



# 2023 Annual Report

The Felton Bequests' Committee Report  
for the Year ended 30 June 2023

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### The Felton Bequest in the 2022/2023 year



**\$1,160,000**  
in charitable donations



**2 Masterpieces**  
Gifted to the NGV during the Year



Since 1904, artworks gifted to the NGV valued at  
**\$2.8 billion**

# The Felton Bequests' Committee

## Members

Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE (Chairman until January 2023)

Mr Rupert Myer AO (Chair from March 2023)

Ms Carol Schwartz AO

Professor Emeritus Sally Walker AM

Ms Janet Whiting AM

Mr Fred Grimwade (from March 2023)

## Management

Equity Trustees provides trustee, advisory, and secretariat services through the work of the following staff members:

Ms Emily Fraresso, Senior Relationship Manager, Equity Trustees (from April 2023)

Ms Amanda Sartor, National Manager, Charitable Trusts, Equity Trustees (from January 2023 to April 2023)

Ms Emily Cormack, Acting National Manager, Social Impact, Equity Trustees

Ms Ashley Fairfield, Philanthropy Co-ordinator, Equity Trustees

Ms Keira Moloney (until December 2022)



## Alfred Felton (1831 – 1904)

In the words of his biographer, Professor John Poynter, 'Alfred Felton was a man of the nineteenth century. Born in England, and arriving in the Colony of Victoria in 1853, he made a fortune as a merchant and manufacturer over a wide field in the developing colony' from pharmaceuticals to chemicals and glass. He was a lifelong bachelor and an avid art collector.

When Felton died in 1904, he left the bulk of his fortune to the creation of a charitable foundation, known as The Felton Bequest. It became Australia's first great philanthropic gift and remains as a landmark almost 120 years later.

In Felton's Will, he instructed that his Bequest be placed in the care of a Committee and a Trustee. Of the income, one half was to be used to make annual distributions to selected Victorian charitable organisations, particularly those that benefit women and children ("the Charitable Bequest"). The other half was to purchase works of art for donation to the National Gallery of Victoria ("the Art Bequest"). At the time, it provided the National Gallery of Victoria ("NGV") with access to funds greater than those of London's National and Tate Galleries combined. It is the most valuable bequest ever made to the Arts in Australia and the current value of its gifts now exceeds \$2.8 billion.

# The Chair's Report

With this year's Annual Report, we record with much sadness the death of Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE and his remarkable service to the Felton Bequests' Committee ("the Committee") over half a century. It was a great privilege to have served with Andrew and I know that all Members of the Committee have felt the same. This year, we pay a tribute to Sir Andrew and the lasting legacy that he created for the Felton Bequest with his deft stewardship of so many significant acquisitions and transformative grants.

It is also a privilege to have succeeded Sir Andrew as Chairman and I hope that I bring to the role a similar style of inquiry and curiosity. The Felton cachet exists as a consequence of nearly 120 years of considered philanthropic practice. I look forward to serving alongside my Committee colleagues, our Equity Trustees colleagues and our colleagues at the NGV and in the community sector.

The Committee was delighted to welcome Fred Grimwade during the year as a Continuing Member of the Committee. Mr Grimwade is a non-executive director and chairman of various ASX listed public companies and private companies; he has broad commercial, strategic, financial, governance and operational experience. He is also a great, great grandson of Alfred Felton's business partner Frederick S Grimwade and Sir Andrew Grimwade's nephew.

Mr Grimwade was previously a Director of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (2011-2022); he is a former board member for The Ian Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne and a former board director of the National Gallery of Victoria Foundation. Mr Grimwade holds an MBA from Columbia University, New York and a Bachelor of Commerce and Law with Honours from the University of Melbourne. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

In this year's Annual Report, we present details of the recent acquisitions that have entered the NGV's collection, and which will be seen by visitors for the first time in late 2023. The NGV brings great scholarship, insight and energy to the acquisitions that are presented for the Committee's consideration and we are delighted that this year's acquisitions continue Felton's contribution to the transformation of the NGV's collections. Similarly, this year marks the continuation of several important multi-year grants to Victorian community organisations. We value the dedication with which these organisations approach their work and the broader visibility that is given to the outcomes that are achieved.

## Governance

Under the terms of the Will of Alfred Felton, responsibility for the distribution of income rests with the Felton Bequests' Committee which has five Members. There are three Continuing Members and two Nominated Members.

