



2003

Education Foundation Annual Review

**Education Foundation**  
KIDS • CAN • DO • . . .

# Welcome



The Education Foundation looks for ways it can uniquely provide support for public education. It identifies points of critical need or untapped possibility where it can make a significant contribution. Four key ideas underpin all of our programs:

- Education is closely related to life chances
- Every child, regardless of background, deserves to develop his or her talents and have the capacity to go forward
- The community has a great deal to offer in supporting public education
- By working with the community, business and government, an independent foundation can bring about significant change and ongoing benefit for young people and their communities.

It is in the sustained working relationship with schools and local communities that the Education Foundation is able to identify the most critical issues and opportunities for assistance. It is the support we then receive from the wider community that makes a positive contribution possible.

Thank you to all the individuals and organisations who have made our 2003 programs possible.

**Ellen Koshland** President



In 2003, close to 1000 young people came with their teachers to attend the Foundation's The City Centre in its pilot year. Some of these students came back in December to launch the urban school with Sir Gustav Nossal, Patron of The City Centre and The Hon. Minister Allan, Minister for Education Services.

The launch celebrated two years of planning and implementation to turn the William Buckland Foundation's Lighthouse Schools grant into a facility in which middle years innovation and exciting learning has a permanent home.

The City Centre is about equity in education – schools that are losing too many students at year 10 can reinvigorate their curriculum and their classes to make staying at school a real proposition.

The City Centre will be a world-class urban learning and mentoring facility. Thanks to all our donors who have helped to establish this wonderful place.

**Don Larkin** Chairman



In 2003, the Education Foundation helped more than 530 Victorian schools to keep kids interested in their education.

Modern learning requires teachers to move from imparting knowledge to developing the skills to attain knowledge. Good teaching invigorates young minds and leads to possibilities for every young person.

At the Education Foundation, we believe that all students deserve the best education and every opportunity, particularly students in schools located in poorer neighbourhoods. In 2003, we established the Opportunity Scholarship program which gave grants to 54 talented young people who show commitment to their education but who lack the necessary resources to excel.

These kids say that the faith our donors have in them to succeed is as important as the money they receive. That's also what many of the teachers say to us when we recognise their inspiring efforts through our classroom grants.

**Heather Le Roy** Chief Executive Officer

# The Education Foundation believes that kids can do anything with a great education.

**Our Vision** is that the public education system inspires every young person to be their best. **Our Mission** is to work with public schools and the community to give young people the opportunity to unlock their potential. **Our Objectives** are to:

- Stimulate new thinking about, and commitment to, public education.
- Develop creative learning opportunities for young people in primary and secondary public schools, particularly those experiencing social, educational or economic hardship.

## 2003 Partnership Projects at a Glance

### Strong Schools, Strong Communities

#### Back To School Day

Donor: Paul's Milk for Life  
248 Victorian schools and 800 former students

#### Enterprise Education Ambassadors

Donor: Department of Education, Science and Training  
14 schools and 6 companies across 4 states

#### Kids and Community Website

Donor: The R.E. Ross Trust

#### Powercor Australia School and Community Fund 2002-2004

Donor: Powercor Australia Limited  
Ballarat HS  
Mount Clear College  
Murtoa P-12 College  
Stawell SC

#### r.u.MAD? (Are You Making A Difference?)

Major donors:  
Council for the Encouragement of Philanthropy in Australia  
Foundation For Young Australians  
Perpetual Trustees  
Telstra Foundation  
The Myer Foundation  
The R.E. Ross Trust  
Over 250 Victorian schools

#### School Volunteer Program (Incorporating the Seniors as Volunteers Pilot Program)

Donor: Department of Education and Training  
Deer Park SC  
Goroke P-12 College  
Horsham College  
Moreland City College  
Norlane HS  
Rosewall PS  
Toorak PS  
Whittington PS

### Changing The Learning Landscape

#### The City Centre

Major donors:  
The Besen Foundation  
Dr Roger R Woock  
Victorian Schools Innovation Commission  
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority  
900 students from 30 Victorian schools

#### The Lighthouse Schools Project 2000-2003

Donor: The William Buckland Foundation  
Evaluation: The Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne  
Buckley Park College  
Footscray City College  
Malvern Central School  
Rushworth P – 12 College  
Sale College

#### Dreams & Schemes Awards:

##### Students as Inventors

Donors:  
Department of Education & Training  
Department of Education, Science & Training  
The Triton Foundation  
Price Waterhouse Coopers  
Technical Educators Association of Victoria  
Scienceworks  
300 Victorian and Queensland students

