



2022 Annual Report

The Felton Bequests' Committee Report
for the Year ended 30 June 2022

Contents

The Felton Bequests' Committee	3
Alfred Felton (1831 – 1904)	3
Chairman's Report	4
Works of Art in the 2021/2022 Year	6
Charitable Grants committed in the 2021/2022 Year	7
Total Charitable Grants paid in the 2021/2022 Year	13
Current Charitable Priorities	14
Contact Details	14

The Alfred Felton Bequest in the 2021/2022 year



\$721,442

in grants distributed to 17 organisations



1 Masterpiece

Gifted to the NGV during the Year



Since 1904, artworks gifted to the NGV valued at

\$2.3 billion

The Felton Bequests' Committee

Members

Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE (Chairman)

Mr Rupert Myer AO

Ms Carol Schwartz AO

Professor Emeritus Sally Walker AM

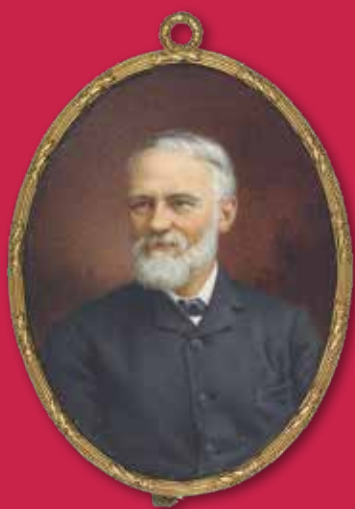
Ms Janet Whiting AM

Secretariat

Ms Kiera Moloney, Felton Bequest Secretary

Ms Emily Cormack, Grant Program Manager, Equity Trustees

Ms Ashley Fairfield, Philanthropy Coordinator, Equity Trustees



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 for well over a century after its establishment.

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 \$2.3 billion.

Chairman's Report

Overview

It is with pleasure that the Felton Bequests' Committee ("FBC") submits its Annual Report on its activities for the year ended 30 June 2022. The Annual Report provides an opportunity to illustrate the granting from the Felton Bequest, and its contribution to the Arts and philanthropy including the charitable organisations undertaking the important 'on the front line' work in our community.

As the Felton Bequest enters its second century, nothing personifies it more than Tiepolo's masterpiece *'The Banquet of Cleopatra'*. Completed nearly 300 years ago, Giambattista Tiepolo was blissfully unaware that a century later a young 22-year-old, Alfred Felton, would emigrate from Europe to a new colony named Melbourne on the other side of the world.

When he died in 1904, Felton left untold riches, with half of its income to be allocated to charities and half to the purchase of art for the National Gallery of Victoria. Within 20 years of Felton's death, his Bequest had the opportunity to acquire *'The Banquet of Cleopatra'* from Russia, thanks to a desperate Joseph Stalin in need of cash.

Works of art acquired by the Felton Bequest since 1904 are now valued by the NGV at over \$2.3 billion.



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 Sir Andrew Grimwade (Chairman), Mr Rupert Myer and Professor Emeritus Sally Walker. One Nominated Member is the nominee of the NGV, usually its President of Trustees, and currently Ms Janet Whiting. The other Nominated Member represents the Trustee, Equity Trustees, and currently Ms Carol Schwartz.

The financial affairs of the Felton Bequest and the investment of its funds are the responsibility of the Trustee, Equity Trustees Wealth Services Limited (a part of the Equity Trustees group), which also provides the Secretariat. Ms Kiera Moloney is the Secretary and Ms Emily Cormack is the Bequests' Granting Manager. The FBC meets at least four times a year and as required, to consider applications from the charitable sector and art acquisition proposals from the NGV.

Charitable Bequest

It has been another difficult year with the continuation of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Many worthy charities have been under pressure and their requests for support have been examined closely and sympathetically. Our Small Grants Program provides grants of up to \$20,000 each within a total of \$150,000 each year.

Our Flagship Grants and Major Grants have concentrated on innovative projects and those 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 \$741,442 (last year \$874,070).

Works of Art Bequest

We were delighted that one of the Felton Bequest's greatest Renaissance acquisitions was formally gifted to the National Gallery of Victoria on 3 March 2022. It was Lavinia Fontana's Mystic Marriage of St Catherine, 1575. This is one of our most stunning acquisitions, rich in its details and in so many layers. The presentation was made by our FBC Colleague Carol Schwartz, Chair of Equity Trustees, to our FBC Colleague Janet Whiting, President of the NGV Council of Trustees.

