

2024 ANNUAL REVIEW - 'DRIVERS OF CHANGE'

John T Reid Charitable Trusts

'Doing What Needs to Be Done'





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About Us

Sir John Reid's philanthropy was based on his belief that well-targeted grants allowed good people to get on with good work for the benefit of the community.

This spirit of giving, combined with his wider networks, enquiring mind and support for humanitarian and social justice causes, ensured that from the outset, funding from the Trusts went to a broad range of organisations that were well placed to have a positive impact in their communities.

The Trust Deeds, typical of the founder, are straightforward and open. Registered charities and other institutions with 'Deductible Gift Recipient' (DGR) status can be supported in a number of broad categories: aged and palliative care, arts and cultural heritage, community and social welfare, education and youth, environment, and health support.

Sir John provided granting guidance for trustees to provide philanthropic support;

- with relatively large amounts to a small number of charities, rather than small amounts to many;
- to charities unable to secure government support;
- to specific projects rather than general purpose funds; and
- to provide special consideration to those charities, which Trustees think valuable to the community, but which lack popular appeal and support.

The John T Reid Charitable Trusts comprise of two Trusts that are administered together. Established in 1955, the first Trust provides funding to eligible organisations in Victoria. The second Trust, which dates from 1963, is directed to eligible organisations in all other Australian states and territories. No funds from either Trust may be distributed overseas.

Each Trust is governed by a number of individual trustees. There are currently eight trustees across the two Trusts who manage the assets and distribute the income in response to the changing needs of the Australian community. The trustees bring a broad range of professional skills and experience to the task. They include representatives from urban and regional Australia, across different states and territories.

Three of the current trustees are descendants of Sir John.



Our Trustees



L-R

Mr Rob Anderson, trustee, Mr Will Lawson, trustee, Ms Jen Grindrod, trustee, Mr Trevor Thomas, trustee, Mr Jeremy Smith, trustee, Ms Nicole Butera, trustee, Mr Andrew McKenzie, Chair.



Mr Phil Endersbee, trustee.

Our Values

*Relationship
based
Leveraging
contacts
Connections
Personal touch*

Engagement

*Radical
Curious
Inquisitive
Informed*

Innovative

*Sustainable
Making lives
better
Outcomes
focussed
Respectful*

Impact

*Ethical
Humble
Principled
Honourable
Trusted
Obligation to give*

Integrity

*Proactive
Timely
Practical
Doers*

*Action
Oriented*

*Strategic
Ambitious
Capability builder*

*Drivers of
Change*

Funding Overview

23/24

The 2024 Annual Review details the funding activities of John T Reid Charitable Trusts for the financial year ending on 30 June 2024. It showcases the various projects funded within each of the Trusts' focus areas.

Aged & Palliative Care

Very Special Kids.

Arts & Cultural Heritage

La Mama Theatre.

Malthouse Theatre.

Community & Social Welfare

The First Step Program.

You Matter.

Education & Youth

Australian National University.

Environment

Country Needs People.

Invasive Species.

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust.

Women's Environmental Leadership Australia (WELA).

Zoos Victoria.

Health & Medical Research

Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities.

Melanoma Institute Australia.

National Rural Health Alliance.

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Community Grant Round 2024

New grants approved in 2024 for the trustee led Community Grant Round.

Clipper Ship City of Adelaide

Making & installation of three sections of masts for the historic Clipper Ship.

Country Needs People

Strengthening Indigenous Land & Sea Management (ILSM) through three tailored National and Regional ILSM workshops.

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

Building the core capacity of Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation - Mimal Operations Manager.

National Rural Health Alliance

Investment into equitable rural health funding and services.

Melanoma Institute Australia

Purchase of a critical piece of laboratory equipment - the autostainer.

Women's Environmental Leadership Australia (WELA)

Developing a new Alumni Engagement Program for the WELA community.

Willara Australia

Establishment of an Inclusive Jobs Hub and refurbishment of the cottage to a community space.