### Seeding Student Opportunities

#### Green Seed

Donor: The Ruffin-Falkiner Foundation  
**Albion North PS:** Go Natural – Go Natives  
**Altona Gate PS:** Patchwork Planting  
**Ascot Vale West PS:** From Little Things, Big Things Grow  
**Debney Meadows PS:** Plant, Eat & Heal  
**Dinjerra PS:** Dinjerra Billabong  
**Furlong Park School and Pre School for Deaf Children:** Growing for Food  
**Kings Park PS:** Kings Patch  
**St Albans South PS:** The Grasslands Strike Back  
**Sunshine Heights PS:** Living Skills – Natives and Produce Garden Club  
**Sunvale PS:** Better Schools and Gardens

### Koorie Scholarships

Donor: The Alfred Felton Bequest  
47 recipients

### Opportunity Scholarships

Major donors:  
Joyce Nicholson  
Cassy Harris  
Morawetz Social Justice Fund  
Peter Halstead & Ruth Hoffman  
54 recipients

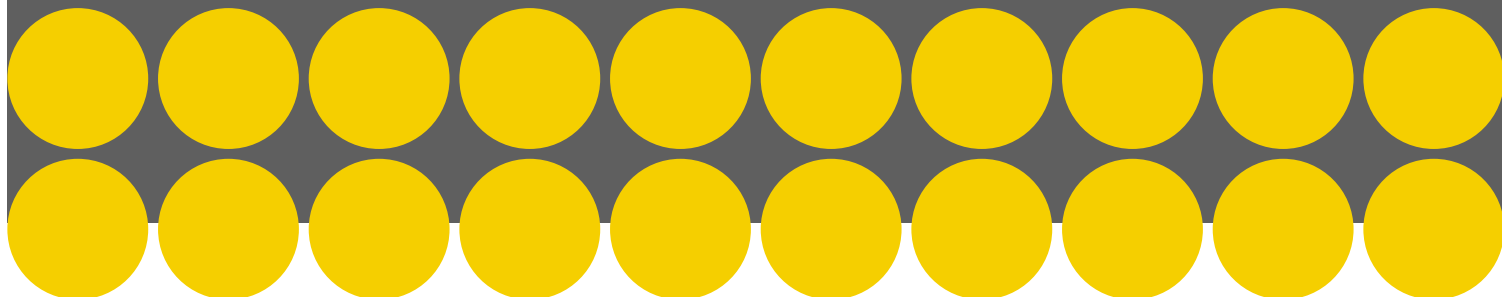
### Children's Learning Fund

Donors:  
The Caledonia Foundation  
The Dennoch Foundation  
The Dymocks Literacy Foundation  
The Gandel Charitable Trust  
The Grosvenor Settlement  
The Hartline Fund  
Perpetual Trustees  
Portland House Corporation  
**Albert Park College:** The Marine Park  
**Aspendale Gardens PS:** Willing Workers for the Wetlands  
**Eaglehawk SC:** Mandate Explosion  
**The Grange P-12:** Cirkus Bizerkus  
**Magpie PS:** Eggs Alive  
**Melton West PS:** Bridges to Learning Literacy  
**Murtoa College:** The Curse of the Country Kids  
**Student Development Centre:**  
The Roundabout Initiative  
**Thornbury Darebin SC:** SYN FM  
**Wedderburn College and Charlton College:** Babies, Books and Beyond  
**Yarram SC:** Hold On Don't Scream  
**Victorian College for the Deaf:** Technological Storytelling for Deaf Children

### Research For Change Beyond The Pilot

Donor: ANZ Trustees

# Changing the Learning Landscape



Too many students are not being challenged by their schooling.

**Especially at Years 9 and 10, a bold new approach is needed to teaching and learning.**

### The City Centre

Conventional approaches to schooling no longer meet the needs of today's young people. This is especially true in the critically formative years 9 and 10, where students show the highest levels of truancy and dissatisfaction with school.

Building on findings from the four year Lighthouse Schools Project, the Education Foundation has launched a new urban learning centre in the Melbourne Central Business District. The City Centre turns the city into a giant classroom where young people can learn and grow. It is a school of the future, a world class model of education for all young people, especially those who are alienated, disadvantaged or at risk of dropping out of school.



The City Centre opens up the city to young people. Where the traditional classroom isolates learning from the wider world, the City Centre involves students in a week of rich, essential learning in the city. Students learn by visiting key CBD cultural, business and welfare sites. They learn from informative speakers who talk about the many aspects of life in the city. Most of all, they learn by researching real life issues, creating hypotheses, carrying out research and conducting live interviews in the city.