The three Continuing Members of the Committee are currently Mr Rupert Myer AO, Professor Emeritus Sally Walker AM and Mr Fred Grimwade. The nominee of the NGV is its President, Ms Janet Whiting AM. The nominee of the Trustee, Equity Trustees, is its Chair, Ms Carol Schwartz AO.

Equity Trustees Wealth Services Limited (a part of the Equity Trustees group) is the Trustee of The Felton Bequests, managing the financials and investment of the Bequests' funds. Equity Trustees also provides specialised support with Ms Emily Fraresso as the Secretary, Ms Emily Cormack as the Bequests' Granting Manager, and assistance provided by Ms Ashley Fairfield. The Committee currently meets four times a year and as required, to consider applications from the charitable sector and art acquisition proposals from the NGV.

## Charitable Bequest

Whilst life seems to have returned to normal post-pandemic, the for-purpose sector continues to feel the pressure in delivering essential services to our communities. In the last year, the Bequest is proud to have supported a group of charitable organisations working closely with those needing assistance most. The Small Grants Program provides grants of up to \$20,000 each within a total of \$150,000 each year.

The Bequest's Flagship Grants and Major Grants have continued to focus on innovative projects that could be catalytic in achieving wider benefits, particularly to enhance the physical and emotional health of women, children, and younger people. During the year, the Charitable Bequest distributed \$1,160,000 (last year \$874,070).

## Works of Art Bequest

The Bequest is delighted to have again contributed to the NGV's flagship contemporary art exhibition, 'NGV Triennial'. In 2023, the Felton Bequest committed to acquire two major international sculptures for the Triennial, which has become an integral part of Melbourne's cultural landscape.

'Reaching Out' (2020), by Thomas J Price and 'The examiner' (2023), by Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset will be presented to the National Gallery of Victoria to coincide with the launch of the 'NGV Triennial'.

Thomas J Price has rapidly become one of the most important British contemporary artists of his generation. His multidisciplinary practice confronts preconceived attitudes towards representation and identity, foregrounding the intrinsic value of the individual and subverting structures of hierarchy.

Elmgreen & Dragset pursue questions of identity and belonging and investigate social, cultural, and political structures in their artistic practice. They are interested in the discourse that can arise if objects are radically recontextualized and if normal modes for the representation of art are altered. Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset are based in Berlin and have worked together as an artist duo since 1995.

A detailed description of these two sculptures is included on page 9 and 10 of this Report.

## Financial Summary

Equity Trustees has advised that the portfolio at year-end had a market value of \$61.2 million (last year \$55.6 million). During the year under review, there was net income of \$2,445,645 (last year \$1,988,537) available for granting, following the deduction of investment management fees, trustee managements fees, and other expenses from the gross income. The Felton Bequest can capitalise up to 15% of net income, and during 2023 this amount was \$366,847. As is required, one-half of the net income is allocated to the Charitable Bequest for general charitable purposes and one-half to the Art Bequest for acquisitions of works to be gifted to the NGV.

## Appreciation and Thanks

We greatly value our close relationship with the National Gallery of Victoria, and its Director Tony Ellwood AM, its Deputy Director Andrew Clark, its Assistant Directors Misha Agzarian and Donna McColm. We were pleased to welcome Emily Fraresso, Senior Relationship Manager, Equity Trustees, as part of the Bequests' Management. Emily brings to the Bequests' her passion for the for-purpose sector and 17+ years' experience in the finance and social sector banking industries. We are thankful to her for her ongoing support and look forward to working with her in the future. We also thank Emily Cormack who has been the Bequests' Granting Manager since November 2021. Emily's expertise in philanthropy and grantmaking has guided the Committee's granting strategy to ensure it makes grants with impact and community at the forefront of mind.

We also thank the Equity Trustees team, Ashley Fairfield, Mercia Chapman and Pamela Nasiakos for their ongoing support.

**Rupert Myer AO**

**Chair**

**The Felton Bequests' Committee**

# Tribute to Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE

Tribute to Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE

6pm Tuesday

30 May 2023

Clemenger BBDO Auditorium

NGV International

Thank you, Janet Whiting, and thank you to the NGV and to Equity Trustees for hosting us this evening.

On behalf of the Felton Bequest' Committee, I would like to extend to Marsha, to Angus and your family our deepest condolences on the death of Andrew, our much-loved colleague and friend.

I am pleased to have been asked to share with you some remarks in acknowledgement of Andrew's contribution to the Felton Bequest spanning 50 years commencing in 1973, through to his appointment as Chairman in 2004, an office he held until January this year.

