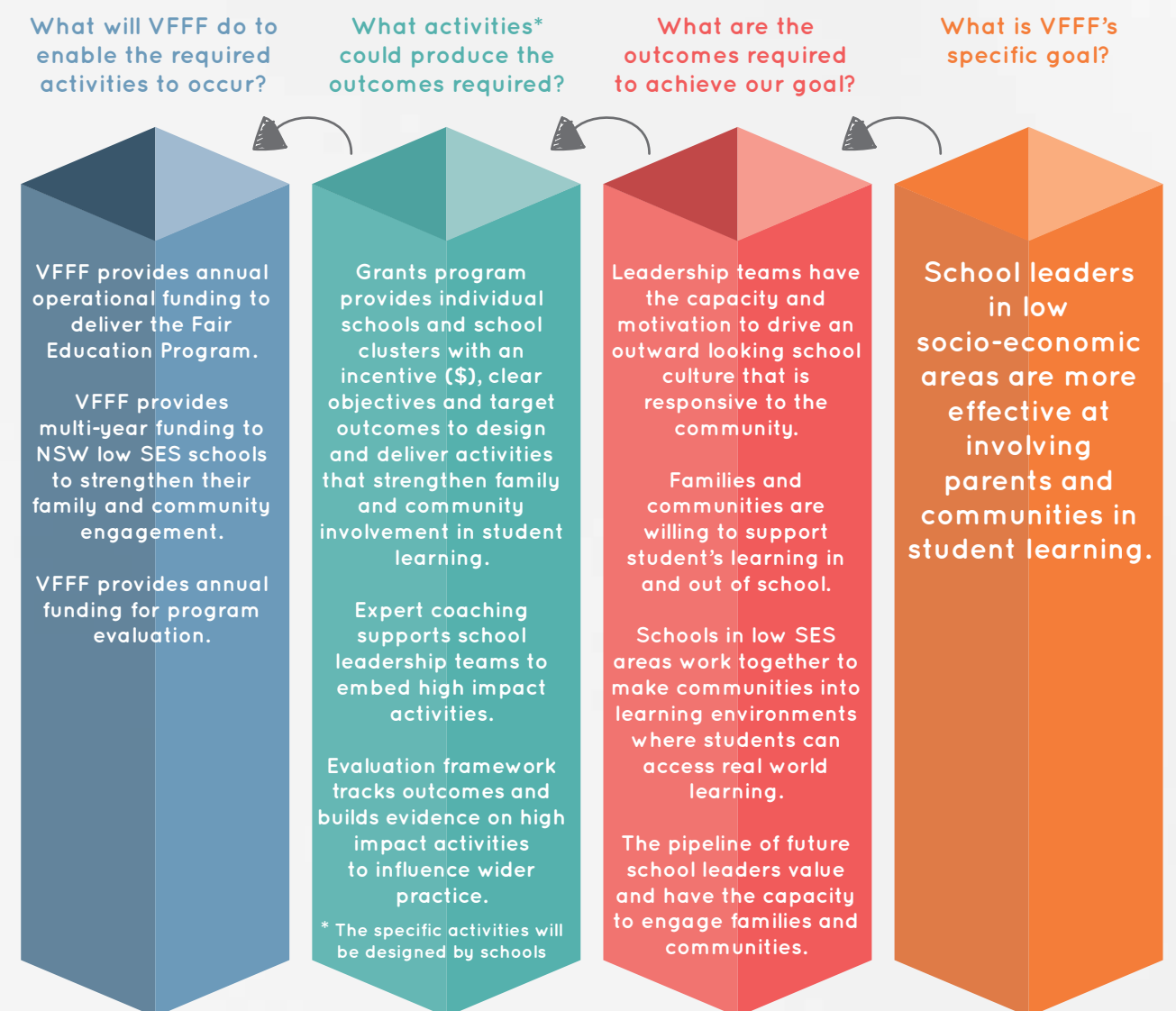
Over a series of eight meetings from February to May 2015, the Group:

- identified a focus within the broad agenda of educational equity
- set a clear goal relating to that focus
- identified outcomes required to achieve this goal; and
- articulated the characteristics of activities that could produce these outcomes.



Gondwana Indigenous Children and Sydney Children's choirs with the visiting African Children's Choir (photo credit: Paolo Febbo)

## Fair Education Program - Theory of Change



In September 2015 VFFF approved a multi-year commitment to establish the Fair Education Program in partnership with Australian Schools Plus (ASP). VFFF looks forward to working with ASP in 2015/16 so that more young Australians may have access to a great education regardless of where they live, the school they attend or their family's background.





FRRR ABC Heywire, Boots for Change, Australian Farmers Markets Association Inc, Moruya NSW

## Thematic grants



# Agriculture

Philanthropic objective

To support the viability of the Australian agricultural sector.

## Funding snapshot

**\$379,000**  
Total funding

**5%**  
Proportion of funding

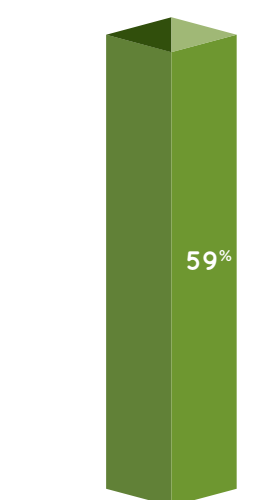
**4**  
Distributions

**50%**  
Multi-year distributions

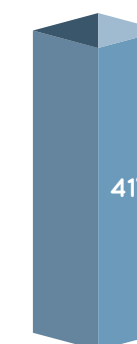
**\$94,750**  
Average distribution size

**100%**  
Of distributions reach rural and regional areas

## Priority outcomes



Agriculture is a career of choice



Increased awareness about the national importance of agriculture

## Beneficiaries

 Australian agricultural industries

 Young people



## 2015 Agriculture distributions

### La Trobe University - Australian Futures Project

Actions for NSW Agriculture \$154,400  
(total \$263,000)

To facilitate agriculture sector engagement to identify and design three actions or innovations to support the viability of agriculture in NSW.