Lavinia Fontana is generally recognised as the world's first professional woman painter. Her recently acquired painting is the earliest painting by a female artist to enter the NGV Collection and the handover occurred in International Women's Week. Members of the Felton Bequests' Committee noted that Alfred Felton's Will recognises the importance of supporting women.

We pay a special tribute to NGV President Janet Whiting, and to the genius of her Director Tony Ellwood and to his Senior Staff, especially Dr Ted Gott, in locating, negotiating, and organising the acquisition. Within the NGV, it will make a sentimental pairing with the 1552 work by Lavinia's father's, Prospero Fontana, a Felton Bequest acquisition in 1961; today they are hanging alongside each other after four centuries!

Looking ahead, the Felton Bequest has made a commitment to acquire two major international sculptures for the NGV's Triennial in 2023 with negotiations in hand.

Financial Summary

Equity Trustees has advised that the portfolio at year-end had a market value of \$55.6 million (last year \$58 million). During the year under review, there was net income of \$1,988,537 (last year \$1,145,921) available for granting, following deduction of investment management fees, trustee management fees, and other expenses from the gross income. The Felton Bequest can capitalise up to 15% of net income, and during 2022 this amount was \$297,339. The remainder of the net income was divided with one-half 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 and cordial relationship with the National Gallery of Victoria, and especially with its Director Tony Ellwood AM, its Deputy Director Andrew Clark, its Assistant Directors Misha Agzarian, Donna McColm, and Don Heron.

As Chairman of the Felton Bequests' Committee, I express deep appreciation to my distinguished and hardworking Felton Bequest colleagues. I thank Kiera Moloney and Emily Cormack for their service to the Secretariat and their support given to organisations addressing the needs of vulnerable people.

Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE
Chairman

Works of Art in the 2021/2022 Year

Works of Art Gifted in the 2021/2022 Year

Mystic Marriage of St Catherine

Lavinia Fontana

The major work *Mystic Marriage of St Catherine* by Lavinia Fontana was acquired in 2020/2021 and was formerly gifted to the NGV International. This painting is now permanently installed in the 16th and 17th Century Gallery. *Mystic Marriage of St Catherine* was also a feature in a seminar series run by the NGV called 'Observations: Women in Art and Design History'. The acquisition of this work attracted interest from the media and the Art sector. The Committee is proud that the Bequest acquired this unique piece, created by the world's first professional female artist.



Charitable Grants committed in the 2021/2022 year

The Felton Bequest receives many expressions of interest and applications for grants each year, but not all are able to be funded. The following Flagship and Major grants were continuations of projects to which commitments had been made in prior years.

Flagship Grants

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

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

WEHI's goal is to develop genomic diagnostics for people with dementia that would lead to more accurate diagnosis, thereby providing 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.

Led by Professor Melanie Bahlo, this project will involve whole genome sequencing on 500 Victorian patients, recruited mainly via the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and performing comprehensive data analysis on the cohort; it will also link to other dementia projects to facilitate dementia research. The team is also collaborating with the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, MiND, and the Australian Parkinson's Genetic Study. To date, the Felton Bequest's grant has enabled the team at WEHI to leverage further funding from the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the Shake it Up Australia Foundation.



Wintringham

Support Program for Angus Martin House

Multi-year funding (total \$578,303); 2018-2022

The Support Program for Angus Martin House is funding a single worker for 5 years to provide intensive outreach support to isolated and vulnerable elderly men and women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Many have had extremely negative experiences in the past when attempting to gain access to the type of public services that many of us would take for granted. This project is providing an outreach worker who can help them navigate the system, and provide trusted support.

The Florey Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health at the University of Melbourne

NOVELL – Transforming Rehabilitation Facilities and Services for Brain Injury Survivors: Australia's first New and Optimised Virtual Living Lab

Multi-year funding (total \$500,000); 2018-2022

Rehabilitation facilities (hospitals) and services for people with acquired brain injury from stroke and trauma have remained virtually unchanged for the past 30 years. Younger survivors of brain injury (<45 years) are particularly poorly served as they are usually housed in rehabilitation facilities along with the elderly.

To address this gap, Prof. Julie Bernhardt AM and her team have been developing Australia's first Virtual Living Lab for rehabilitation hospital redesign. Working with state and international interdisciplinary partners and consumer stakeholders, they are co-designing, and testing, in a virtual reality, new rehabilitation designs to optimise recovery after brain injury. The Felton Bequest is delighted that The University of Melbourne is matching the funding of this innovative and important initiative. Pleasingly, this year the project was awarded a European Healthcare Design Award in the Design Research category.