Grants by Trust

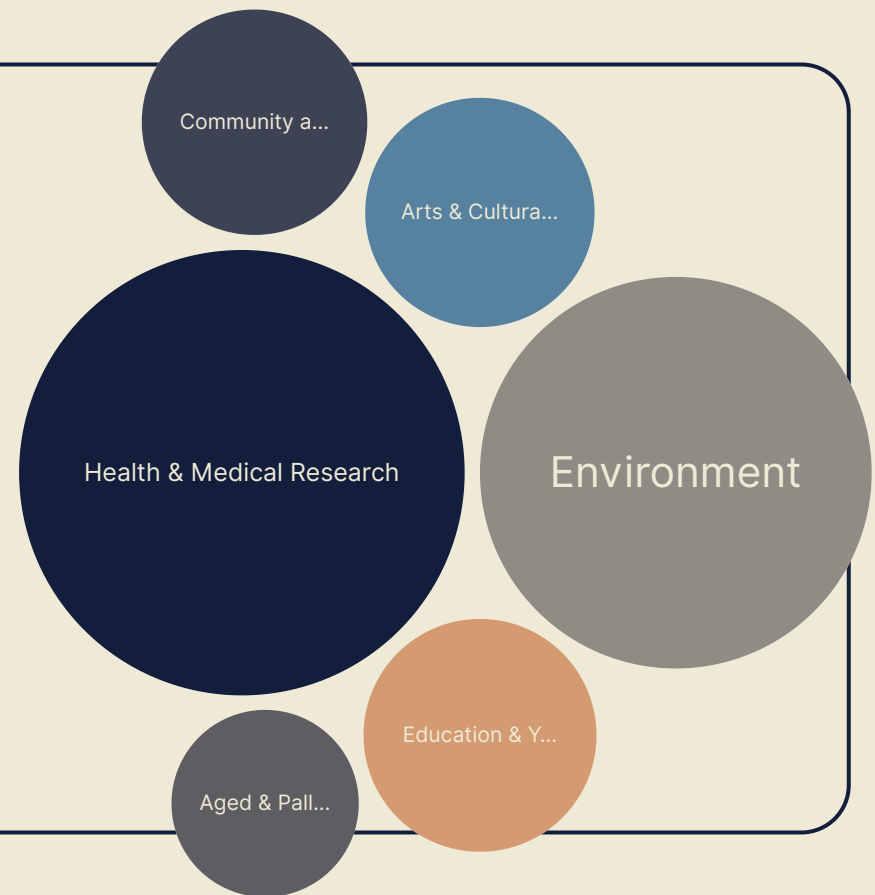
AUS
VIC

\$1,058,300.00

\$495,000.00

Grants by Focus Area

Aged and Palliative Care \$100,000
Arts and Cultural Heritage \$150,000
Community and Social Welfare \$145,000
Education and Youth \$154,800
Environment \$437,500
Health and Medical Research \$566,000



Message from our Chair

As you will have seen, the theme for this year's Annual Review is 'Drivers of Change.' If you were able to come to the Family Event held earlier this year you would have heard me talk about just what that 'change' has meant for the Trusts over the last year.

Apologies to those who attended, but below covers in writing what I spoke about in May. Overall and in short while the Trusts' "duck" might have looked serene on top of the water, its little legs have been paddling very fast indeed!

Firstly, I am very pleased that Jeremy Smith has recently joined as a Trustee. Jeremy brings vast experience in corporate and commercial law, management and strategic planning.

Jeremy will be leading a major change project for the Trusts over the next 2 years or so involving consolidation of the Trusts. You can read more about him in his bio in this Review.



Andrew McKenzie

Chair,
John T Reid Charitable Trusts

There has been a massive amount of change on the office and governance fronts too.

Emma will add more detail in her report, but in short we have moved to serviced offices in Ringwood with savings in terms of cost and administration time. The many filing cabinets containing decades of hard copy filing have been scanned into our management system (Blackbaud) where they are readily available for review, all hard copy paper has now been shredded with the office now effectively “paperless.”

Policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated resulting in a full suite of up to date material available in a handbook.

Rob Anderson has led a review of the risks as they apply to the Trusts resulting in an updated risk matrix and a continuously evolving Board calendar.

Trevor Thomas is leading change in how we invest, working with our investment managers Koda, which has resulted in better alignment between the Trusts’ philanthropy and investments – you can read more about Rob and Trevor’s work in their reports.

