



What are we NOT seeing on the Morningson Peninsula?

Morningson Peninsula Foundation
Annual Report 2017-2018



**Not all people on the Mornington Peninsula
enjoy the wonders it has to offer ...**





On the Mornington Peninsula ...

1 in 4 households live on less than \$26,000 per year¹

1 in 7 children live below the poverty line²

Socio-economic disadvantage at some schools is amongst the highest in the state³

Four-year-old old children in disadvantaged households are twice as likely not to attend kinder as children in advantaged households⁴

Nearly 1000 young people who are school age are not engaged in education, training or employment⁵

Rates of homelessness on the southern peninsula are estimated to be 10 times the national rate⁶

Mornington Peninsula Foundation's (MPF) mission is to significantly reduce levels of socio-economic disadvantage by supporting education, community connections and economic independence.

MPF is a Public Benevolent Institution with DGR Item 1 tax status. By building links across the community we inspire people to learn more about the people around them and contribute time, skills and funds through our collaborative network. As the ground swell of support powers our growth we thank our early adopters and encourage others to join us.

1. This refers to equivalised households; 2016 ABS Census data.
2. National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR), Regional Statistical Profile – Mornington Peninsula 2011 – 2015, based on \$440 or less per week household income.
3. Index of Community Socio Economic Advantage, Federal Dept of Education
4. NIEIR report
5. Best estimate from senior Dept of Education personnel.
6. Based on extrapolation of count of rough sleepers in Rosebud mid 2018 in accordance with 2016 census data which found 7% of people who identified as homeless were rough sleeping.

From the Chairman



Photos (top to bottom):

Ian Hicks AM, Dr Genevieve Timmons, Stephanie Exton, Andrew Fairley AM;
Sam Hearn, Ian Hicks and Andrew Fairley at Homeground Café;
Ian with Mobi the Nao robot, Westernport Secondary College;
Ian with Rosemary Varricchio (Prep teacher Crib Point Primary) and Stephanie.

The Mornington Peninsula Foundation (MPF) was formed in response to high, but mostly hidden, levels of socio-economic disadvantage in an otherwise very affluent region of Victoria that my family and I have enjoyed for over 25 years.

I'm proud that in our first year we have raised and distributed close to \$1M and impacted significantly on individual lives and grass roots organisations often working without adequate recognition or support.

I've been personally shocked by the statistics. I've met and got to know individuals who struggle every day to provide the basics for their children. They show enormous courage and resilience and have huge talents and attributes to offer the community, if only the barriers to participation could be reduced.

I've been inspired by people working on the front line, often having to work around a system that struggles to meet community needs in rapidly changing times.

It has given me the greatest pleasure as Chairman of George Hicks Foundation to fully fund the administration of the newly formed Mornington Peninsula Foundation and to contribute in collaboration with our growing pool of donors to the many projects we support. I sincerely thank our donor partners who have, through their first adoption of this new organisation and new model, given us great confidence and encouragement.

We're honoured to have recently been invited by the board of Foundation 59, well known to the Mornington Peninsula philanthropic and not-for-profit communities, to continue their fantastic work of the last nine years by amalgamating with the MPF. I warmly thank the 59 board and committed donors for this opportunity and look forward to their continued involvement.

In the following pages you can read about some of the incredible people with whom we've been privileged to work. I thank our dedicated board and tiny team and specially thank Tanya Fry for her fabulous photos.

Ian Hicks AM, Chairman



From the Executive Director

It has been an incredible first year for MPF, focusing on the deep insights strong relationships reveal, working in partnership with inspiring people on exciting new ideas, having the support of our board to spend time reimagining a future with the people often outside the conversation, yet, ironically, closest to it.

These conversations, gatherings and brainstorming sessions form the heart of our work. When we extend them to the broader community – those who are interested to learn and get involved – the whole system starts to sing. Donors feel closer to the issues, there is a direct line of sight between their support and outcomes on the ground and they see the people rather than the problems, stories rather than statistics. Community organisations and individuals feel recognised and significant, information flows, failures are seen as learning opportunities and people work together on common objectives.

Our small to medium grants are naturally leading to more complex, larger scale projects. With a strong network of primary schools and preschools we will focus more deeply on early years education and wrap around family support. In a rapidly changing world of learning and employment we will build on our work with secondary-aged students to better respond to high rates of disengagement. Our support of systems change, with particular regard to homelessness, is opening up new opportunities consistent with our efforts to use our collaboration, networks and leverage to make more of existing resources within business, philanthropy, government and the not-for-profit sector.

I'm indebted to our community partners who guide us, to our donor partners who trust us and to our visionary board. With ongoing collaborative efforts there is enormous potential to create better futures on the Mornington Peninsula.