### Primary Industries Education Foundation

Core operational costs \$100,000 (total \$200,000)

Bringing together the Australian Government, primary industries organisations and the education sector to enable primary and secondary school students to learn about the agricultural industry and careers in agriculture.

### Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal

FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants:  
AgGap - Pathways to Agriculture & Boots for Change - Family Farms \$43,450

Ag Gap will send young people to a working farm for a number of weeks to gain exposure to the skills and experience required for a career in agriculture. Boots for Change will raise awareness of the importance of the family farm and where our food comes from.

### Pathfinders

'Tilbuster Station' Farm-based Learning for young people \$81,150

Equipment to expand operations and enable income generation through farm work.

**\$263,000**

To facilitate agriculture sector engagement to identify and design three actions or innovations to support the viability of agriculture in NSW.

## Australian Futures Project

Given philanthropy's low profile in agriculture, VFFF works proactively to source funding opportunities in this theme, including seeking people and approaches able to innovate in this area.

VFFF approached the Australian Futures Project about working with farmers and other agriculture stakeholders to achieve concrete outcomes that could contribute to ensuring the viability of the agriculture sector.

Australian Futures Project took up this challenge and proposed a process to bring together a diverse group of leaders, decision-makers and other agriculture stakeholders through a series of workshops. Utilising a process that builds the will and skill of participants to take collaborative action, Actions for NSW Agriculture is a concerted intervention to achieve comprehensive progress on the issues that are challenging the viability of the sector.

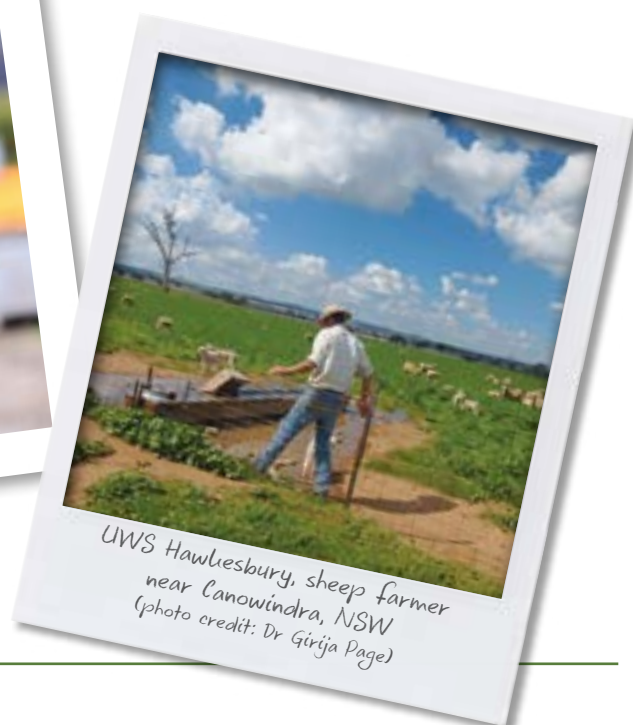
Led by a Steering Committee of industry leaders, an outstanding cross-section of agriculture stakeholders has been selected following a public application process. From July 2015, this group will progressively identify, design and test tangible actions to contribute to a prosperous future for agriculture in NSW in three areas:

- Foster a culture of innovation across the agricultural supply chain
- Increase capital investment across the agricultural supply chain
- Improve the level of community trust in the agriculture industry.

*"Take 50 people with energy, drive and great ideas. Get them working together for 12 months and you'll be amazed by the results."*  
- RALPH ASHTON, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, THE AUSTRALIAN FUTURES PROJECT.



FRRR ABC Heywire Ag Gap ambassador Percy Duncan



UWS Hawkesbury, sheep farmer near Canowindra, NSW  
(photo credit: Dr Gurja Page)

## Recipients



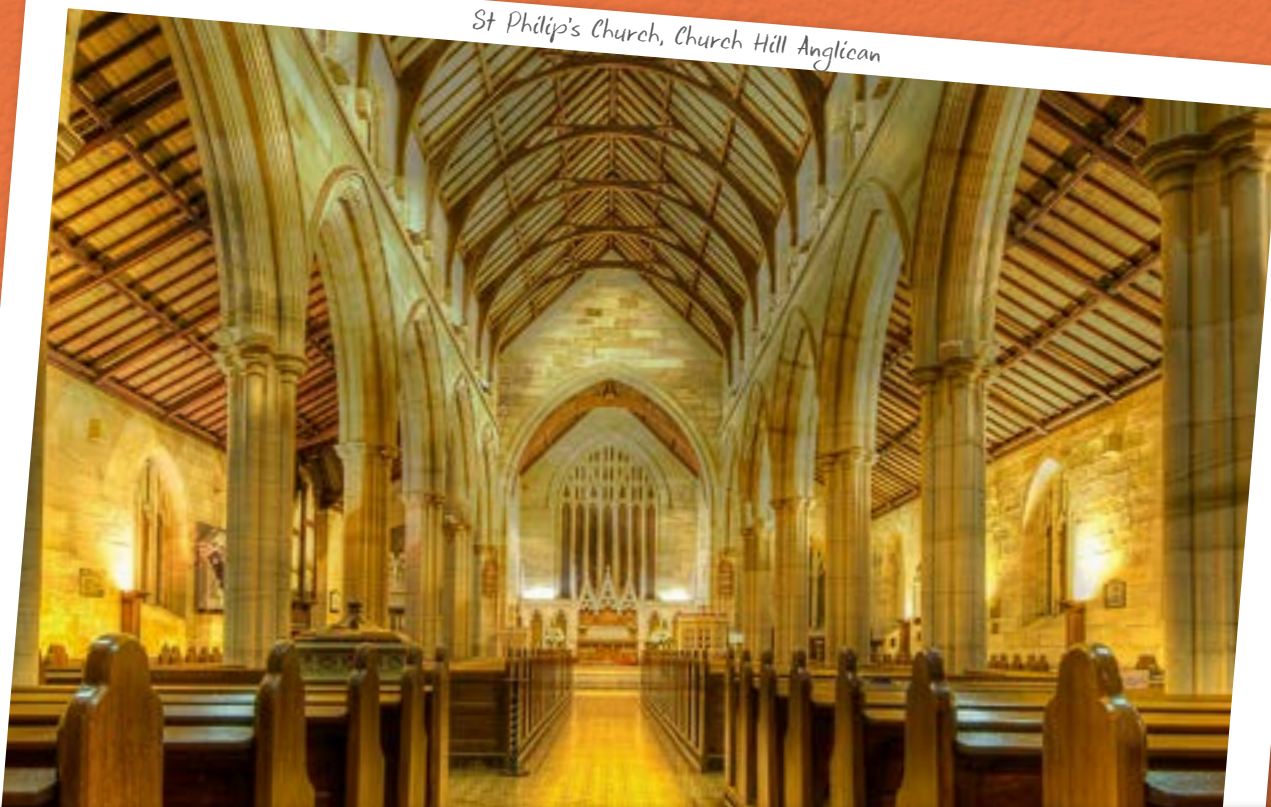
(photo credit: Matt Marasco)