When thinking how to describe Andrew's contribution to the Felton Bequest, I found myself wanting to speak of some of his achievements over his half century of service. And there were so many of them both with the charitable side of the Bequest as well as with the art acquisitions for the National Gallery of Victoria. However, with characteristic self-effacement, Andrew would always speak of them as the Felton Bequest's achievements, not as his own.

He was justifiably proud of the acquisition by the Felton Bequest in 1988, marking the nation's Bicentenary, of Spirit Dreaming through Napperby Country by Tim Leura Tjapaltjarri and Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri which is still considered to have been a landmark moment for Indigenous art. As one of our colleagues described it:

*This was the most important work of Aboriginal art to yet enter the Gallery – and was a bold, and to some extent controversial, decision at the time. Of course, the significance of that important purchase has echoed down the years – it symbolised the NGV's decision to form a major collection of Aboriginal art, it represented an early instance of 'resale royalty', with a percentage of the sale going to the artists, and it reaffirmed the Felton Bequest's transformative role within the Gallery's history.*

Over thirty years later, he took pride in the acquisition by the Felton Bequest of Mystic Marriage of Saint Catherine by Lavinia Fontana which was a further landmark acquisition enabling the NGV to present a more complete representation of the Italian art of the Sixteenth Century. He loved the fact that she is recognised as the first professional female painter of Renaissance Italy and that the work sits alongside a biblical portrait painted by her father, Prospero Fontana, also acquired by the Felton Bequest in 1961.

Andrew spoke of both these acquisitions and all the others as Felton's doing, not his own. Time and again, this approach demonstrated how Andrew would channel Felton's legacy and strive to maintain the 'Felton cachet'. These were fundamental to him and to how he practiced his service to Alfred Felton and, indeed, his own forebears. He fully recognised that a grant from Felton represented more than the money; it was an endorsement for an organisation and a recognition that it was making a difference to the Victorian community. And with the art acquisitions, he was insistent that each one needed to reflect Felton's requirement that it be of great artistic and educational value, that it would raise awareness and improve public taste now and into the future.

Another colleague reminded me that, when asked whether an organisation in receipt of a grant should be required to refer to "The Felton Bequest" in the title of the project that had been funded, Andrew thought about it for a short time and then said, "if it helps them, they can use the name, but we shouldn't make them do it". This perfectly exemplified his practical generosity and his good will. He knew that it would be in their interests to share the news but failed to make it an obligation.

In reflecting on Andrew's service to the Felton Bequest, I have been assisted by remarks that I have recently received from colleagues as well as from the NGV and grant recipients. Amongst them are:

*A wonderful man who was always weaving solutions, pulling strings and influencing for good. We are blessed that our project found its way onto his radar.*

*Sir Andrew was much loved by our team... and we greatly admired his leadership and vision in championing women's mental health.*

*We are all truly saddened by the loss of Sir Andrew and recognise this signifies the end of an era. We remain incredibly grateful for his legacy and the ongoing impact his work at Felton had...*

*We always enjoyed working with Sir Andrew, and his great intellect and sense of humour will be dearly missed by all...*





Some of the remarks reflect how he was, how he conducted the meetings, how he shared his enthusiasms and what he meant to each of us. I can think of the asides that he would make across the table, the careful prompting on certain matters and his genuine interest in knowing what each of us thought about a project or organisation.

The following comment captures it beautifully:

Andrew was particularly proud of the projects to advance outcomes for Indigenous students and those aimed at assisting older women who are in financial difficulty. He was also proud of the funding of projects for medical research undertaken by WEHI. These stand out, but the truth is that Andrew was enthusiastic about anything any member of the Committee was enthusiastic about; he encouraged us to express our support for any funding application, large or small, and our interest in any topic that we thought needed to be addressed and he “backed” our ideas.

There was little in which Andrew had no interest and there was absolutely nothing in which Andrew couldn’t develop an interest. This was evident again and again as he led the charge for projects and organisations and acquisitions of many complexions.

For my own part, I would like to acknowledge Andrew for the way in which he included me in his thinking and approach. It was always a pleasure to join Andrew on his manoeuvres around some of the grant recipients. Sometimes there would be serious intent when some difficult matter needed to be discussed; sometimes it was closer to his version of pastoral care; sometimes it was to seek some critical piece of information about whether the organisation in receipt of a grant was up to the task or whether there were problems standing in its way that could be sorted with a word in the right ears.