Major Grants

Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS)

Family and Young Person Early Intervention Program

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

YSAS's strategy of 'Taking the Lead in Youth Alcohol and other Drug Early Intervention in Melbourne's Growth Corridor' involves demonstrating how to prevent at-risk young people, 18 years old and under, from developing alcohol and drug problems and advocating for Government investment to support this endeavour.

The first step will be the effective delivery of the 'Family and Young Person Early Intervention Program' (FaYEIP), that has been designed and trialled by YSAS, in the Cities of Casey and Cardinia in Melbourne's South Eastern growth corridor.

The implementation of FaYEIP will be evaluated and the findings used to build an evidence-based business case for broad investment in effective alcohol and drug early intervention programs throughout Victoria (and, ultimately, the rest of Australia).

International Social Service (ISS) Australia

International Family Mediation (IFM) Capacity-Building Project

Multi-year funding (total \$150,000); 2020-2022

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 International Family Mediation (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. There is no other service in Australia that can provide accredited International Family Dispute Resolution Services (that is, mediation) with comprehensive professional supports provided to the parent in the overseas country.



Royal Women's Hospital Foundation

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

Multi-year funding (total \$150,000); 2020-2022

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 communities.

Small Grants

The Felton Bequest undertakes a small grants open application round annually. This round focuses on grassroots organisations. Typically, there is about a 20% success rate from applications. The following organisations were funded in 2021/22:

Footscape Inc

Children's Orthotic Project

\$7,500

Footscape assists disadvantaged people encountering debilitating foot pathology. Painful foot problems affecting homeless and other disadvantaged people are accentuated as individuals are commonly forced to walk long distances upon poor shoes and poor socks. Footscape is collecting new/second-hand shoes, new socks and foot care kits for distribution to recipients of care at fifty affiliate organisations. The project is allowing 'at-risk' children to access orthotics and ensure their young bodies can grow to their optimum.

L2R Dance

Panda Squad

\$10,000

Panda Squad is an annual program of free, weekly hip hop/street dance classes, excursions and performance opportunities for young people aged 6 – 12yrs living in the Brimbank municipality. The program is facilitated by a professional teaching artist and is assisted by an emerging artist from L2R's Igniting Legends Program. Panda Squad celebrates the spectrum of race, religion, gender and identity; L2R's mission is to inspire positive vibes through one language, Dance.



Little Big Steps

Supporting kids with cancer using VR to encourage exercise during and after treatment

\$5,000

Little Big Steps helps kids with cancer to exercise during and after treatment. Exercise for kids undergoing cancer treatment can be transformative. Chemotherapy and long hospital stays lead to reduction in physical capability and for parents, getting sick kids to move can seem impossible. The Virtual Reality (VR) programs motivates kids to move safely for a 12-week period during their treatment (target of 80 children in 12 months).



The Waterwell Project

Health education sessions for women from migrant, refugee, and asylum seeker backgrounds

\$20,000

The Water Well Project is a health promotion not-for-profit that improves the health literacy of communities from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. The Water Well Project has facilitated more than 1,000 health education sessions reaching over 15,000 individuals, with flow-on effects to their families and communities. Sessions are facilitated by volunteer healthcare professionals and tailored to the needs of each community group; the volunteers are accompanied by accredited interpreters.



River Nile Learning Centre

Digital literacy for refugee & asylum seeker women

\$16,000

River Nile Learning Centre (RNLC) educates refugee and asylum seeker women who are not eligible to be enrolled in a government school, due to their age or visa restrictions. The Centre provides hope and opportunities for women to acquire the language, life and work skills to integrate and thrive in the community. RNLC introduced a digital literacy course to complement its language programs. This program has proved popular and demonstrated the need to extend the course to include other women from the refugee/asylum seeker community.