Participants at Q Station, North Head (photo credit: Eva Worden)



St Philip's Church, Church Hill Anglican



St Barnabas Church Broadway, Sunday evening service

## Thematic grants



# Christianity

Philanthropic objective

To encourage interest and participation in Christianity.

Funding snapshot

**\$2,006,132**  
Total funding

**28%**  
Proportion of funding

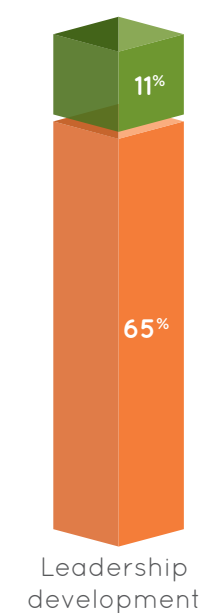
**10**  
Distributions

**60%**  
Multi-year distributions

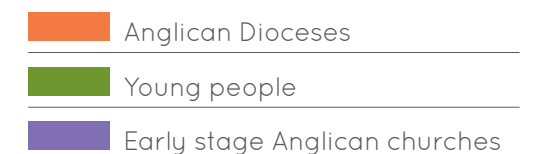
**\$200,613**  
Average distribution size

**60%**  
Of distributions reach rural and regional areas

Priority outcomes



Beneficiaries





## 2015 Christianity distributions

### Moore Theological College

The Being Moore Campaign \$1,300,000  
over two distributions (total \$2,000,000)  
Towards the redevelopment of the Sydney  
campus at Newtown.

### Naremburn Cammeray Anglican Church

Redevelopment of Cammeray All Saints Church  
\$435,000  
Towards the redevelopment of Cammeray  
All Saints Church to provide for a growing  
congregation.

### Nungalinga College

College Crèche \$40,000  
A crèche for the preschool children of students  
from remote communities undertaking theological  
and vocational study.

### St Albans Anglican Church, Frenchs Forest

Youth & Young Adult Leadership Development  
\$23,000  
Towards employment of a Youth Minister to guide  
and support youth leadership development.

### St Barnabas Church, Broadway

Employment of a Female Assistant Minister  
\$50,000  
Towards employment of a female pastor to train,  
develop and mentor young female Church leaders.

## Continuing distributions

### Church Hill Anglican

Hope For Sydney \$33,000 (total \$98,000)

### Harbour Church, Shellharbour

Youth Minister \$16,632 (total \$46,941)

### Ministry Training Strategy

MTS Scholarship Program \$100,000 (total \$200,000)

### St Peter's Anglican Church, Shoalhaven Heads

Children's and Youth Worker \$8,500 (total \$39,000)

## Recipients



Church Hill Anglican, Sydney



MTS apprentices at the  
G8 National Conference 2015  
(photo credit: Luke Waller)

## Moore Theological College

Since 1856, Moore College has provided theological  
training to prepare people for Christian ministry  
and mission.

As the leading NSW provider of theological training to  
prepare ministers for the Anglican Church, the work of  
Moore College is strongly aligned with the objective and  
priority outcomes of the VFFF Christianity theme.

The \$34m redevelopment of the Sydney campus at  
Newtown is a project that will transform the College  
facilities. The redevelopment will create a purpose  
built facility incorporating a new training precinct, a  
430 person capacity Assembly Hall and new classroom  
facilities. The expanded Moore College library and  
research centre will be the largest theological library in  
the southern hemisphere.

Recognising this as an investment in the future leaders  
of the Anglican Church, VFFF was pleased to be a lead  
supporter for this redevelopment. The Foundation  
invested early to encourage others and to provide  
Moore College with additional surety to progress the  
development and construction approval process.

**\$2,000,000**

Over two years towards  
the Being Moore Campaign  
- redeveloping the Sydney  
campus at Newtown



Artist's impression of Moore College building, Newtown (Architect: Mark Louw from Allen Jac+Cottier)





Parents' Café Fairfield, 'Little Baghdad, The Long Table' dinner party, June 2015 (photo credit: Helen Tran)

## Thematic grants



# Community Wellbeing

### Philanthropic objective

To contribute to a stronger and brighter future for Australians, particularly those experiencing significant disadvantage.