I recall one such meeting when, late in his 80s and on a stinking hot December day, Andrew had travelled by bus from Mansfield to Melbourne for the day for no other reason than to attend a meeting with an organisation about which he had some concerns. The person with whom we met clearly had no idea about the depth of concern that Andrew had nor any notion that he cared so much about the success of the project. As the meeting concluded, we agreed that it had been worthwhile and, as it turned out, indeed it had been. Never one to stand on ceremony, Andrew then wryly commented that a half million dollar grant obviously wasn’t sufficient to warrant being offered a cup of tea or coffee, or even a glass of water on that stifling day. We had sat through a near hour long meeting that morning with not the slightest gesture of hospitality. It became a standing joke between us, and he would always flash his twinkling eyes at the mention of it, just as he did when he shared one of his limericks.

If there were some unifying principles that described Andrew’s leadership of the Felton Bequest, they were to identify community need, recognise and encourage talent, stay connected throughout Felton’s engagement and work with and through his colleagues. He would express delight frequently and would maintain a keen interest in the outcomes of a grant and the learnings and discoveries that were being made.

In the acquisitions for the NGV, he loved his encounters with the NGV team, indeed everyone who worked in the buildings. At the presentations by the curators about potential acquisitions, deftly and lightly, he would listen intently, ask considered and highly relevant questions, encourage others to do the same and would usually be the last to opine on the selection, except when he wanted to be first!

He crafted a process in which each of the Felton gifts to the NGV reflected mutual respect, deep scholarship, careful stewardship and great enthusiasm. It wasn't just Andrew's 'know how' that was abundantly apparent at each step. It was also his 'know why', 'know who', 'know what' and 'know when' and the demonstration of these skills was a joy for us all to behold.

He could simultaneously play the beginner and the expert. In doing so, he maintained a mind with sharp antennae, full of curiosity and wonderment, and a refreshing absence of cynicism. There is little doubt that he would have been thrilled that one of Felton's most significant acquisitions of the last few years, Ron Mueck's *Mass* is on the invitation for, and forms the centrepiece of, the landmark exhibition on Mueck's work at the Fondation Cartier in Paris that opens next week. With his characteristic style, Andrew met and spoke with Ron at several stages in the development of the work including a group visit to the facility in Altona while the work was being made. There was no hiding Andrew's passion for super-charging everyone's enthusiasm in a project that had fully captured his imagination.

In what was to be our last conversation a few days before Andrew's death, he was deeply considered in his remarks about the Felton Bequest, saying that it had been one of the great pleasures of his life. As we were concluding that conversation, he said, "Is there anything that you'd like to ask me?" What a remarkable question to be asked reflecting as it did his lifetime habit of inquiry, inclusiveness, generosity, and provocation. Thank you, Andrew. At tomorrow's meeting of the Committee, we will be approving the following minute:

*Members of the Felton Bequests' Committee and its secretariat placed on record their deep appreciation to Sir Andrew Grimwade for his 50 years of service to the Felton Bequests' Committee. The Committee reflected on Sir Andrew's tenure as chair of The Felton Bequest acknowledging his great leadership, sharp mind, kind and courteous nature, the joy he brought to and obtained from his role, as well as his gracious generosity. Notably, Sir Andrew will be remembered for his commitment to the community and his vision in the arts. Grounded by his years of service and experience, Sir Andrew also brought a contemporary vantage point to his position as Chairman. Sir Andrew Grimwade made a remarkable contribution to the Felton Bequest, the community, and the Nation.*

**Rupert Myer AO**  
**Chair**  
**The Felton Bequests' Committee**



# Works of Art in the 2022/2023 Year

## Note of Thanks from the National Gallery of Victoria

On behalf of the National Gallery of Victoria, I wish to thank the Felton Bequests' Committee members for acquiring these incredible works for NGV Triennial 2023.

The NGV Council of Trustees considered that these significant works are of great artistic and educational value for the millions of visitors who connect with the NGV each year.

These landmark sculpture commissions will be the first of works by Thomas J Price and by Elmgreen & Dragset to enter the NGV Collection. They will increase the artistic value of the NGV Collection, as Price, and Elmgreen & Dragset are recognised internationally as leading contemporary artists, and these works will foster and enhance awareness and interest of art and design within the wider community.

The NGV is truly grateful for the longstanding dedication and commitment of the Felton Bequests' Committee and the enduring legacy of Alfred Felton.