Stephanie Exton, Executive Director



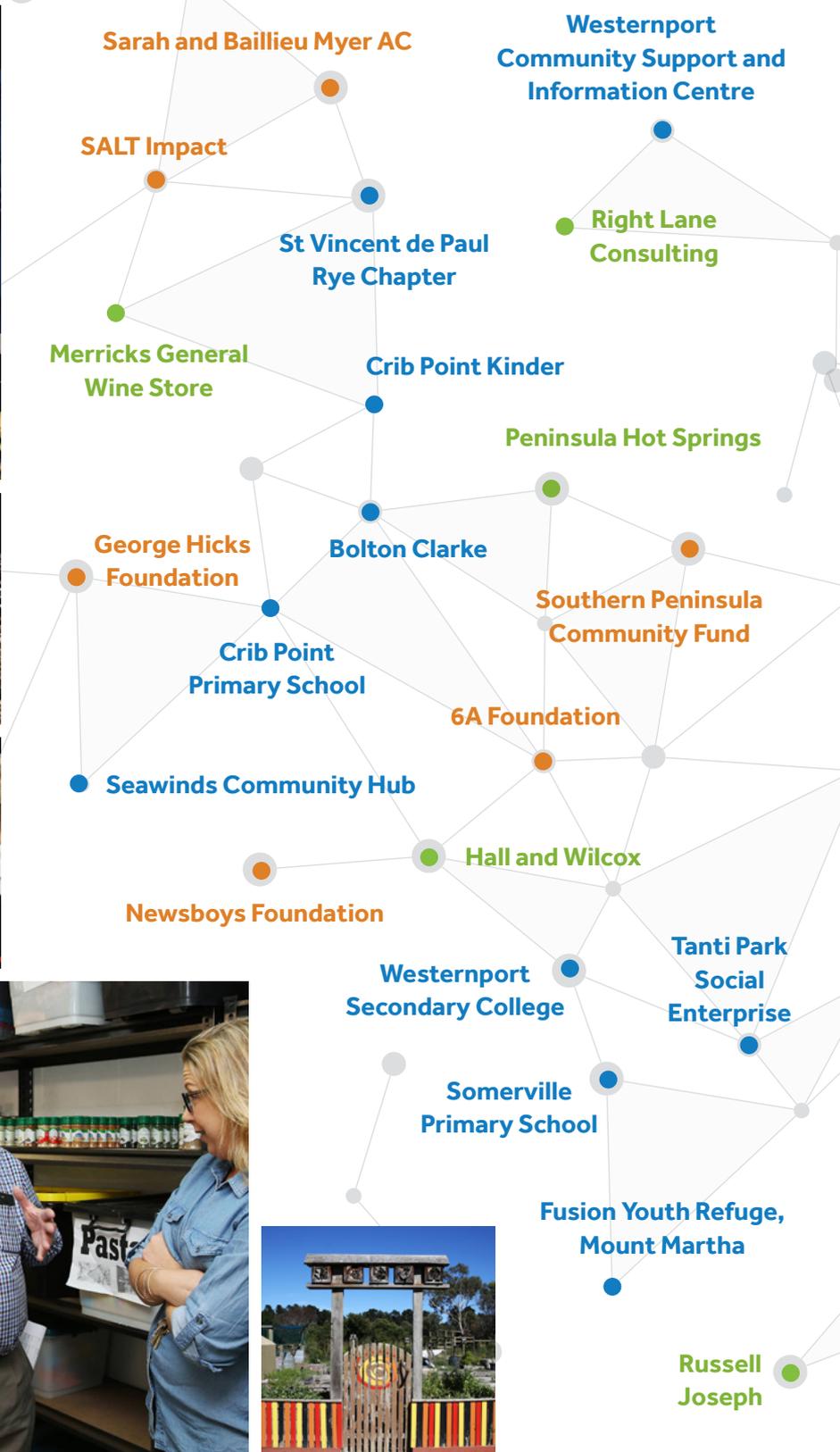
Photos (top to bottom):

After school tutor program, Eastbourne Primary; with members of the board at Crib Point Primary; with Heather Barton, former CEO Seawinds Community Hub; with Elina Wilson, SALT Impact.

What are we not seeing on the Mornington Peninsula?

MPF partners

MPF works with community, donor and pro bono partners, building alliances and tapping into vast depths of expertise. We aim for win-win outcomes and to provide multiple entry points for people to get involved as suits them best.



KEY

Community

Donors

Pro bono



Igniting Change

Mums Supporting Families in Need

Mornington Peninsula Shire

Advance Community College

Alan Kozica

Grace and Emilio Foundation

New Pen Community Care

Peninsula Health

Mornington Community Support and Information Centre

Anglicare Victoria

Yulgilbar Foundation

Willum Warrain

Bittern Primary School

Brotherhood of St Laurence

Harbour Care

Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre

Hardie Grant Books

Tyabb Rail Primary School

Queen Adelaide Club

Debbie Dadon and Family

YMCA Southern Peninsula

Slade Group

Ted Egan

Sentinel Foundation

RE Ross Trust

Rye and Districts Community Financial Services Ltd

Salvocare Eastern



Photos p.6 (top to bottom): Visiting Second Bite; Peter Aldenhoven, Chair Willum Warrain; Clothes4U; No Limits Principals; Tony Blake (Sentinel Foundation) and Robyn Coughlin (SPCSIC); Willum Warrain.

Photos p.7 (top to bottom): Homeground Café; Andrew Wheeler; Commonfolk Café; Michael Devine (WSC Principal), Emma Slater (Tyabb Rail Principal); Andrew Fairley; Eric White (St Vincent de Paul).