### Funding snapshot

**\$1,567,802**  
Total funding

**22%**  
Proportion of funding

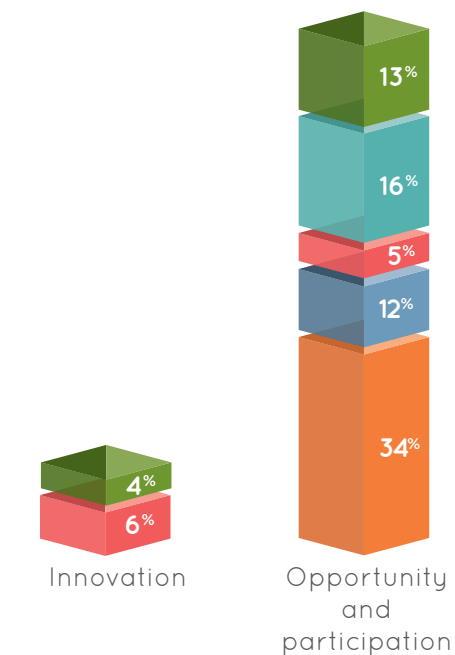
**22**  
Distributions

**86%**  
Multi-year distributions

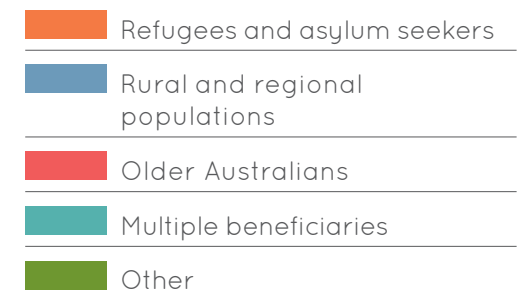
**\$71,264**  
Average distribution size

**45%**  
Of distributions reach rural and regional areas

### Priority outcomes



### Beneficiaries







## Refugee Advice and Casework Service

*Established in 1987, RACS provides free, expert legal services to asylum seekers and refugees in need.*

RACS strives to ensure that individuals and families at risk of persecution gain access to equal and fair representation before the law so they may be granted due protection in accordance with Australia's international obligations.

After 85% of its funding was retracted by the Federal Government, RACS presented VFFF with a comprehensive fundraising strategy to develop an independent future. This resulted in a Challenge Grant, suggested by VFFF as a means to incentivise RACS and its potential supporters. Under the terms of the grant, VFFF committed to contributing up to \$660,000 over two years. For every dollar raised by RACS, VFFF provides another \$0.33 once its quarterly fundraising target has been reached.

*"RACS is now providing more legal advice to people striving to obtain safety than at any time in our 26 year history. The Challenge Grant has provided RACS with a clear incentive to reach and exceed our fundraising and humanitarian goals. It has also had the effect of affirming everyone connected with RACS, from our staff to our volunteers and supporters, but especially the worthy and resilient people we serve every day." - RACS*

A challenge grant of up to  
**\$660,000**  
over two years to assist  
Refugee Advice and  
Casework Service (RACS)  
transition to a new  
financial model.

## Community Wellbeing (continued)

### 2015 Community Wellbeing distributions

#### CareerSeekers

**Seed funding \$100,000 (total \$200,000)**

Establishing paid internships for refugees and asylum seekers who have been granted approval to settle in Australia and possess the necessary work rights.

#### Creativity Australia

**MyChoir "How To" project \$30,300 (total \$86,000)**

Towards the development of resources to expand the "With One Voice" program to local communities, particularly in rural and regional areas.

#### Critical Stages

**NSW Regional and Rural Program \$24,500**

Touring high quality, relevant and accessible theatre to regional and remote communities in NSW.

#### Jesuit Social Services

**Dropping off the Edge: the distribution of disadvantage in Australia 2015 \$60,000**

A research initiative mapping social disadvantage across Australia.

#### Literacy for Life Foundation

**YES I CAN Aboriginal Adult Literacy Campaign, Bourke \$25,000**

To support the roll-out of the fourth program intake.

#### Museum of Contemporary Art

**ARTFUL: A program for people living with dementia \$70,975 (total \$220,000)**

To develop and deliver an arts program for older Australians with early and middle-stage dementia and their carers, incorporating research and evaluation.

#### Parents' Café Fairfield

**Core operating support for the establishment of the Parents' Café Fairfield Inc. \$180,000 (total \$450,000)**

Providing a range of support and opportunities for parents of newly arrived refugee students at Fairfield High School.

#### Refugee Advice and Casework Service

**Fundraising challenge grant \$142,958 over three distributions (total \$660,000)**

A challenge grant of up to \$660,000 over two years to assist Refugee Advice and Casework Service transition to a new financial model.

#### The Social Outfit

**Operational support \$87,564 (total \$356,560)**

Providing education, training and employment opportunities in the fashion industry to refugee and new migrant communities.

#### University of NSW

**Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing - The Dementia Momentum \$100,000 (total \$300,000)**

To harness international research to identify, develop and validate strategies to delay, ameliorate or even prevent dementia.

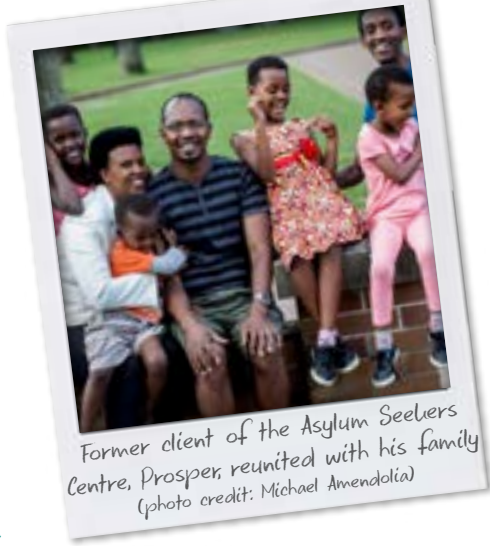
#### Women in Prison Advocacy Network (WIPAN)

**WIPAN Mentoring Program, Western Sydney \$80,000**

To expand the WIPAN Mentoring Program to adult women ex-prisoners in Western Sydney.