Finally, we have continued to develop and refine how we give money away. You might remember my advising that the Trusts have moved from a “top down” granting model where twice a year we opened up to grant enquiries from charitable organisations to a “bottom up” model where potential grants are uncovered or of interest to individual trustees and then further developed by trustees.

We have now developed policy and procedures for three categories of grants;

Community Grants

These are of interest to and proposed by trustees to a value of around \$250K granted annually in May.



Time Sensitive Grants

Emergency funding or critical funding that falls outside timing of the Community Grants and that can be approved by circular email across the Board of Trustees, and finally,

Impact Grants

Working in an area the Board of Trustees has determined is of special interest and looking for “niche” plays where a Trust of our size with the funding we have available can turn the dial and create long term change.

The Impact Grants taught us valuable insights. After a thorough review, we settled on the area of Homelessness in November 2023 with Will Lawson appointed to Chair the Homelessness Committee. The Committee dedicated themselves to filter and tease apart the opportunities within this focus area and I am very hopeful that, after presentations in November, we will be funding our first long term project within the area of Homelessness. This will also mean we will have established a new documented process and procedure for future Impact Grants, which should speed up the process into the future.

While it has been extremely busy it's been pleasing to see everything coming together. It would be great if the proposal we are looking at in November for the Impact Grant is solid as that will mean something exciting to report on for next year. If any of you have questions or would like to talk with a trustee about a project of particular interest, please just pick up the phone and give the office a call.

Andrew McKenzie

Chair, John T Reid Charitable trusts





Executive Officer's Report

“—
| Operationally we have strived to be ‘action orientated, drivers of change’ by introducing changes that make the office more efficient. |
—”

Emma Edmonds

Executive Officer
John T Reid Charitable Trusts

During strategic planning, two and a half years ago, our trustees identified organisational values of “Impact, Action-Orientated, Drivers of Change, Engagement, Innovation and Integrity”.

These values have underpinned the office’s work as we, like many organisations re-evaluating in a post-Covid world, entered a change cycle. Operationally we have strived to be “action orientated, drivers of change”, by introducing changes that make the office more efficient and we are pleased to have implemented changes that have reduced running costs, streamlined processes and increased the Trusts’ agility.

Many of the changes we have introduced have utilised technology, not least, one of our major projects in the last 12 months - the consolidation and digitisation of 70 years of paperwork. This was a very hands-on undertaking as we examined every piece of paper before it was digitised. It is now completed and means that the office is cloud-based and can be run from any state in Australia, or easily from home, should another lock down occur.

Another significant undertaking was downsizing and moving premises. At the end of February, we moved from our Surrey Hills offices into a Waterman’s workspace. This gives us our own smaller private office space, within a larger facility that provides access to meeting rooms, a café and communal areas and the option to pop in and work at any of Waterman’s 10 facilities around Melbourne. These types of workspaces have become very popular post COVID, providing flexibility, onsite support staff and a workplace community. They are a more environmentally conscious option and in the Trusts’ case, they are also more economical.



John T Reid Charitable Trusts new office premises at Waterman, Eastland



Emma Edmonds with
Suzanne Griffin, Administration Manager

Throughout the year, we have continued to work on policies, the family event, annual review (with a new digital format this year, as well as the traditional print copy), trustee meetings, granting cycles and worked with committees. Two new committees have been formed over the past 12 months, a Granting Strategy Committee and a Homelessness Grants Committee.

We have provided research and administrative support to the committees and assisted the Homelessness Committee in its search for an organisation to be the recipient of our first large Impact Grant, due to be made in November 2024. We hope to have found an organisation that truly embodies the values of action orientated change, innovation and integrity and that our support will help them have a real impact for some of the most marginalised people in our society.

*Emma Edmonds,
Executive Officer, John T Reid Charitable Trusts*

Finance Committee Update

“Many of the investments have driven change in a diverse range of impact areas.”



Trevor Thomas

Finance Committee Chair,
John T Reid Charitable Trusts

As trustees, we have been delighted to see increasing opportunity in recent years to amplify the good we do in the world by aligning the positive impact of our investments, with the outcomes we are supporting through the grants we make.