Guiding principles



We learn most about the issues and the solutions from people closest to them.

The more we understand the underlying causes, the more effective our response can be.

Everyone has something to contribute.

Relationships built on mutual respect and trust are the source of change through empowerment.

We are primarily a catalyst, enabling better use of existing resources through collaboration with others.



How we work

As a catalyst for social change we believe that when we are not needed is when we have succeeded.

	<p>We listen to people closest to the issues.</p>
	<p>We ask what future they would like to see.</p>
	<p>We seek to understand the causes behind the symptoms.</p>
	<p>We brainstorm ideas.</p>
	<p>Through our grants we hypothesise and test – we do due diligence, co-design projects, record data, monitor progress and seek insights.</p>
	<p>We invoke networks to support us.</p>
	<p>We invite donors to meet directly with our community partners and, if inspired, collaborate and grow the support network.</p>
	<p>We inform them of the outcomes with regular, honest feedback.</p>
	<p>We build on our small to medium grants towards larger projects.</p>
	<p>We build our community partner base and our donor base, exponentially growing the platform for large scale social change.</p>

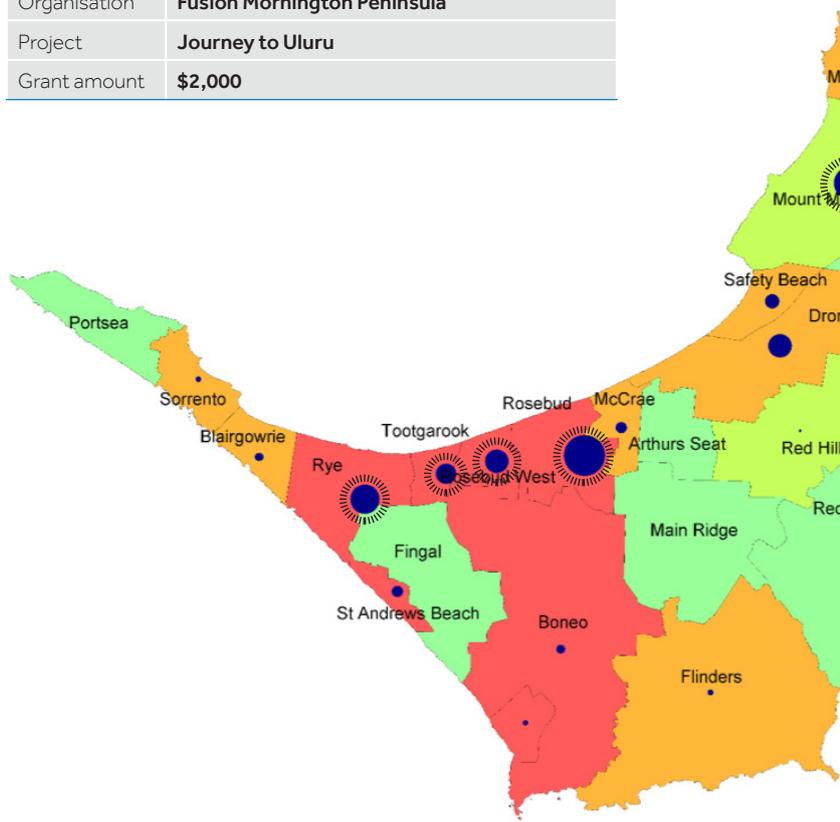
MPF activities FY 2018

TOOTGAROOK	
Organisation	St Vincent de Paul
Project	Primary to Secondary Transition Scholarships
Grant amount	\$15,000
Organisation	St Vincent de Paul
Project	Family Support Discretionary Fund
Grant amount	\$5,000
Organisation	YMCA Youth Services
Project	Young Women's and Youth Camps
Grant amount	\$10,000

ROSEBUD	
Organisation	Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre (SPCSIC)
Project	SPLASH (Southern Peninsula Laundry and Shower Program)
Grant amount	\$40,000
Organisation	SPCSIC
Project	Family Support Service
Grant amount	\$290,000 over three years
Organisation	SPCSIC
Project	CLASP (Connecting Local Agencies on the Southern Peninsula)
Grant amount	\$100,000 over two years
Organisation	SPCSIC
Project	Food Pantry and Van
Grant amount	\$20,000
Organisation	Salvocare Eastern
Project	Outreach to People Living in Rooming Houses
Grant amount	\$5,000
Organisation	Bolton Clarke
Project	Outreach to People Experiencing Homelessness
Grant amount	\$2,000
Organisation	Brotherhood of St Laurence
Project	Dental Program
Grant amount	\$2,500
Organisation	SPCSIC
Project	Child Safe Spaces
Grant amount	\$2,500
Organisation	SPCSIC
Project	Family Support Discretionary Fund
Grant amount	\$5,000

RYE	
Organisation	Rye Primary School
Project	Soup Cups
Grant amount	\$1,500

MOUNT MARTHA	
Organisation	New Peninsula Community Care
Project	Private Rental Assistance Program
Grant amount	\$100,000 over two years
Organisation	Fusion Mornington Peninsula
Project	Journey to Uluru
Grant amount	\$2,000