Continuing distributions

**Asylum Seekers Centre of NSW**  
Casework support for asylum seekers in Greater Sydney \$40,000 (total \$180,000)

**Charles Sturt University**  
Accommodation scholarships for dentistry students \$84,798 (total \$1,013,077)

**Jawun**  
Supporting expansion to the Central Coast, NSW \$75,000 (total \$225,000)

**Justice Connect**  
MOSAIC: Migrant Outreach Service \$75,000 (total \$150,000)

**Outback Theatre for Young People**  
Employment of a part-time Development Manager \$31,200 (total \$62,400)

**Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS)**  
Community Outreach Director for the SIMS Harbour Research Project \$120,000 (total \$435,000)

**Walter and Eliza Hall Supplementary Trust**  
Small grants for individuals in necessitous circumstances \$183,282 over two distributions (total \$793,184)

**Women's Community Shelters**  
To employ the inaugural CEO \$57,225 (total \$228,900)

Recipients



Scholarships

**Arthritis Foundation Australia**  
**AFA-ARA Heald Fellowship** awarded to Dr Saltana Hussain of the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University for her project titled *Towards a better understanding of low back pain*.

**Royal Australasian College of Physicians**  
**Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation Research Fellowship** awarded to Liang-han Ling for research titled *Atrial Fibrillation and Heart Failure: Exploring Determinants of Adverse and Favourable Outcomes*.

**Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation Research Entry Scholarship in Rural Health** awarded to Dr Marie Shanya Malalasekera for her research titled *Understanding the Patient Journey to Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer*.

**Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation Research Entry Scholarship** awarded to Dr Tejawasi Kandula for research titled *Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy in the paediatric population: risk factors, assessment strategies and functional outcomes*.

\$60,000

Towards 'Dropping off the Edge', a research initiative mapping social disadvantage across Australia

Jesuit Social Services

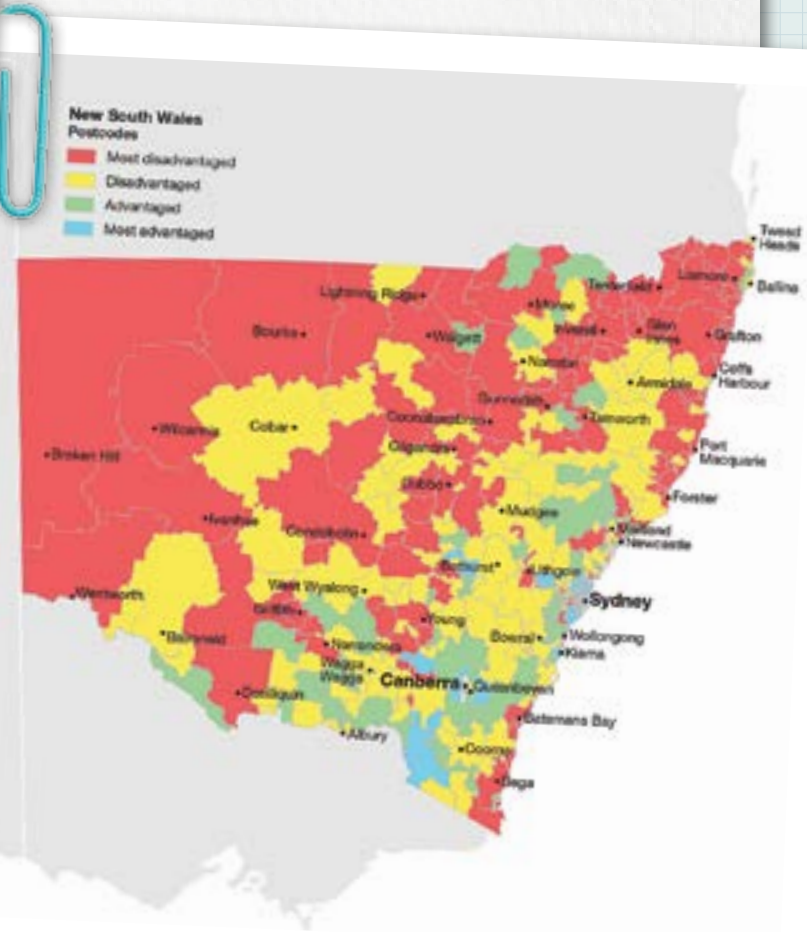
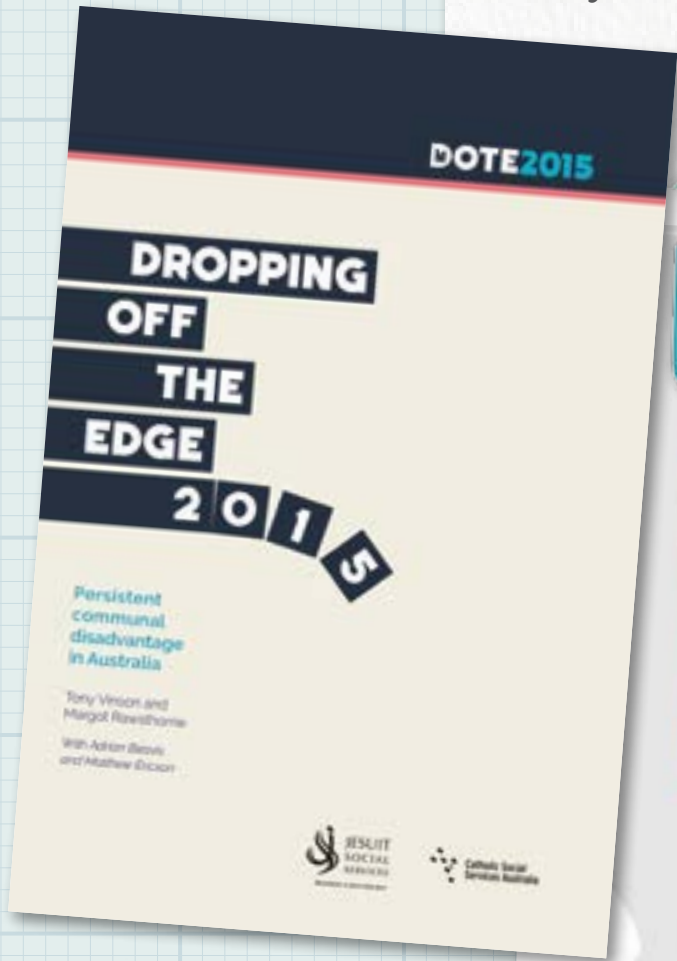
In 2007, Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia commissioned ground-breaking research into place-based disadvantage across Australia.