We have over twenty times more money invested than we give away each year, so making sure that our investments are benefitting people and the natural environment has become core business for the Trusts and was fundamental in the appointment of Koda Capital as Investment Advisers in 2022.

Of course, that all takes place within our broader fiduciary responsibilities to be good stewards of our investment funds, and to seek risk appropriate returns from every investment held in the portfolio.

It has been very pleasing to see such strong returns in the 2024 Financial Year from a portfolio that is more strongly aligned with our focus on positive impact than ever.

The portfolio generated a return of 8.06% in FY24, a very competitive result. We had some exposure to the segments of international investment markets that performed strongly, but many of the investments have driven change in a diverse range of impact areas.



“—
| We make a living by what
we get, but we make a life
by what we give.

—Winston Churchill



Youth Connect Social Impact Bond

Our investment in the Youth Connect Social Impact Bond in Queensland provided additional funding to young adults living away from family care. The results demonstrated that extending funding support for young adults and those that are caring for them from 18 years to 21 years gives them a much better start to adult life, and reduces the incidence of homelessness, unemployment and contact with law enforcement. The data has helped convince State Governments across Australia to extend this support, as it will save them considerable money in the long-term, as well as benefitting the recipients.

Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy has been a core portfolio holding in several different investment funds – from early stage clean-tech innovation, through to wind and solar farms, battery storage and transmissions infrastructure.

Fishing Quotas

We have leased fishing quotas from the Australian government and on-leased them to small Australian family fishing operations, so that they are not squeezed out by large international corporations. The team at Longreach Maris employs First Nations staff to ensure that they create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities with traditional gathering rights to generate income and employment.

Litigation Programs

We have funded successful litigation programs, that have held property developers to account for shoddy work in social and affordable housing.

Life Sciences

One of our investment managers holds a range of life sciences investments that are at the cutting edge of medical research. We hold shares in companies providing advanced, non-invasive real time assessments of patients' responses to cancer treatments, that are also able to screen for personal hereditary risk before any symptoms are detected.

Special Disability Accommodation

We have also invested in a fund that rents Special Disability Accommodation units to NDIS recipients that promote independence, security and dignity. The same fund has purchased hundreds of units that are leased at affordable rates to families fleeing Domestic Violence in Victoria. The Government funds the difference between what the family can pay and market rent, so the returns are proportionate to other property investments, but the impact is well targeted.

We have leant heavily on the experience of our Koda Capital Adviser, Farren Williams, in identifying and selecting these investments, and we are very grateful for her expertise and assistance over the year.

Finally, we like to think that the Trusts make a living (investment returns) in ways that make a life for our fellow Australians, and the natural environment we enjoy so much.

Trevor Thomas
Finance Committee Chair, John T Reid Charitable trusts



Ms Farren Williams,
Advisor & Partner, Koda Capital

Risk Committee Update

Over the last year the operation of the Risk Committee has continued to improve through the introduction of new members and a focus on the following areas with the objective of strengthening the Trusts' capability and resilience.

Records Retention and Management

Strategies were developed to address the future management of the Trusts' physical records. A review with an Archivist determined the appropriate actions to deal with historically significant documents (such as Sir John's diaries), Trust information that should be moved to the Blackbaud Grant Management Application and where appropriate, destruction of documents that are no longer required. Implementation of all the agreed strategies have now been completed.

Cyber Risk

As part of the Trustees continued focus on emerging and changing Cyber risks, the Committee and the Office have undertaken activities to improve staff awareness. In conjunction with our key 3rd Party supplier, we have also assessed the Trusts' maturity against the Australian Government *Essential Eight Maturity Model* and developed strategies in priority areas to improve the Cyber risk profile of the Trusts.



Rob Anderson

Risk Committee Chair
John T Reid Charitable Trusts



Board Calendar

In recognising the Trusts dependency on a small administration team the Trustees and Office have developed an Annual Board Calendar that outlines those regular activities that must be undertaken each year to ensure no critical items are overlooked and to support regular Policy review and development.

Risk Register and Crisis Readiness

An annual review of our material risks was undertaken to include a re-assessment on the Trusts' risk appetite, review and development of historical and new policies for the Trusts.