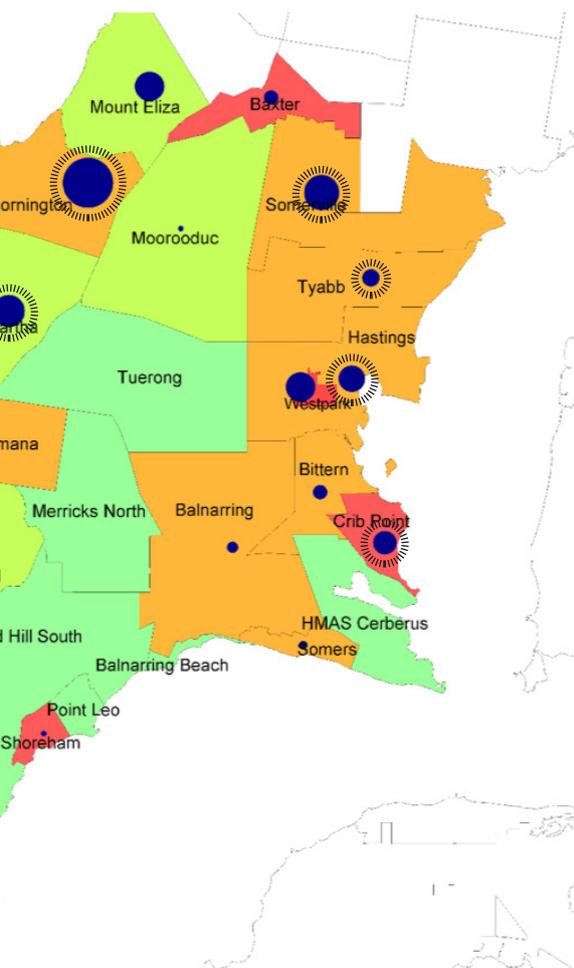


CAPEL SOUND	
Organisation	Anglicare Victoria
Project	After School Tutoring
Grant amount	\$16,000
Organisation	Seawinds Community Hub
Project	Child Care Scholarships
Grant amount	\$21,500
Organisation	Seawinds Community Hub
Project	Youth Art Award
Grant amount	\$5,000

TYABB	
Organisation	Tyabb Rail Primary School
Project	Literacy
Grant amount	\$15,000

MORNINGTON	
Organisation	Mornington Community Support and Information Centre
Project	Community High Teas
Grant amount	\$500
Organisation	Tanti Park Social Enterprises
Project	Homeground Cafe
Grant amount	\$10,000
Organisation	Peninsula Health
Project	Outreach to People Experiencing Homelessness
Grant amount	\$5,000

SEAFORD	
Organisation	Mums Supporting Families in Need
Project	Volunteer Expenses
Grant amount	\$5,000



SOMERVILLE	
Organisation	Somerville Rise Primary School
Project	Reading for Life
Grant amount	\$4,000

HASTINGS	
Organisation	Advance Community College
Project	Work it Out
Grant amount	\$25,000
Organisation	Westernport Community Support and Information Centre (WCSIC)
Project	Preventing Homelessness
Grant amount	\$15,000
Organisation	WCSIC
Project	Educational Assistance
Grant amount	\$15,000
Organisation	Westernport Secondary College
Project	STEM Outreach
Grant amount	\$50,000
Organisation	Advance Community College
Project	Feuerstein Program
Grant amount	\$60,000
Organisation	Willum Warrain
Project	Women's Program
Grant amount	\$15,000

CRIB POINT	
Organisation	Crib Point Primary School
Project	Speech and Occupational Therapies
Grant amount	\$30,000
Organisation	Crib Point Primary School
Project	Abecedarian Training
Grant amount	\$5,000
Organisation	Crib Point Kinder
Project	Playground Upgrade
Grant amount	\$2,500

We gratefully acknowledge all our donors to Mornington Peninsula Foundation:

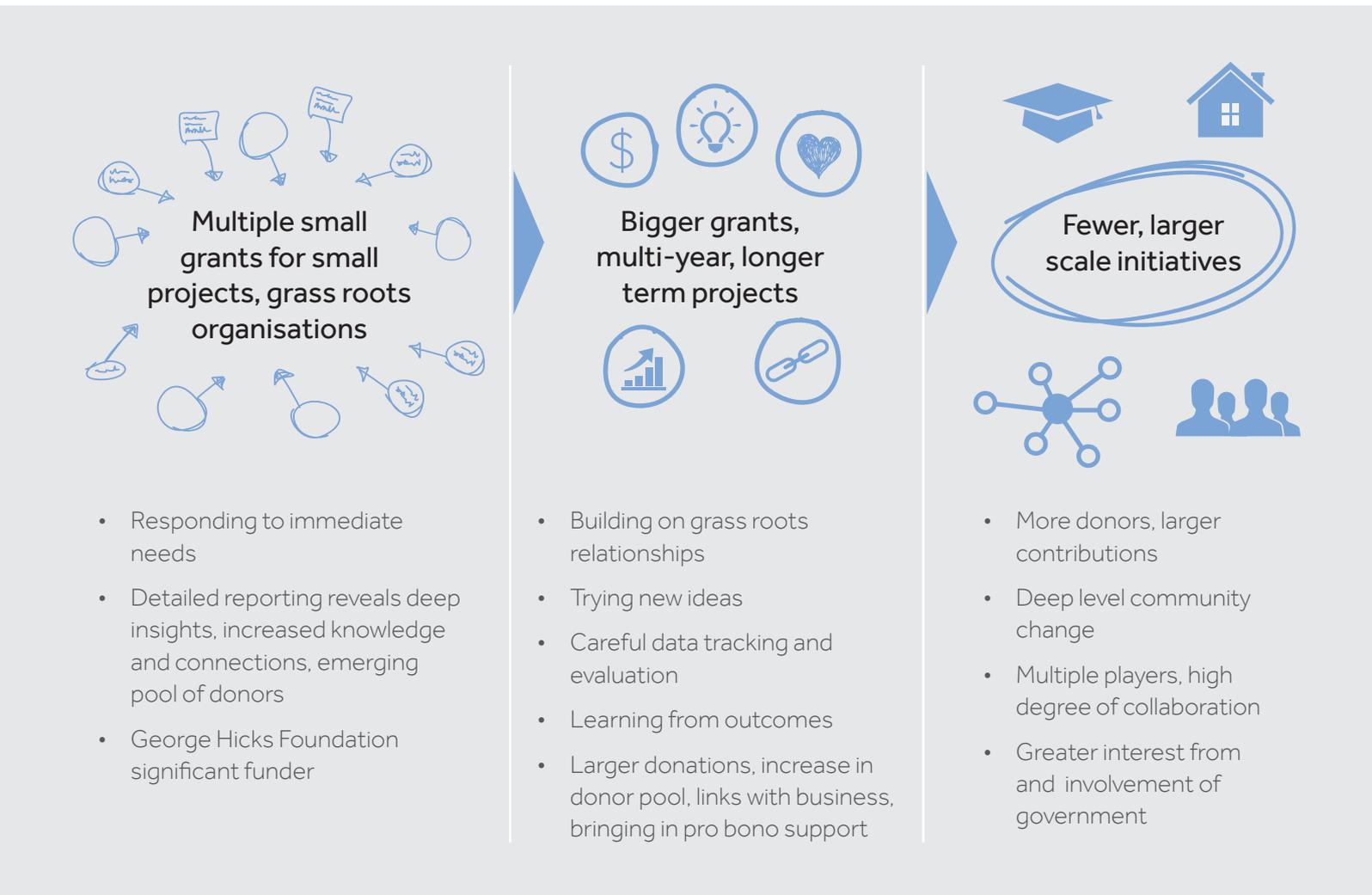
- 6A Foundation
- Alan Kozica
- Sarah and Baillieu Myer AC
- Debbie Dadon and Family
- George Hicks Foundation
- Grace and Emilio Family Foundation
- Hardie Grant Books
- Igniting Change
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Newsboys Foundation
- Queen Adelaide Club
- RE Ross Trust
- Rye & District Community Financial Services Limited
- SALT Impact
- Sentinel Foundation
- Slade Group
- Southern Peninsula Community Fund Inc.
- Ted Egan
- Yulgilbar Foundation

Grant activity

Total MPF Grants:	\$900,400
Total Administration Costs FY 2018:	\$150,000
Total Grants Activity FY 2018:	\$1,050,400

Grants are funded by our donor group, including lead donor George Hicks Foundation (GHF), and paid either directly from donor to recipient or through the MPF bank account. All grants are created and managed with the same rigour and all donors are kept regularly informed of project outcomes.

In 2018, all MPF running costs and 25% of all grants were funded by the George Hicks Foundation. All donations made to MPF are paid in full to grant recipients.



Small grants – finding invaluable insights

Our small grants provide extra capacity for priority issues and bring us closer to the issues. While data is important, it often gives us the what rather than the why. We find out more about this through deep value relationships. Many of our small grants have led to larger ones which are in turn are leading to major initiatives addressing large scale, long term, sustainable change. Here are some examples of our small grants.

Peninsula Health, Outreach Support

\$5,000 assisted people experiencing homelessness and in supported accommodation and eased the burden on workers. Detailed reporting on expenditure highlighted the precarious positions clients face day to day. From glasses and specialists' fees to taxi fares and shoes, we see the degree of basic needs that individuals cannot meet through regular welfare payments.

# people supported	45
Average value of support	\$111

Salvocare Eastern, Outreach to Rooming Houses

\$5,000 showed the difference a small fund can make to the quality of a person's life – a whipper snipper that not only keeps the house looking nice and gives the residents some pride, but also opens the opportunity to do odd jobs around the neighbourhood: a laptop that enables a resident to study online, and a bike that provides a means of getting to casual employment.

# people supported	35
Average value of support	\$142

Westernport Community Support and Information Centre (WCSIC)



John Fraser, former CEO;
Georgia Hourn, CEO, WCSIC

WCSIC used \$5,000 to assist nine individuals/families at risk of eviction to remain in stable housing. This required staff spending time with clients to truly understand the reasons behind the housing issues and then to work with people also involved, including real estate agents and other services.