In this pilot year, 900 students from 30 schools – almost 80% of which were deemed as disadvantaged - came to the City Centre. In future years, the City Centre has the potential to become a resource for all Victorian government schools, able to make a difference for thousands of young people and for the whole school education system.

### The Lighthouse Schools Project 2000-2003

This innovative program seeded significant reforms to schooling for the middle years. Five selected government secondary schools established best practice programs that boosted educational achievement for young people and changed the way learning is delivered in the school.

### Dreams & Schemes Awards: Students As Inventors

In its second year, the Dreams & Schemes Awards involved more than 300 young inventors from Victoria and Queensland. Primary and secondary school students were recognised for their scientific talent and creativity.

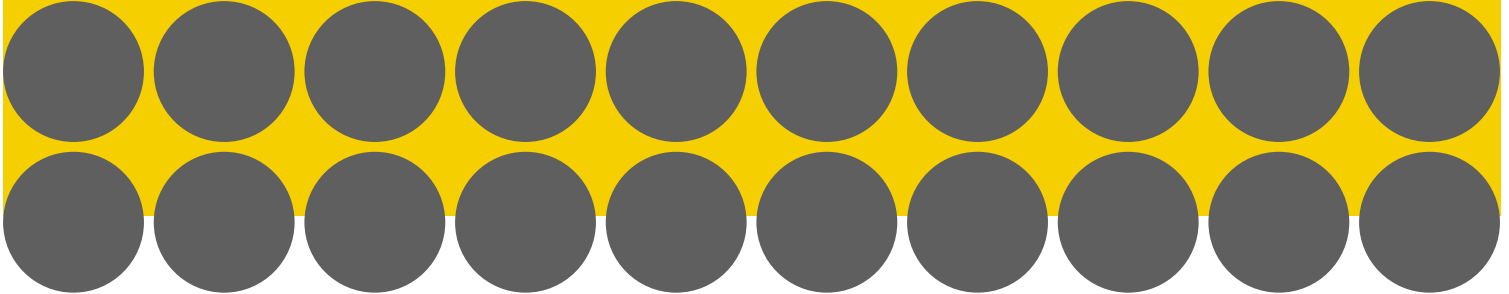
*"I like the way the teachers trusted us and gave us a chance to show that we are responsible by letting us go out and research our projects. We were independent and we had to learn how to do things for ourselves".*

Year 10 student participating in the City Centre

*"The City Centre was a marvellous experience for all of the students. Besides positively influencing their personal development, it has also stimulated their interest in learning. For a number of these students who are not as engaged in their schooling as they should be, this is the most important outcome of their participation in the program".*

John McIntyre, Principal, La Trobe Secondary College

# Strong Schools, Strong Communities



Government schools can be focal points of community capacity-building, especially in our most disadvantaged regions. **The Education Foundation helps schools build strong partnerships to strengthen their communities and boost learning and life opportunities for all young people.**

## Back To School Day

The second annual Back To School Day was a great success. Last year, the campaign involved 155 Victorian schools. In 2003, 800 former students went back to 248 government schools to inspire over 50,00 students.



Back To School Day gives young people powerful role models for a wide range of post school pathways. Former students share their life experiences: their original hopes and dreams, their plans, the opportunities they have taken or the education pathways they have pursued.

Back To School Day also promotes the achievements of public education and fosters social capital ties by connecting former students with their old school. This year's former students included Qantas Chair Margaret Jackson, Comedian Dave O'Neil, Bali bomb survivor Lynley Huguenin and former Olympian Ron Clarke.



## r.u.MAD? (Are You Making a Difference?)

In its third year of operation, over 250 schools created projects which made a difference to the environment, to aged people in their community and to young offenders recently released from detention. 2003 also saw the first ruMAD? Youth Ambassadors Conference, run by students to inspire other students to create real and lasting change in the community.



## Powercor Australia School and Community Fund 2002-4

In its second year, this innovative partnership takes learning out of the classroom and makes schools into learning hubs for four disadvantaged communities in western Victoria. The Fund sows the seeds for deep environmental learning and links schools to corporate volunteers and the community to solve local environment problems.

## Enterprise Education Ambassadors Pilot

Schools can no longer successfully prepare young people for life without the support and commitment of the wider community. In 2003 – 2004, with support from the Australian Government, the Education Foundation will conduct workshops in four states to help schools and companies develop partnerships that help schools deliver authentic learning experiences for young people.

## School Volunteer Program (Seniors As Volunteers) Pilot

Older people can be an invaluable resource for schools, supporting students and teachers, bringing new skills into the schools which most need them and build social capital in the community. In 2003 and 2004, the Foundation will link schools with senior volunteers in a new pilot program with government support.