The 2007 Dropping off the Edge Report succeeded in shaping government approaches to locational disadvantage and has informed many others working to tackle entrenched poverty.

The Jesuit Social Service proposal to update this research offered an opportunity to draw further attention to the locational nature of disadvantage in Australia, and to identify and learn from communities that have succeeded in bucking the trend or have turned things around.

Inequality and social disadvantage are important areas of focus for VFFF. This research calls for targeted responses that are relevant to community context and need, a position consistent with VFFF's experience in place-based work.

Dropping off the Edge 2015 shows clearly that complex and entrenched disadvantage is experienced by a small but persistent number of locations in each state and territory across Australia. The public release of the Report generated significant media coverage and public discussion around these important issues.







# Strategic Programs

In the last four years, VFFF has sought to increase its impact and improve its philanthropic practice through a number of strategic initiatives. These programs are opportunities to invest VFFF's resources beyond the financial including time and networks towards achieving greater outcomes.

## Place-Based

Taking a long term view with a geographically-defined community has been identified as a promising philanthropic approach. The idea of VFFF's Place-Based Program is to support a specific community to work on the issues it sees as important.

VFFF has worked closely in Condobolin and the Lachlan Shire in the Central West of NSW since 2012, supporting a range of organisations and activities.

**Some of the initial grants made in 2012 have, or are close to concluding this year. These were predominantly foundational or capacity building grants, investments in the core operations and people power in important local organisations.**

A research project – *Growing Lachlan* – driven by the Linking the Lachlan Initiative and supported by a range of local entities is about to get underway. It will identify and communicate Lachlan Shire's strengths and challenges through data collation and community discussion, enabling residents, policy makers, service providers and funders to work together towards building a more successful and prosperous community for all. *Growing Lachlan* will also provide an evidence-base and springboard for the next stage of VFFF's work in Lachlan Shire, and in 2016, VFFF will work with local stakeholders to determine its most useful role for years 4 to 7 of the program.

## Funding snapshot

**\$389,499**  
Total funding

**5%**  
Proportion of funding

**5**  
Distributions

**80%**  
Multi-year distributions

## 2015 distribution

### Western Plains Regional Development

Operational funding \$117,101

Towards core operations and leadership coaching for the Executive Officer and Management Committee members over the next 12 months.

## Recipient



## Continuing distributions

### Beacon Foundation

Beacon Program in Condobolin High School  
\$62,411 (total \$208,411)

### Condo Café incentive funding

Supporting community initiatives in the four areas identified by the Condobolin community as priorities – Education & Young People, Employment & Industry, Community spirit & Stability, Service & Infrastructure \$18,374 (total \$60,000)

### Many Rivers Microfinance

Microenterprise development in Central West NSW \$126,175 (total \$375,438)

### Western Plains Regional Development

#### (Linking the Lachlan Initiative)

Community Connection Officer position \$65,438 (total \$178,738)





# Children and Prison



## Funding snapshot

\$298,600	4%	3	100%
Total funding	Proportion of funding	Distributions	Multi-year distributions

In 2013 with Dusseldorp Forum (DF), VFFF made a commitment to provide philanthropic support towards reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal children in the NSW juvenile justice system.

Acknowledging the complexity of this issue, our first task was to determine – where can philanthropy’s contribution have the greatest impact in reducing the numbers of young Aboriginal people being incarcerated in NSW? We decided to undertake community consultation to inform this task and our funding decisions.

In April 2014, we convened a Reference Group who advised we focus discussions in Dubbo, which has high rates of youth recidivism as well as thriving young Aboriginal people, to identify ways to increase the number of those on positive pathways and reduce the numbers in and out of custody.

The idea was well-received in Dubbo and discussions were held with 87 community members between August and December 2014.

*Dubbo Conversations\** documents the community’s views on the questions: **Most Aboriginal young people in Dubbo do not end up in the juvenile justice system. What makes the difference for them compared to those that do enter the system? And therefore, what can be done by philanthropy?**

**Our aim was to tap into local knowledge and experiences to reveal practical insights and suggestions about what works, what is needed and what can be done – to change the path of children on track for incarceration.** The report made recommendations of high potential activities to support, which were endorsed by the Reference Group in March.

Short-term Responding to community	Medium-term Strengthening the system	Long-term Addressing complex issues
Improved service coordination and collaboration		
Grants program for high potential local activities	Coordinated casework from first contact with court	Transitional housing
Build on existing specific programs	Cross-sector training package	Intensive support for identified families
	Broad-scale mentoring	

A small Working Group that brings together those identified in *Dubbo Conversations* as important and effective in supporting young people began in August. The idea is to enhance coordination and collective action among a core group, to enhance outcomes for young people involved with, or heading for the justice system.

Our thanks to Dubbo for its openness and interest in working with us, to our Reference Group members, to the Dubbo Working Group and to Patrick Shepherdson and Elizabeth McEntyre for their work on *Dubbo Conversations*. Special thanks to Sharon Tomas for working with us from Dubbo.