# people assisted	16
Average financial contribution	\$312.50

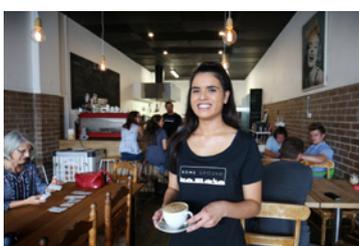


Visit to WCSIC

Strong data collection and follow-up interviews enabled WCSIC staff and volunteers to understand what families accessing the educational assistance needed and why. This has led to the Centre Manager investigating the processes concerning the coordination of support agencies and her vision to streamline this, making it more efficient for providers and easier to navigate for families.

# families supported	126
# children supported	230
Grant amount	\$15,000
Average value of support	\$119 per family; \$65 per child
Items purchased	Books, uniforms, shoes

Homeground Café, Establishment



Homeground Café

Contributions of \$2000 or less from a number of MPF donors helped get Homeground Café in Tanti Park of the ground. As well as providing a welcoming hub and training opportunities for local young people in an area where, anecdotally, youth unemployment is 45%, after eight months of operation it is just about breaking even.

# young people trained	14
# young people employed	9

Crib Point Primary School, Abecedarian Training



Ian Hicks AM with prep teacher Rosemary and Stephanie

\$5,000 to Crib Point Primary enabled staff to undertake training in the Abecedarian oral language program in operation at Seawinds Community Hub. Bringing together teachers from Crib Point, Bittern and Tyabb Rail Primary Schools and Kinders has created a powerful collaboration leading to numerous enhanced opportunities for students and greater recognition of the importance of working across the kinder/primary school boundaries in support of children and families.

teachers trained:

7

Seawinds Community Hub, Child Care Scholarships



Seawinds Community Hub staff member and student

Top up fees that enable families to use Seawinds Community Hub child care on a regular basis have shown to dramatically improve the developmental rates of children involved. We also learn about families who don't manage the engagement and the issues with which they are coping.

Children supported

10

Families supported

7

Medium grants – trying and testing new ideas

There is no shortage of ideas amongst the people we work with – but they are often outside the bounds of usual funding.

Westernport Secondary College (WSC), Mobile STEM Lab



Westernport Secondary College students: WSC staff with MPF Board

WSC leadership is acutely aware of the constantly changing landscape in employment. The school has also experienced a decline in enrolments over the last few years and an increasing concentration of students with challenging behaviours. Additionally, transition from primary to secondary is notoriously difficult, especially for students who may not be well supported at home.

WSC was already bringing years 5 and 6 students from each of its seven feeder primaries to the school for a five-week immersion throughout the year. MPF support enabled them to create a mobile STEM lab that places replica equipment and IT support at each primary so students can continue learning in between visits. They have tracked many learnings including the importance of IT support and issues with security and seen the program taken up with great enthusiasm. In 2019, they are expecting an increase in enrolments in year 7 of 10%. They will also track the numbers of students choosing STEM subjects in later years and see if there is any correlation with the earlier provision of coding opportunities.

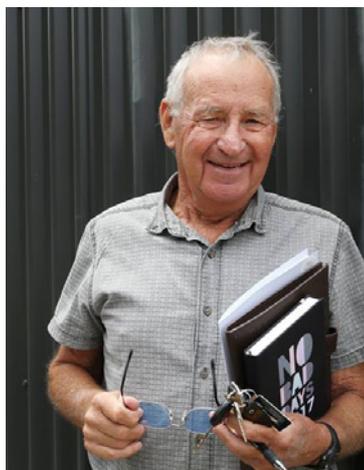
primary schools involved

6

students participating

329

St Vincent de Paul, Primary to Secondary Transition Scholarships



Eric White

Scholarships of \$500 per student are supported by a number of donors and expertly managed through St Vincent de Paul Rye Chapter by retired primary school principal Eric White, in collaboration with the local primary schools on the southern peninsula. With year 7 costs at around \$3000, families are financially stretched. Through follow-up face-to-face interviews with most of the families we've found that students feel a great sense of achievement and recognition and families feel proud and supported by the broader community. While the financial support is crucial, the morale support is equally if not more valuable: when families were asked if they could use an increased amount they all agreed if there were more funds they should go to more families. Following up is crucial, though not always easy and needs to be done with sensitivity and expertise. Coordination between principals, primary and secondary schools, and families is time consuming and requires a deep understanding of the system and how people manage within it. Eric's work is invaluable.

# scholarships in 2018	30
Value of each scholarship	\$500

Crib Point Primary School, Speech and Occupational Therapies (OT) for Prep Class



Crib Point Primary School students in classroom

This has so far resulted in outstanding outcomes for speech and very little change for OT. This provided an opportunity to investigate the reasons for such different outcomes and use the findings to inform ongoing work. Learnings are that a full-time teacher's aid in prep class is essential in providing consistent reinforcement of speech therapy treatment for each child; engagement of parents is successful if they are given choices and included as part of the child's development; and open communication between the therapist, the prep teacher, aid and principal is essential to ensure success of the program. This work is directly informing the No Limits oral language initiative planned for 2019.