Rob Anderson

Risk Committee Chair, John T Reid Charitable Trusts

A warm welcome to trustee, Mr Jeremy Smith

I am excited to be joining as a trustee at a time when the Trusts are reimagining their model for impact philanthropy.

My journey with the Trusts started when introduced to them through one of my colleagues Doug Goodman, who was for many years a trustee. As Chairman of Gadens and a partner of the firm for more than 20 years, my practice as a lawyer has involved advising charities and not-for-profit entities extensively on all manner of legal matters, and I have long been inspired by the spirit and mission of those organisations and the people who drive them. To that end, it is a privilege to now work as a JTR trustee in the Trusts' own mission of philanthropic support for the sector.



Jeremy Smith

Trustee,
John T Reid Charitable Trusts

The long history of the Trusts and the direct impact they have had in our communities is something that I am looking forward to contributing to, including working with the next generation of Sir John's family in pursuing his founding vision.

I hope to bring my experience and knowledge from decades of advising in the sector and working with boards, as well as my desire to make a difference for the community, to my role as trustee.

Away from practising law, I enjoy time with my family, all of the arts, travelling and the outdoors, and through the warmer months you can find me out on the water in southern Port Phillip Bay.

*Jeremy Smith,
Trustee, John T Reid Charitable Trusts*



Drivers of Change: stories from the field

First Step Community Grant

Since funding First Step in 2023, we continually hear the remarkable work of how their services have curated numerous stories of transforming trauma and addiction, into hope and change.

Here is one of many. Allara's childhood was filled with trauma, addiction and mental health challenges. Today, she is an advocate within the sector and government for a more compassionate approach to survivors of trauma, alcohol and drug addiction.

Note: an adapted version of Allara's story is available on the following pages, or visit www.firststep.org.au/allaras_story for the full story.



Image by Nicholas Walton-Healey

FRRR Emergency Funding

The catastrophic storm and flood events of late February and March 2022 had a devastating impact on the Lismore township, community and businesses. More than 3000 homes were damaged or lost and hundreds of people were forced into evacuation centres, with others finding shelter in family and friends' residences.

Read about FRRR (pg.27) and how the Trusts' emergency funding provided free meals to flood affected rural communities in this region.



Image courtesy of FRRR

You Matter Community Grant

You Matter supports women and children who have experienced family violence by supplying and setting up the contents of their long-term accommodation through the creation of Havens for Hope.

This is a short story about Tan and her children. When Tan left the family home, she and her three children had nothing except the clothes they were wearing.

Read Tan's story on pg.30



Image courtesy of You Matter

WEHI Centenary Fellowship

Since commencing as the John T Reid Centenary Fellow at WEHI in mid-2019, Dr Jessica Day's research has yielded significant outcomes. These include, 14 impactful papers, honoured with the *Best Basic Science Oral Abstract Award* on rheumatoid arthritis at the Australian Rheumatology Association 2023 conference, to now securing international collaborations.

Read more (pg.31) to learn about her impacting work, now recognising Dr Jessica Day as one of the world experts in myositis.



Image courtesy of WEHI

First Step

Allara's Story

I started school when I was 4. My mother was a teacher and I negotiated to attend only three days a week. The other two days, I went to work with my father, a tree lopper. I helped pull branches and enjoyed cookies and lemonade at the homes of kind old ladies.

Those were the nicest moments of my childhood.

I then started using substances knowingly at 12, though I was given marijuana at 8, thinking it was cigarettes. A family friend also gave me wine at that age, with my parents' reluctant acceptance.

At 10, I sneaked sips of cheap wine from behind the fridge door, finding a new sense of relaxation. By 12, I was a chronic cannabis user, and by 14, I was seeking other drugs. Fortunately, I never got heroin, as people deemed me too young.

I spent much time in the city with a group of Aboriginal, homeless people near St. Paul's Cathedral. They protected me, and in return, I provided them with weed and they bought me alcohol. I kept many secrets to protect my family, feeling sick whenever I approached my home.

I left school in Year 11 due to trauma and survival mode. My older siblings graduated with good grades, but I had more perpetrators than they did. Trauma consumed my life, leaving no room for studies. I fled to Ireland at 17, where kind backpackers took me under their wing. I worked as a cleaner and receptionist, living a routine between the hostel, the pub, and the fish and chip shop. To stop drinking, I gradually reduced cigarettes per beer until I no longer associated the two and quit drinking.