## Kids and Community

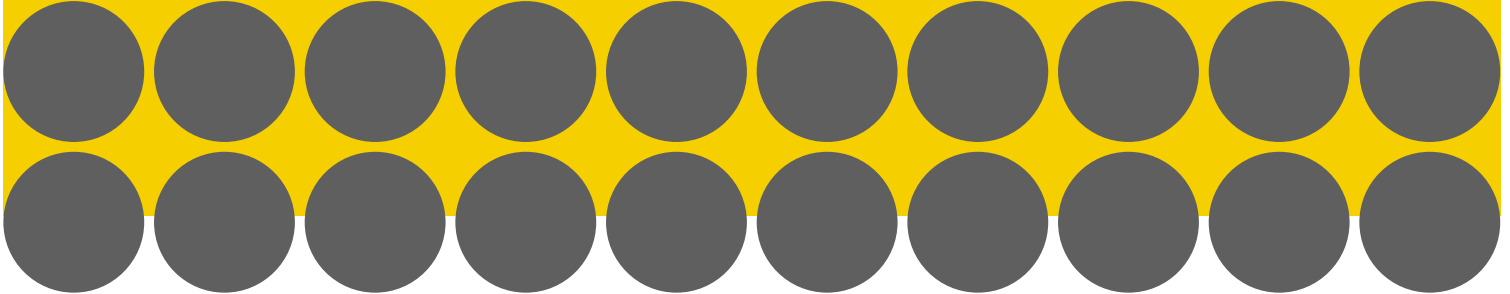
The 2003 update of this national website spread the word about more best practice school-community initiatives happening across the country and supported schools in launching links with their own local communities.

*"Going back to my old school made me realise how important my education had been in shaping the person I am today. I always thought a government education turned out a more rounded and generous person, and meeting the current students confirmed this for me".*  
Dave O'Neil, comedian, Nova FM

*"The best thing about Back To School Day was listening to how students achieved their dreams. The day was informative and we learnt that no matter what school you go to, ambitions and dreams can come true".*  
Year 10 student, Belmont High School

*"I found going back to my old school a very rewarding experience. It seems that in my valiant attempt to pass on a little bit of wisdom, I ended up learning more about myself. I hope they enjoyed it as much as I did".*  
Glenn Robbins, comedian, The Panel

# Providing Student Opportunities



With the right support, teachers can be innovation heroes and disadvantaged young people can fulfil their dreams.

## Green Seed

In its fourth and final year, the Education Foundation and the Ruffin Falkiner Foundation supported disadvantaged primary schools in western metropolitan Melbourne to improve the environment in which young people learn. Green Seed grants help schools in inner urban areas with little green space to create gardens and orchards through which children learn how to protect their local habitat and become the future caretakers of the environment.



Green Seed projects take students out of the classroom and involve them in rich, hands on environmental learning. Students plant and maintain gardens, protect local creeks, recycle rubbish and reduce waste in the school, create compost and worm farms, cook the organic vegetables they grow and learn about healthy eating.

Starting with four schools in 2000, Green Seed expanded to encompass ten schools and more than 500 students in 2003. Many of the projects funded by Green Seed have continued over a number of years, building strong sustainable initiatives in the schools which most need them.



The Education Foundation acknowledges the vision and commitment of the Ruffin Falkiner Foundation in creating unique opportunities for disadvantaged young people, their families, schools and local communities.



## Children's Learning Fund

Research shows that educational innovation is often driven by the vision of a single teacher. This small grants program, now in its 14th year, acts as an incubator for innovation by funding teachers' great ideas. Children's Learning Fund grants support cutting edge classroom programs, many of which meet the needs of students who are economically or educationally disadvantaged.

## Koorie Scholarships

Koorie Scholarships support the education of indigenous secondary school students in Victoria by making it possible for students to stay at school and take up all its learning opportunities. Funded by The Alfred Felton Bequest and now in its fourth year of operation, the program meets the needs of some of our most disadvantaged young people.