# children assessed and treated	23
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Anglicare Victoria, After School Tutoring, Eastbourne Primary



Eastbourne Primary After School Tutoring

Lower than average rates of literacy inspired the Anglicare Parent Engagement Officer at Eastbourne Primary to create the After School Tutor and Homework Program. With support from MPF students from a number of local schools participate in one-on-one tutoring by volunteer teachers under the guidance and supervision of lead teachers who conduct assessments and create learning plans. A similar number do supervised homework. Healthy snacks encourage consistent participation. Rigorous base and endline measurements show improvement rates are strong. Observations regarding behaviours, attitudes to learning and engagement with school show how important self confidence gained through greater capability and family support is. Much is being drawn from the learnings from this program and incorporated into ongoing work, including how crucial engagement with parents is in supporting a child's education.

# students participating in tutoring	19
# students participating in homework club	13

New Pen Community Care (NPCC), Private Rental Assistance Program (PRAP)



Andrew Taylor, CEO, NPCC

Based on the understanding that prevention is better than cure, NPCC is supporting individuals and families at risk of eviction to remain in private rental through liaison with real estate agents, landlords and tenants, and through individual case management. Working with developers to mitigate risks of renting out properties due for development but with long lead times can also provide additional housing; even short rental periods can provide rental histories that enable people to show credibility and be in the private rental market. Learnings include that there are enormous administrative hurdles to get over in terms of leases, legal issues, etc. Much of the success of this program is due to the case manager and clients working together on underlying issues.

people supported within the first three months

**9 family units – 11 adults / 5 children;
4 successfully rehoused;
4 in process; 1 disengaged**

Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre (SPCSIC), Southern Peninsula Laundry and Shower Program (SPLASH)



Robyn Coughlin, SPCSIC Program Manager

Until SPCSIC, Shire Youth Services and Bolton Clarke took steps to collectively start some outreach to people sleeping rough on the Rosebud foreshore, there were no such services, despite the estimated 50 people sleeping rough and over 600 people estimated to be experiencing homelessness in the region. A number of donors have enabled SPCSIC to deliver the program two days per week. While food, showers and laundry are provided it is primarily a connection point where people are welcomed and not judged. They are free to sit and chat. This is where change happens. Gradually engagement is revealing many insights into the reasons for such high rates of homelessness and providing SPCSIC with vital information to base a collective strategy in response that will include multiple agencies and services.

people accessing the program

Average 13 per week

SPCSIC Family Support Program



Tracey Byrner, Family Support Manager

We know lifelong trajectories are mainly set in the early years by those closest to and most influential around the child. Engagement that is not always in the best interests of the child for whatever reasons is a common factor in the areas we work in. In response to local research we were encouraged to assist SPCSIC to explore different forms of engagement with families.

The Family Support Service at SPCSIC is voluntary, not time limited and self determined. With a very high level of experience and understanding of clients the support role empowers families to overcome barriers that are preventing more advantageous engagement with children. Financial management and mental health have proven to be the primary issues; when they are progressively supported individual agency increases and strong outcomes in relation to the individual's circumstances are being achieved. This work is based on non-judgemental, trusting relationships that empower individuals to take steps to change within a context of practical and consistent support.

families supported in the first year

41

Looking ahead – 2019

Looking ahead we will continue to be open to new ideas from the community through our small grants, but increase the larger scale initiatives that are emerging. These include those listed here as well as new ideas concerning employment, social enterprise development and new technologies in education. As an *ideas lab* we are always happy to chat about how we're moving forward.

Advance Community College, Feuerstein Program, Hastings

Our work with Advance Community College at the Hastings Community Hub has been fascinating and a great example of turning a negative into a positive. With not one student able to complete the MFP supported training and employment program we could have either closed the book or investigated more deeply the reasons behind this apparent failure.

With great engagement from the Advance team we took the latter course and through a multiplicity of influences are excited to be supporting the first implementation of the Israeli-based Feuerstein Learning Program in Australia that will focus on students with very high levels of disengagement from education and very low rates of educational attainment.

Through collaboration between the staff, a group of donors and the Feuerstein Institute, we are excited to be supporting the Program to begin in January 2019. With over 60 years in operation this Program is based on understanding how people think and how to increase cognitive capacity and transfer this to everyday life.

Critically, this is based on the premise that every individual has innate potential to fully embrace life no matter what their inhibiting experiences might have been.

No Limits – Early Years Education



Participants at No Limits workshop 2018

We have got to know outstanding principals and teachers through funding various primary school and kinders. During 2018, five schools and their feeder kinders came together through a workshop facilitated pro bono by Right Lane Consulting to explore similar issues and potential for change. This is the beginning of an exciting collaboration which we hope to support with a group of funders. It will begin with a concentration of support for speech therapy but lead through an ongoing exploration process to a range of responses by each school and kinder to the specific issues within their communities and the use of existing resources to improve outcomes. We're at the very beginning, but excited by conversations so far.