Returning to Melbourne, I enrolled in university to study social work, driven by social justice. My first essay scored 95%, highlighting the difference a stable environment made. During my final placement at an Aboriginal community organization, I loved the work but I began to unravel due to stress and poor health. At 30, I still kept family and childhood secrets, desperately wanting to speak out.

Below: Allara
Image by Nicholas Walton-Healey



I sought support from a sexual assault and family violence service provider, feeling suicidal and self-harming since 16. The Crisis Assessment Treatment (CAT) team recommended detox, but after four days, I discharged myself due to overwhelming despondency.

A caring GP referred me to her brother-in-law, a mental health nurse, who recommended First Step. At First Step, I learned about my substance use stemming from childhood trauma and undiagnosed ADHD. Initially resistant to the ADHD diagnosis, I realised my internal hyperactivity contrasted my calm exterior to which First Step provided support to understand this. Medication allowed me to find a sense of calm I never had before.

Simultaneously, I was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm, fragile and expected to rupture anytime. I chose not to have surgery, fearing losing my only safe space—my mind. My family opposed my decision, leading me to distance myself from them, but with the help of First Step I was able to set up an advanced care directive and decided on palliative care when the aneurysm ruptures. First Step provided the understanding and support I needed, helping me stabilise emotionally and mentally. Their compassionate approach to discussing family violence and sexual abuse was invaluable. Despite still smoking weed and drinking, I found a sense of Zen, no longer lurching from crisis to crisis.

Three years earlier I was abandoned without notice by the sexual assault and family violence service I attended for eight years, re-traumatising me, I then needed to understand how that could happen. I went on to learn that internal policy changes meant that people with complex developmental trauma, people with a multitude of diagnoses especially those who use drugs and alcohol, had nowhere to go. With the help of my Mental Health Nurse, I then learned the importance of self-advocacy and how to speak up. I believe early intervention is crucial to reducing domestic violence and sexual assault and focusing on children's rights over parental rights. Through networking and advocating, I shared my experiences with the Department of Health Lived Experience branch, aiming to shift focus onto children. Asha, my kelpie-cross-staffy, also played a significant role in my healing, her demanding nature required me to focus on her, helping me manage my emotions.

Reflecting on my journey, I realised how much I had grown. The support from First Step, my ADHD medication, and my aneurysm diagnosis all contributed to my newfound confidence. I am the only one in my dysfunctional family receiving help and striving for growth. First Step's team provided perspective, compassion, and understanding. They helped me open up about family violence and sexual abuse, unlike mainstream mental health services that dismissed my experiences. I am grateful for their support, which has prevented me from falling into a worse place.

As an advocate, I share my lived experience of trauma, addiction, and mental ill health to promote trauma-appropriate responses, policies, and services. I aim to save lives by ensuring effective support and funding.

I finally have purpose in my life, something I never had before.

Source: Courtesy of First Step, adapted from the full version available on the First Step website

FRRR

Rural and Regional Support for the 2022 Floods.

The catastrophic storm and flood events of late February and March 2022 had a devastating impact on the Lismore township, community and businesses. More than 3000 homes were damaged or lost and hundreds of people were forced into evacuation centres with others finding shelter in family and friends' residences.

Based in south-east Queensland, the **Indigenous Futures Foundation** (IFF), whose mission is to 'strengthen mob using the power of food and education', quickly requested a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR). This grant was for its First Nations Food Security Project to provide Lismore's Indigenous communities facing food insecurity with access to free, nutritious frozen meals. This funding was part of a \$200,000 donation to FRRR from the John T Reid Charitable Trusts to support flood-affected rural communities.



The idea was to purchase a purpose-built shipping container freezer to store frozen meals for distribution to local Indigenous people and families. At the outset, IFF planned to locate the shipping container in Lismore, but local grassroots community organisations did not have the space or the ability to have a freezer this size on-site. It also became evident that there was a great need for emergency food support throughout the entire Northern Rivers region.