**Tony Ellwood AM**  
Director, NGV

## Works of Art Gifted in the 2022/2023 Year

### *Reaching Out* (2020)

#### Thomas J Price

Born 1981, United Kingdom  
Lives and works in London

Working primarily in figurative sculpture, Thomas J. Price's work addresses issues of identity, representation and power. Referencing Western sculptural traditions, Price's works play with methods of presentation, material and scale, to highlight the inadequate and prejudiced representations of black people today in today's media and throughout history.

The Felton Bequest has generously acquired a large-scale sculpture, *Reaching Out*, 2020, which confronts the lack of people of colour represented in public statuary in the UK. Intentionally ambiguous, Price's figures do not depict a certain individual, but are instead drawn from an amalgamation of found sources, including observed individuals and stereotypes represented in the media. In this way, Price's works serve more accurately as psychological portraits of the viewer, prompting them to consider their own socially learnt attitudes and assumptions. *Reaching Out* will be displayed in Triennial 2023 alongside another of Price's works.



Thomas J Price *Reaching out* 2020, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Felton Bequest, 2023 © Thomas J Price and Hauser & Wirth. Photo: Ken Adlard

## ***The examiner, 2023***

### **Elmgreen And Dragset**

#### **Michael Elmgreen**

Born 1961, Denmark  
Lives and works in Berlin

#### **Ingar Dragset**

Born 1969, Norway  
Lives and works in Berlin

Since they began collaborating in 1995, Elmgreen and Dragset have challenged and reshaped the way in which art is presented and experienced. *The examiner 2023* is a new commission acquired by the Felton Bequest to be displayed along with other Elmgreen and Dragset installations for the NGV Triennial 2023. The sculptural installation will present a balcony in an exhibition space, with a figure looking out across the room. With this commission, Elmgreen and Dragset continue their practice of unpacking and subverting systems and architectures of power. Placing a recognisable yet out of place feature in the gallery, they challenge the expected norms of the traditional white cube gallery space. The onlooking figure watches over visitors, questioning divisions of public and private space.



Elmgreen & Dragset *The examiner* 2023, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Felton Bequest, 2023 © Elmgreen & Dragset

# Charitable Grants made in the 2022/2023 year

In 2022-2023 The Felton Bequest continued its support of the Victorian community through innovative and community focused grants. The Bequest seeks to enhance the physical and emotional health of women, children, and young people. These grants fall into the three categories of Flagship Grants, Major Grants and Small Grants.

## Flagship Grants

### New Flagship Project 2023:

#### **Beolite Village, Mansfield**

##### **Single year (\$300,000)**

Beolite Village Limited is a not-for-profit charitable organisation established in 2006 to support the accommodation needs of older Victorians in Northeast Victoria. It builds and operates an affordable, high- quality, independent-living retirement village in Mansfield for retirees (or those planning retirement) who do not wish to continue living alone or in remote communities. It builds quality homes for the elderly, those facing disadvantage or challenging circumstances.

A grant was awarded to Beolite Village, recognising the contribution of Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE to the Victorian community through his 50 years' service to the Bequest. The grant will enable Beolite Village to develop a small memorial tree plantation and garden for the residents. The grant will also enable Beolite Village to invest further into their essential infrastructure including the development of secure roads to the accommodation units.

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### Ongoing Flagship Projects:

#### **Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) - Genomics to accelerate precision dementia research**

##### **Multi-year funding (total \$1,000,000); 2022-2025**

Led by Professor Melanie Bahlo, the goal of this project is to develop genomic diagnostics for people with dementia that will lead to a more accurate diagnosis, and therefore provide access to the most appropriate clinical trials and to family genetic testing. By identifying the genetic causes of dementia, and disentangling dementia subtypes, it is intended to boost biomarker discovery and enhance many other laboratory investigations linked to dementia currently being undertaken at WEHI.

This four-year project involves whole genome sequencing on 500 Victorian patients, recruited mainly via Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Alfred Hospital and performing comprehensive data analysis on the cohort and other dementia projects to facilitate precision dementia research.



Professor Melanie Bahlo

## Major Grants

### Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS)

#### *Family and Young Person Early Intervention Program*

**Multi-year funding (total \$150,000); 2021-2023**

YSAS is one of Victoria's largest youth-specific community organisations supporting young people and families through their youth alcohol and other drugs, mental health, and criminal justice programs. A grant was provided to support their 'Taking the Lead in Youth Alcohol and other Drug Early Intervention in Melbourne's Growth Corridor' program. This program is an early intervention initiative working directly with at-risk young people and their families, from developing further alcohol and drug problems. The program strengthens the young people's connection to family, education, and community services. The grant was able to support the staffing cost to facilitate this program.