SPCSIC CLASP in Action – Coordinating Services Concerning Homelessness



Jackie Currie, CEO, SPCSIC

The lack of connection between services and the resulting inefficiencies and poor outcomes for clients drove SPCSIC to propose a program to MPF that would enable them to investigate the current operating environment and learn from people using the systems about how they could operate with better outcomes. This is fascinating work revealing examples of how people with great intentions have to go to extreme lengths to get around the barriers inherent in the service system.

Much has been learned through this work and will be built upon as SPCSIC uses the collaborative model to focus on facilitating better responses to homelessness with a range of other services.

With support from another donor SPCSIC will expand the CLASP work beyond the worker level to management in an attempt to influence cultural and operational changes more deeply.

Directors and staff



Ian Hicks AM, Chair

Ian is Executive Chair of Applied International Pty Ltd, a private investment group based in Melbourne, and Chair of the George Hicks Foundation. Ian was Chair of the MS Society, Victoria and Australia for 14 years and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of this work. He was until recently a Director of Alzheimer's Australia Victoria and was a foundation board member of Zoos Victoria. Ian has a strong interest in the arts, having held positions as Chair of Deutscher Hackett, Deputy Chair of the Foundation Board of the National Gallery of Victoria and Director of the McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park. He is a major supporter of The Australian Ballet and an enthusiastic collector of Australian art and sculpture. Ian is part owner of a group of restaurants in Sydney and a gastro pub in Melbourne. He has a vineyard, avocado farm and sculpture park in Shoreham.



Andrew Fairley AM, Deputy Chair

Andrew is a commercial and equity lawyer at Hall & Wilcox. He is Chair of Equip super, a \$15.5 billion industry super fund. He is on the board of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority, and is the former Deputy Chair of Tourism Australia. He has a deep involvement in the philanthropic sector both as advisor and a trustee. He chairs the Sir Andrew Fairley Foundation, the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education and is Deputy Chair of the Greater Shepparton Foundation. He was previously the Chair of the Luke Batty Foundation. Andrew is the Consul General for Finland in Victoria and the owner and operator of Yarra Valley Cherries, a premium cherry orchard in the Yarra Valley.



Stephanie Exton, Executive Director

Stephanie is a leading practitioner in place-based philanthropy. Prior to leading MPF she was Executive Officer of both the George Hicks Foundation and the Sir Andrew and Lady Fairley Foundation, based in Shepparton. Previously Stephanie was Program Manager at Reichstein Foundation, well known in Australia for its progressive social change focus, and for seven years was manager at Igniting Change, working in a small team to inspire deeper understanding of social issues, catalyse financial and pro bono support for unmet needs and give a voice to people often unheard. Stephanie previously worked as an orchestral musician and orchestra manager developing skills in listening and collaboration that constantly inform the place-based work of the MPF.



Dr Genevieve Timmons

Genevieve has been active in philanthropy and grant making for over three decades, pioneering approaches to contemporary giving and promoting thought leadership in Australia and New Zealand. As one of the most highly respected philanthropy executives in Australia, Genevieve advises a number of families and organisations and was recently awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition of her leadership in the sector by Swinburne University. Genevieve is a director of Philanthropy Australia and the Australian Communities Foundation and former Chair of the Inner North Community Foundation. Genevieve is a Senior Fellow of the Johns Hopkins Fellows in Philanthropy and a Fellow of Leadership Victoria.



Dr Janet Stanley

Janet is Principal Research Fellow, Urban Social Resilience, at the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne and a Director of Stanley and Co., consultants in sustainable policy. Janet focuses on the interface between social, environmental and economic issues in climate change and sustainability, across policy, systems design and at community levels, particularly focusing on sustainability issues for people experiencing social disadvantage and exclusion. Working with the three levels of government, NGOs and the business sector, Janet’s research encompasses child protection, transport planning, climate change, arson and wellbeing. Janet and her family are long-term residents of Red Hill on the Mornington Peninsula.



Christina McGuffie

Originally a journalist, Tina is a director of the National Mental Health Commission and was until recently Adviser to the Hon Greg Hunt, Member for Flinders and Federal Minister for Health, in capacities ranging from grassroots community projects to national policy development and implementation across several successive portfolio areas including mental health, palliative care, science, environment and national heritage. During this time and previously as his media adviser, Tina developed strong relationships with the Mornington Peninsula communities and worked closely with diverse groups of community leaders. She brings to the MPF extensive knowledge of the Mornington Peninsula communities and experience in media and communications, as well as the design and implementation of public campaigns and high level policy development.



Andrew Wheeler

Andrew is Chair of Sentinel Foundation, a philanthropic charity, and a resident of Mt Martha. He has had a long and successful career in the financial services industry working as an accountant before going out on his own to create Lonsdale Ltd a platform providing research integrated with full client software to accountants and financial planners. Andrew then created Lonsec Ltd, a share broking service, followed by the concept design, development and launch of the BT WRAP Administration business. In 2000, Lonsdale was sold to Zurich and in 2004 Andrew established Dealer Group Advisers, consulting to a large number of National Dealer groups and assisting with their strategic development and operational structure. Andrew is active as a philanthropic donor and a close supporter of a number of not-for-profit organisations.



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