The project then pivoted away from being one large shipping container to then working with a number of Indigenous community groups in the region to provide meals to Lismore and five other regional towns. Partner organisations had or were willing to purchase large and/or multiple freezers and IFF mapped out a delivery route to service all six towns and their communities.

A total of **6,720** free nutritious meals from Fareshare were provided to Aboriginal families in Lismore.

Casino received **4,620** meals
Ballina area received **1,200** meals
Tweed Heads **6,240** meals
Chinderah **3,000** meals, and
Kingscliff received **3,000** meals.



At the conclusion of the project, IFF surveyed its partner community organisations to understand how well received the meals were and what might be needed in the future. This would be especially useful as IFF's broader goal is to provide education programs to equip First Nations people with skills and knowledge on what to cook, how to cook, nutrition and how to grow food on Country. Jack Stockee from the Bugalwena Medical Centre said,

“Every week, our most vulnerable clients depend on these meals, particularly with the increases in rent. It is really good to not only provide medical services, but our Mob can get a healthy feed on the way out. It really takes the stress out as I know many people are having to skip a meal or two a day.”

IFF believes one of the most important results of the project was the formation of trusting relationships, which have laid the basis for future work within the community and efforts to address food insecurity and many of the Closing the Gap targets.

Source: Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal



“**Your meals are a God send; I don't know what these communities would do without your support. We service the communities of Coraki and Muli Muli and they are dealing with about 80% positive Covid cases, without these meals I don't know how they would have survived. They are self-isolating and can't go to the shops. I can't say thank you enough.**

- Chris Clark, the Bulgar Ngaru Casino Medical Centre Manager

You Matter

When Tan left the family home, she and her three children had nothing except the clothes they were wearing, but eventually found emergency accommodation which they lived in for three years.

She had been sharing a single bed with her daughter and her two sons shared the second bed. Eventually they were able to secure a place to live, but had no furniture or other items to make it a home.

Through You Matter's *Havens for Hope* program, Tan was able to receive the support she needed. When Tan walked into her children's bedrooms, immediately she was overwhelmed with tears from the beautiful touches that had been added to their rooms, turning their bedrooms into a haven.

Both boys had indicated their interest in basketball, so the team went to work on a basketball theme, leaving a basketball for each boy, books about basketball and pictures of basketball.

Her daughter was interested in drawing, unicorns and the colour pink, so the You Matter team made sure her room contained art and craft supplies, toy unicorns and a beautiful pink doona and furniture.

These small yet significant touches meant that Tan felt heard and was in deep appreciation of the efforts the team went to, for her and her children as she now focusses on securing a future for her family.

Source: You Matter



“**I don't have to worry about how I am going to provide for my children now, I can move on with my life, and so can my children and concentrate on being a family again”**

- Tan

WEHI JTR Centenary Fellowship

by Dr Jessica Day

I am deeply grateful to John T Reid Charitable Trusts for their generous support through the John T Reid Centenary Fellowship.

This fellowship has been instrumental in advancing my research, which focuses on developing personalised approaches to diagnosing and treating autoimmune muscle diseases, such as myositis and understanding the muscle damage caused by chronic inflammatory conditions like rheumatoid arthritis.

With this support, I have established a new translational muscle research program at WEHI, dedicated to applying advanced technologies and identifying novel biomarkers for muscle diseases. A major achievement has been the creation of a new, multi-institutional muscle biobank, which is a powerful resource intended to support muscle research globally. Additionally, using laboratory models, we have gained critical insights into muscle disease pathophysiology which may pave the way for more effective, tailored treatments that could significantly reduce disability and improve quality of life in patients with muscle diseases.



Above: Dr Jessica Day with patient

The fellowship has accelerated the pace of my discoveries and has allowed me to foster collaborations with experts worldwide.

I now co-lead global initiatives on inflammatory muscle diseases, and my research over the past 5 years has placed me in the top 0.17% of myositis experts globally (Expertscape).

WEHI is thus emerging as an internationally-recognised centre for myositis research.

On a personal level, the fellowship has been pivotal to my development as an independent researcher, enabling me to contribute meaningfully to both science and patient care. The gains I have made during this fellowship helped me secure a competitive Emerging Leadership NHMRC Fellowship, which will support my work from 2025-2029.