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### International Social Service (ISS) Australia

#### *International Family Mediation (IFM) Capacity-Building Project*

**Multi-year funding (total \$200,000); 2020-2023**

International Social Service (ISS) Australia's mission is to protect, defend and support the best interests and rights of children and families in Australia who have been separated by international borders.

ISS Australia's IFM service offers an accessible, online alternative for families who are unable to access traditional, in person, services. ISS Australia is in a unique position to provide a culturally sensitive, cross-border IFM service, using its international ISS network which is active in more than 140 countries. The IFM project has ensured that critical services are provided to families who would otherwise have limited access to comprehensive cross border international family mediation.

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### Royal Women's Hospital Foundation

#### *The Cornelia Program (formerly known as Homeless Mothers and Babies Project)*

**Multi-year funding (total \$150,000); 2020-2023**

The Cornelia Program is an Australian first. With the commitment, expertise and infrastructure of three partners – the Royal Women's Hospital, Housing First and Launch Housing – collaborative funding is supporting the design, testing and evaluation of an innovative approach to securing long term health, social support and housing for some of Victoria's most vulnerable women and children.

For women who are in a cycle of drug use, homelessness, trauma and mental illness, pregnancy offers a unique opportunity for engagement. Pregnant women are motivated to care for themselves and to do the best for their baby. The project's focus will be on providing high quality pregnancy care, mental health interventions, addiction services, social support and nutrition education to create a sense of hope for a new and better future for women and their babies. The stable housing component of the Cornelia Program provides the essential foundation to enable women to engage with these specialist and comprehensive services, and to take the necessary steps towards education, employment, and engagement with their community.

## **Mansfield Autism Statewide Services**

### ***Operation Gamechanger – Alfred Felton Transition House***

#### **Multi-year funding (total \$150,000); 2022-2023**

Mansfield Autism Statewide Services is an independent, not-for-profit organisation supporting young people and their families living with autism. They offer a statewide service. Their locally based services operate within the heart of the Mansfield community. They also provide an in-home service throughout Victoria. Services include residential term placements, day schools, respite and crisis care, family camps, in-home practitioners, outreach and transition programs.

The Bequest has supported the Transition Program which supports young autistic adults to develop life skills that will help them live independently. For a period of up to eight

weeks, a small group of young adults will live together in a purpose-built house and learn a range of practical and social skills in real time. The first year of funding has supported the fit out of the residence to be called the *Alfred Felton Transition House*. The second year of funding will provide support towards the delivery of the program.



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## **Women's Property Initiatives**

### ***The Nest, Shepparton***

#### **Multi-year funding (total \$250,000); 2022-2023**

Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) provides safe, secure and affordable homes for women and women led families on low incomes. In 2022 WPI reached a significant milestone which was the ownership of 115 homes. These properties, located in thriving communities around Melbourne, are homes to more than 260 women and children.

The Nest is a partnership between a number of organisations to build 3 x two-bedroom homes where young mothers (up to 25 years old) can live independently with their child or children.

These young mothers can live in the homes for up to five years supported by The Bridge Youth Services. As well as providing stability, support and safety, they will be able to establish a rental history to help them with future access in the private rental market.

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## **Committee Discretion**

### **Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)**

#### ***Core support***

#### **Single year grant, \$10,000**

The ASRC is Australia's largest human rights organisation providing support to people seeking asylum. Programs support and empower people seeking asylum to maximise their own physical, mental and social wellbeing. They champion the rights of people seeking asylum and mobilise a community of compassion to create lasting social and policy change.

The Felton Bequest was pleased to provide a small grant to their 2023 Emergency Appeal.

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### **Victorian Women's Trust Limited**

#### ***Together Yes Campaign***

#### **Single year grant, \$25,000**

The Victorian Women's Trust supports women, girls and gender diverse people to thrive. It creates social change projects and campaigns; conducts research on the issues affecting our communities; runs thought-provoking events; provides mentorship opportunities; and gives grants to vital grassroots projects.

The Felton Bequest was pleased to provide a grant in support of the Together Yes Campaign in support of a positive referendum outcome.



## Small Grants

Each year The Felton Bequest facilitates a Small Grants Program inviting applications from grassroots Victorian organisations. In FY2023 the Bequest was pleased to support the following organisations.