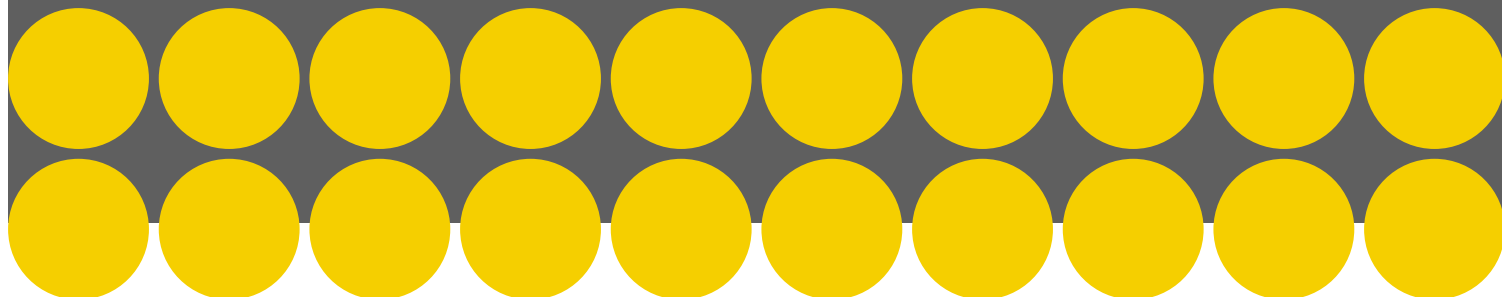
## Opportunity Scholarships

Education is the key to real opportunity, but the cost of schooling is increasing. This new Education Foundation scholarship gives talented but disadvantaged young people access to extra curricular experiences or resources which support their talents and help them achieve their dreams.

*"It has been fantastic for our students without grandparents in their life to experience working with an elderly person on the Frog Garden. It's something that money just can't buy".*

Tony Healy, teacher at Manorvale Primary School and coordinator of Along the Pobblebonk Road, funded through Green Seed

# Research for Change



An independent organisation has a great role to play in stimulating new approaches to address critical problems. **We have to do things differently to make a difference.**

## **Beyond the Pilot – Sustaining Educational Innovation**

Government schools in Victoria are implementing exciting and innovative programs to meet the needs of young people. Many of these innovations are seeded by philanthropy or by government, yet not enough is known about how they can be sustained. Funding pilot programs is easy, yet too many great ideas never get beyond the pilot phase. A new philanthropic and government partnership is trying to find out how pilot projects can be developed to a point that they can influence the educational landscape. Beyond the Pilot is a two year statewide research project funded by ANZ Trustees and implemented by the Victorian Schools Innovation Commission in partnership with the Education Foundation.

Beyond the Pilot supports action research at seven Victorian schools and one university to create practical knowledge about how schools create, implement, improve, embed and evaluate their innovative ideas for the benefit of students. It examines what generates and sustains innovative practice in public education as well as what barriers schools face in getting new practice off the ground.

It also supports research by the Education Foundation into how philanthropy can best support the efforts of innovative schools and teachers and how it can leave a lasting legacy of improvement.

## **The Case for Change**

Australian school students perform as well as the best in the OECD, but we fall behind in giving young people equal opportunities in education. In particular, there is a growing divide in Australian student achievement along socioeconomic lines. This new research project examines the reasons for this divide and looks at the challenge facing policy makers, education systems and schools in combining educational excellence with educational equity.

## **The Power of Space: Radical School Design**

Buildings affect the way people feel, experience and learn. The success of schools is intimately linked to their physical environment. Yet in Australia, school design is often the most neglected aspect of educational reform. This second year of partnership between the Education Foundation, RMIT University and the Department of Education and Training built on our 2002 Summit to develop new models of school design.

## **Initiatives for 2004**

Researching the impact of the City Centre: funded by the Department of Education & Training.

# Our Leadership

## Board Members

*Left (Clockwise from Top Left)*

Ellen Koshland Founder and President

Don Larkin Chairman of the Board of Directors and member Finance & Administration Committee

Peter McMullin

Dahle Suggett

Eva Wynn

Pam Jonas Member of the Finance & Administration Committee

## Not Pictured

Jill Anwyl

David Ritchie Treasurer and member, Finance & Administration Committee

Trevor Irwin member, Finance & Administration Committee

## Education Foundation Staff

*Above (Clockwise from Top Left)*

Heather Le Roy Chief Executive Officer

Ros Black Policy and Research Manager

Lesley Bell Education Manager

Julia Kubincan Community Solutions Manager

## Not Pictured

Kathie Zerkel The City Centre Manager

Michaela Fox Back To School Day Coordinator

Wayne Furlong ruMAD? Schools' Coordinator

Ellen Merat Business Manager

Roselle Sorrentino Fundraising Projects

Natalie Twite Office & Communications

Kay O'Sullivan PR Manager (volunteer)

Jacinta Farrugia Green Seed Coordinator

Kath McCann Children's Learning Fund

Darryn Kruse Lighthouse Schools' Coordinator

Danielle Nicholson Administration City Centre



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