\* Dubbo Conversations is available to download from the VFFF website [www.vfff.org.au](http://www.vfff.org.au)



Mick O'Loughlin with Keenan, Ewan and Conner from Youth Off The Streets, Bourke (photo credit: Marli Hollam)



## 2015 distribution

*Children and Prison Program Dubbo*  
**Progress Dubbo Conversations recommendations \$125,000 (total \$275,000)**  
\$75,000 per annum for three years to progress the 'short term' recommendations in Dubbo Conversations and \$50,000 towards operational resourcing in Dubbo. This funding is matched by Dusseldorp Forum.

## Continuing distributions

*Aboriginal Legal Service*  
To develop the case for a Justice Reinvestment trial in Bourke, NSW \$73,600 (total \$147,200)

*Apostolic Church Australia – Eternity Aid*  
Operational funding for Eternity Aid’s work with young offenders, their families and communities in Bourke and expansion to two other NSW regional areas with high rates of incarceration \$100,000 (total \$216,000)





# Social Impact Investment

## Funding snapshot



VFFF continues to support the growth of the available pool of 'impact first' investment opportunities, providing time and funding to sector led initiatives.

Directors approved the first distribution under the Social Impact Investment Program to the School for Social Entrepreneurs -Partnering for Scale and Impact. This initiative mentors social enterprises until they are investment ready. VFFF has participated in forums and provided mentoring and encouragement to a number of social enterprises during the year.

Impact investing US-style was a major focus for the twelve family foundations that were part of Philanthropy Australia's Family and Private Foundations Tour to New York and Washington. Tim Fairfax and Jenny Wheatley represented VFFF on the tour, which provided insights into portfolios that achieved risk weighted returns with 100% of assets invested for impact. A key takeaway from the tour was that a number of foundations are focussed on assisting not for profit organisations become self-sustaining by making investments in patient equity and below commercial interest rate loans.

With the ambitious goal of having 5% of the corpus invested on an impact first basis by 30 June 2017, we are pleased that in February 2015 Matt Wachter was appointed Chief Investment Officer for our investment manager Cambooya.

Matt and his team have demonstrated the expertise and enthusiasm to find mission-aligned impact investment opportunities. Cambooya has developed an investment framework and there is agreement at Board level that investments be made on an impact first basis.

VFFF is confident the time invested in exploring investment opportunities and developing the sector will grow the impact VFFF brings to our priority beneficiary groups.

## 2015 distribution

**School for Social Entrepreneurs**  
**Partnering for Scale & Impact \$80,000**  
**(total \$240,000)**  
Operational support for this initiative.

## Recipient



# Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia

Good Pitch began as a partnership between BRITDOC and Sundance Documentary Film Program and has gained momentum since the first event in 2009.

In 2011 a satellite version of the forum, Good Pitch<sup>2</sup>, was launched with the support of the Ford Foundation, enabling regional organisations all over the world to put on their own Good Pitch events.

Shark Island Institute and Documentary Australia Foundation launched Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia in October 2014. Seven social purpose documentaries with potential to be linked to high impact outreach and education campaigns were presented and discussed at the Sydney Opera House. More than \$2 million in philanthropic funding was committed and 60 new partnerships forged.

N.B. The second Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia event occurred in September 2015, with six documentaries presented and over \$4.7 million raised.



**\$300,000**  
Towards the operating costs of Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia, an initiative to connect social purpose Australian documentaries with new allies and partners to advance change on important social issues.

# Supporting Australian Philanthropy

## Funding snapshot



VFFF seeks to encourage others to give and makes grants to support the growth of the philanthropic sector in Australia.

## 2015 distribution

**Documentary Australia Foundation**  
**Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia \$200,000 over two distributions (total \$300,000)**  
Towards the operating costs of Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia, an initiative to connect social purpose Australian documentaries with new allies and partners to advance change on important social issues.

## Continuing distribution

**Philanthropy Australia**  
Leading Membership \$25,000 (total \$75,000)

## Recipient







Three generations of the Fairfax family at Triple Care Farm

## Founders' Interest Distribution

In November 2012, Directors adopted the concept of supporting special distributions for projects demonstrating particular relevance to the founders and the family.

### Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens' Bicentenary \$324,273 (total \$561,461)

To develop an interactive educational program for the new 'Calyx', to be inaugurated at the Gardens' bicentenary celebration in June 2016. The Gardens were a favourite place of Sir Vincent Fairfax and Lady Fairfax. The Foundation's first distribution to the Gardens for the Fernery in May 1991 was initiated by Lady Fairfax who was intrigued by the propagation of ferns on the then Director's office window sills and charmed by Babbacetto's architectural drawings for the Fernery.

### Recipient



## New Generation Philanthropy

VFFF works with the Vincent Fairfax family to encourage family involvement in the work of the Foundation.

Since 2010, members of the New Generation have been actively involved in a range of initiatives that are growing family participation in the work of VFFF.

The New Generation have the opportunity to be members of the Grants Committee which provides practical experience in governance and grants assessment. They also attend site visits and conferences.

The VFFF Grants Committee commenced operations in 2012 with delegated authority to approve grants from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

**It has been a successful strategy, yielding a high level of lively engagement across the third generation of the family and excellent granting outcomes for VFFF.**

Recognising these achievements and the increasing expertise of the Committee, in March 2015 VFFF Directors approved increasing the Committee's grant making delegation from \$25,000 to \$50,000. The minimum VFFF grant was also increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

### Grants Committee 2015

Annabel Dulhunty	Prue Pateras
Andy Fairfax	Angus White
Emilia Kefford	Emma White
Sarah O'Brien	

## Chairman's Report, Vincent Fairfax Ethics in Leadership Foundation

*The quality outcomes delivered by the Vincent Fairfax Fellowship (VFF), the flagship course of the Centre for Ethical Leadership (CEL) continues to impress.*

The course is achieving the aims envisioned by its namesake, my grandfather Sir Vincent Fairfax: increasing the dialogue about ethics in the wider community, equipping leaders to better respond to ethical dilemmas and emulate model ethical behaviour.