### A Better Life for Foster Kids Incorporated

#### *Crisis Cases for Emergency Workers*

A Better Life for Foster Kids (ABLFFK) works to improve the short and long-term physical, educational and psychosocial outcomes for children in foster and kinship care. Children who arrive in Out of Home Care often arrive with only the clothes on their back and under emergency circumstances. ABLFFK Crisis Cases are provided to children with age-appropriate essentials such as clothes, hygiene essentials, toys and books. Cases provide for the immediate needs of children, lessening the mental and financial burden for carers while also connecting them to a wider support system. ABLFFK service key regional areas which are often underserved compared to metropolitan areas.

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### Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

#### *The Alfred Felton Library*

The Aboriginal Literacy Foundation provides literacy and numeracy support for young Aboriginal Australians. Whilst the use of online literacy materials has proved successful in early stages of learning to read, there is little evidence that they support higher level reading skills. Positive literacy outcomes are still associated with the availability of appropriate and accessible reading material. The Alfred Felton Library, in Flinders Lane, Melbourne, has been established as a dedicated library for Aboriginal topics such as language and culture, history, as well as best practice teaching methodologies suited to Aboriginal children. After success with their program in Northern Australia, ALF is expanding to service Metropolitan Melbourne.



### Big Little Buddies Inc.

#### *Bridging the Gap – Making Music and Memories Intergenerational Music Programs*

Big Little Buddies is dedicated to bringing generations together for their mutual benefit. The 'Bridging the Gap' program is designed to use music to address isolation, loneliness, poor mental health in older Australians while also building connectedness, empathy and confidence for pre-schoolers. The 12 month program is particularly focused on developing positive social outcomes for these vulnerable groups after periods of prolonged isolation during the pandemic. Big Little Buddies' intergenerational program is supported by several partners in the Eastern suburbs of Victoria with a commitment to "Bringing life and laughter, for all to enjoy".





## **Bridge It Limited**

### **Life and Living Skills Worker**

Bridge It runs residential programs across Melbourne, providing young people with a community and the support to thrive. Growth in Bridge It residential services has seen an increased demand from residents to access 'life and living skills' support. The Life and Living Skills worker provides residents at Bridge It facilities to develop critical skills such as cooking, budgeting, managing relationships, preparation for job interviews, personal hygiene and working on positive daily routines. These skills are vital in enabling the resident's confidence in transitioning to long term stable living. Based at their female only sites, the Life and Living Skills worker, provides holistic support to young women who experience compounded disadvantage.

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## **Endeavour Ministries Inc**

### **PEERS – Supporting at Risk Teenagers**

Endeavour Ministries is run entirely by volunteers and provides, crisis assistance, financial wellbeing support and community development programs to the Casey community. PEERS is run by psychologists with the aim of supporting adolescents develop and maintain healthy relationships. The program involves teens, with the support of their parents, developing resilience, communication skills, conflict resolution and mental wellbeing skills. The program has seen the mental health and wellbeing of both parents and teenagers significantly improve due to the skills and confidence gained through this program.

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## **Fair Fight Foundation Limited**

### **Supertee Project**

The Supertee is a medical garment disguised as a superhero costume and is provided nationwide as an alternative to traditional hospital gowns for children battling life-threatening conditions. The Supertee assists children and carers to bypass the necessary tubes and lines that children often have during treatment, leaving children more comfortable during treatment. The Supertee and the Fair Fight Foundation built on Founder Jason's own lived experience, and aims to 'Help little heroes fight big battles'.

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## **Glen Waverley Uniting Church**

### **Welfare Coordinator**

The Glen Waverley Uniting Church provides non-denominational support to members of the community experiencing hardship through their Qualified Social Worker as well as triage support. The social worker provides support to around 280-350 people experiencing financial disadvantage each year. As part of the community welfare program run by the Church the social worker provides care and support by connecting those experiencing hardship to other service providers in the area as well as immediate emotional support.

## John Pierce Centre

### Deaf Friendly Strength Classes for Older Victorians

The John Pierce Centre supports the needs and wellbeing of the signing Deaf Community throughout Victoria, supporting the communities emotional, social and physical wellbeing. Living with a disability means a lack of inclusive access to many services, such as gyms or fitness classes. Maintaining physical health is an important part of ageing well, and is proven to significantly improve the experience of ageing long term. The Centre's "Strength Classes for Older Victorians" provides age appropriate strength and fitness classes in a language accessible format (Auslan) to improve the physical wellbeing of older Australians who are hard of hearing.