These achievements would not have been possible without the foundational support of the John T Reid Charitable Trusts, for which I am deeply thankful.

*Dr Jessica Day
John T Reid Centenary Fellow
Reid Memorial Lab – Wicks Laboratory, Inflammation Division
The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI)*



Above: Dr Jessica Day with Professor Ian Wicks, Head of the Reid Memorial Lab

JTR Events



Above from left:
Trustee, Rob Anderson with artist,
Robert Michael Young.

Launch of *Biik Milboo Dhumba | Country is Always Talking* Melbourne Museum.

On June 5th, 2024, JTR Charitable Trusts had the honour of attending the launch of *Biik Milboo Dhumba | Country is Always Talking* at Melbourne Museum, a three year project funded by the Trusts.

The launch showcased the seamless integration of wayfinding and digitally enhanced interpretation of First Peoples' storytelling into the Forest Gallery, a popular attraction at the Melbourne Museum.

The journey commenced with Uncle Larry Walsh sharing narratives about our connectedness to the land, setting the tone for our journey. As we made our way through the gallery, the ambiance simulated a real forest environment with its cool climate and sounds of nature. As we came to the end we were met with the striking corten steel, 'The Sacred Tree of Our Songlines' crafted by the talented Gunnai/Waradgerie artist, Robert Michael Young, who eloquently shared his moving story of his ancestors and connection with the 'The Sacred Tree of Our Songlines.'

We would like to thank Museums Victoria for hosting the launch, allowing us to delve into the Forest Gallery and gain understanding of our connectedness and responsibility to care for and protect Country.



'The Sacred Tree of Our Songlines' 3D sculpture by
Gunnai / Waradgerie artist, Robert Michael Young.

May 2024 Family Event | Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

This year's Family Event was held at The Terrace located within the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens.

In 2020 the Trusts funded RBGV's Global Collection Project. The objective of the Global Collection Project is to curate and database the non-Australian botanical specimens held at the National Herbarium of Victoria at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. This work will facilitate both physical and digital access to these remarkable snapshots of plant life for researchers, artists, students, government agencies and other interested parties. Through careful curation and skilled databasing, the scientific data associated with these specimens can be unlocked to support research that improves our understanding of global biodiversity and helps track how the plants, algae and fungi that sustain life, respond to environmental change. Together, these records allow a much deeper understanding of plant life and how plants and humans interact across time. Source: RBGV Global Collection Project submission.

The displays of botanical specimens were on show throughout the evening and Alison Vaughan, Manager Collections intrigued us with illustrations and stories of significant specimens encouraging a long Q&A session from families and friends.

Thankyou to all that attended the event and we look forward to hosting the next Family Event in 2025!



Opening of the Surgical Skills Lab | The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital

In 2015 the Trusts provided a grant to the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital to go towards the redevelopment of the hospital, in particular the Surgical Skills Lab. Despite the unforeseen timeline challenges affected by the building's age, Covid lockdowns, overseas delay of materials and equipment, the project has been a great success.

In October 2023 trustees, Nicole Butera and Rob Anderson were invited to attend the opening of the new Surgical Skills Lab within the redeveloped Education Precinct. The Education Precinct is a space for current and future leaders in eye and ear health to teach, learn, and collaborate together, whilst the Surgical Skills Lab will be the location where specialist surgeons are trained to operate on eyes and ears.

The impact of the training and skills development that will take place in the Surgical Skills Lab will be profound – leading to the restoring of sight and hearing for many Australians in the decades ahead.

“**It was a privilege to visit the Skills Lab and to have Associate Professor Jean-Marc Gerard share with us the impact this amazing innovative lab will have on the next generation of eye and ear specialists.**

- Nicole Butera, trustee.



Above L-R: Nicole Butera, trustee, Associate Professor, Jean-Marc Gerard & Robert Anderson, trustee.



The Surgical Skills Lab, Education Precinct
The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital

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Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri People, the Indigenous Custodians upon whose lands the Trusts' office are located and we pay respects to Elders, past and present.

Thank you to the organisations who provided images for the projects featured in this year's Annual Review.

A pdf version is available at www.johntreidtrusts.com.au