Cohorts 20 and 21, that undertook the Fellowship during the year, included leaders from the commercial, public and not for profit sectors. It was pleasing too for the Board to hear that the course is assisting past Fellow Eugenia Kolivos in her discussions about ethical behaviour in her workplace and further, that she was appointed to the Board of Corrs Chambers Westgarth Lawyers. We also thank Peter Greste for giving the 2015 VFF Graduation Address. His full and frank discussion about the ethical dilemmas facing the media and his suggested solutions were food for thought for the very diverse audience that turned out to hear him speak.

I thank Mike Murray who resigned from the Board in March 2015 after seven years of valuable service to VFELF. We are delighted that he will maintain his association with the family and Foundation as a member of the Audit Finance and Investment Committee for VFFF and VFELF. I am deeply grateful too, for the wise counsel of our continuing Board members, Rob Cartwright, Debby King-Rowley and Peter Wilson.

In 2015/16 CEL will deliver a module of the VFF in Sydney. The prospect of having the course delivered nationally is enormously exciting.

*Angus White*  
Chairman VFELF



Journalist Peter Greste speaking at the graduation of the 20th cohort of Fellows, June 2015

### VFELF Board of Directors

Angus White, Chairman  
The Honourable Robert Cartwright  
Deborah King-Rowley  
Peter Wilson AM



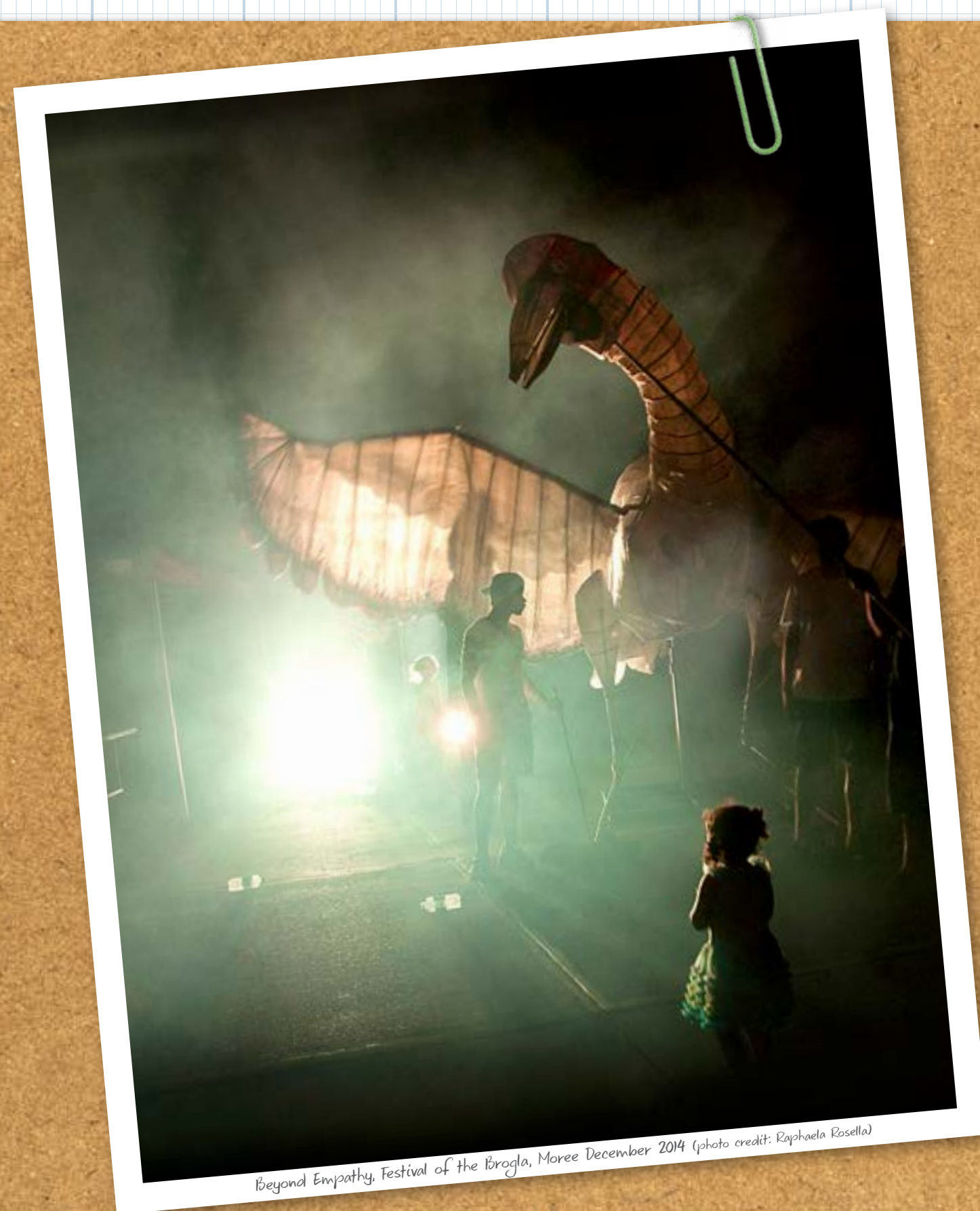
# Our Board and Team



Board left to right: Ruth Armytage, Angus White, Suzanne Cridge, Robert Cartwright, Tim Fairfax, Sally White and James Millar.



Team left to right: Annabel Dulhunty, Emily Fuller, Jenny Wheatley, David Hardie, Candice Van Doosselaere and Sue Goudie.



Beyond Empathy, Festival of the Brogla, Moree December 2014 (photo credit: Raphaela Rosella)

Back cover image: Mount Tilga in Condobolin (photo credit: Michael Holmes)





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