## Mill House Neighbourhood House

### Friday Feast Community Lunches

Mill House is a Neighbourhood House in regional Victoria, Maryborough, facilitating a drop in lunch service, reaching over 70 community members at a time. Maryborough has the highest percentage of over 65's in any LGA in Victoria and the fortnightly free lunch aims to improve social connections, develop friendships and a strengthened sense of belonging for their older community members. Located in the heart of town, Mill House's Feasts serve a two-course lunch featuring healthy, home cooked meals. Large shared tables mean lunch participants engage in lively conversation and the Feasts have proved to be a hit in the town's calendar.







## **The Nappy Collective**

### **Collection point Scaling**

The Nappy Collective, collects new and leftover nappies that families no longer need and pass them onto families in need. Most parents know the discomfort of being caught without enough nappies, although families experiencing hardship know this feeling better than most. The Nappy Collective redistributes nappies via their community partners to families in need, including those fleeing violence, seeking asylum, struggling with homelessness, financial hardship or victims of natural disaster. The Nappy Collective continues to scale up their donation collection points to service all communities in need of this important essential material aid.

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## **Syndromes Without A Name (SWAN) Australia**

### **Siblings Program**

Syndromes Without A Name (SWAN) is the national peak body that supports families caring for a child with an undiagnosed or rare genetic condition. Siblings of children with a disability report increased stress and poorer mental health outcomes as compared with their peers. The 'Siblings Program' provides an opportunity for 30 primary school-aged siblings living in Melbourne to meet on a monthly basis in a peer-support session. The sessions aim to provide siblings with coping strategies to address anxiety, a safe environment to work through feelings of grief and isolation as well as an opportunity to have fun. One ambassador to the program reflected that "There is so much power and comfort in having someone with similar lived experience listen as you share personal stories or struggles and having them truly understand or discuss similar situations they have been through."

## Total Charitable Grants paid in the 2022/2023 year

Organisation	Amount	Details
<b>Flagship Grants</b>		
Beolite Village	\$300,000.00	Grant in recognition of Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE
Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research	\$300,000.00	Genomics to accelerate precision dementia research
<b>Major Grants</b>		
Women's Property Initiatives	\$125,000.00	The Nest
Mansfield Autism Statewide Services	\$75,000.00	Alfred Felton Transition House
Youth Support Advocacy Service (YSAS)	\$75,000.00	Taking the Lead in Youth Alcohol and other Drug Early Intervention in Melbourne's Growth Corridors
The Royal Women's Hospital	\$50,000.00	The Cornelia Project
International Social Services Australia	\$50,000.00	International Family Mediation Program
<b>Committee Discretion</b>		
Victorian Women's Trust	\$25,000.00	Together, Yes
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	\$10,000.00	Core Funding
<b>Small Grants</b>		
Aboriginal Literacy Foundation	\$10,000.00	The Alfred Felton Library
Fair Fight Foundation Limited	\$10,000.00	Supertee Project
Big Little Buddies Inc.	\$20,000.00	Bridging The Gap Making Music and Memories Intergenerational Music Programs
The Nappy Collective	\$20,000.00	Year Round Collective
A Better Life for Foster Kids Incorporated	\$13,500.00	Crisis Cases for Emergency Foster Care
Bridge It Limited	\$20,000.00	Life and Living Skills Worker
Mill House Neighbourhood House	\$10,000.00	Friday Feast Community Lunches
John Pierce Centre	\$9,000.00	Deaf Friendly Strength Classes for Older Victorians
Syndromes Without A Name (SWAN) Australia	\$20,000.00	SWAN Siblings Program
Glen Waverley Uniting Church	\$12,500.00	Salary for Welfare Coordinator (Social Worker)
Endeavour Ministries Inc	\$5,000.00	PEERS Supporting At Risk Teenagers
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,160,000</b>	



## Current Charitable Priorities

The Charitable Bequest supports the development of innovative ideas and catalytic projects that have the potential to enhance the physical and emotional health of women, children and young people. Under Alfred Felton's Will, funding can only be for support to projects in Victoria. In addition to supporting catalytic projects, the Bequest allocates small grants of up to \$25,000 to special projects and organisations that will alleviate a pressing need. The following were the preferences for projects in 2023:

- support for vulnerable women, children and young people;
- assisting the elderly, including accommodation needs and homelessness amongst the elderly;
- tackling early intervention or prevention and the causes of disadvantage;
- projects that have the potential for wider adoption and broader impact in the future;
- new or existing programs that currently do not attract government funding and require seed funding to get started, build momentum and/or build organisational capacity.

## Contact details

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