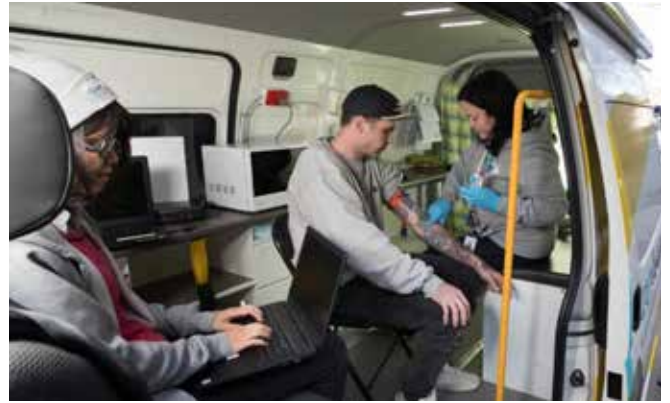
National Council for Jewish Women Australia (Victorian Branch)

Caring Mums

\$20,000

NCJWA Vic's mission is to support women at key points across the life cycle, advance the status of women and girls and promote social cohesion and human rights. Caring Mums is a non-denominational, free service providing emotional support to mothers of infants and pregnant women. The program matches trained volunteers to mums with the goal of developing secure, trusting relationships, while offering both proactive and reactive support through empowerment.





Green Cross Project Inc

Outreach Bus

\$20,000

Green Cross Project Inc. (GCPI) works to provide a health management service to meet the needs of the homeless, disadvantaged, and marginalised members of the community. In partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, an outreach bus is used to help with Covid vaccinations amongst other essential health services.

Reading Out of Poverty

Post Pandemic literacy recovery project – Books from Birth

\$11,500

The Books from Birth program seeks to tackle low levels of literacy in the City of Greater Dandenong (particularly targeting those who are disadvantaged due to socio-economic circumstances, hardship or language/cultural barriers) through activities aimed at families with young children. The aim is to address the need for children to start school developmentally ready, by providing them with access to literacy resources and online tutoring support in the early years.



Ocean Mind

Changing lives through surfing

\$10,000

Ocean Mind is a community organisation providing therapeutic surf programs for young people aged 8-18 years experiencing multiple issues and disadvantages in their lives including social isolation, family breakdown, family violence, disability and mental health challenges. Ocean Mind's mission is to enrich young people's mental health, relationships and potential through surfing. Ocean Mind has spent the past 5 years developing and delivering these programs in the Greater Geelong Region.

Opening the Doors Foundation

Aboriginal students finding their place in their life

\$10,000

This project assists vulnerable Aboriginal students at risk of not completing their higher secondary school levels due to financial hardship - specifically in the Shepparton-Mooroopna region. Students will have the vital tools (books and IT needs) needed to start the 2023 school year confidently, enabling their families to budget accordingly; this aims to ensure that these students' VCE enrolments are not hindered and that ultimately they will complete their secondary education.

Zoe Support

Core Funding Support

\$20,000

Zoe Support Australia is a place-based community service organisation in Mildura dedicated to the relief of social isolation, poverty, ill health, destitution and distress of young mothers (aged 13-25). It aims to: break cycles of welfare-dependence, increase mother-child attachment and family stability, improve mental health and physical wellbeing, decrease incidents of family violence and substance abuse, encourage young mothers to engage in higher education and assist them to find employment.

Total Charitable Grants paid in the 2021/2022 year

Organisation	Funding Purpose	Amount	Details
Flagship Grants		\$346,442	
Walter & Elizabeth Hall Medical Research Institute	Genomics to accelerate precision dementia research	\$100,000	Instalment of a \$1,000,000 grant
Wintringham	Support for Angus Martin House	\$121,442	Instalment of a \$578,303 grant
Florey Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health	Project NOVELL	\$125,000	Instalment of a \$500,000 grant
Major Grants		\$225,000	
YSAS	Taking the lead in Youth Alcohol and other Drug Early Intervention in Melbourne's Growth Corridors	\$75,000	Instalment of a \$150,000 grant
International Social Services	International Family Mediation (IFM) Capacity-Building Project	\$100,000	Instalment of a \$150,000 grant
Royal Women's Hospital	The Cornelia Program	\$50,000	Instalment of a \$150,000 grant
Small Grants		\$150,000	
Footscape Inc.	Children's Orthotic Project	\$7,500	
L2R Dance	Panda Squad	\$10,000	
Little Big Steps	Supporting Kids with Cancer: Using VR to encourage exercise during and after treatment	\$5,000	
The Water Well Project	Health Education Sessions for women from migrant, refugee, and asylum seeker backgrounds	\$20,000	
River Nile Learning Centre	Digital Literacy for Refugee & Asylum Seeker Women	\$16,000	
National Council for Jewish Women Australia Victoria	Caring Mums	\$20,000	
Green Cross Project	Outreach Bus	\$20,000	
Reading Out of Poverty	Post-Pandemic Literacy Recovery Project – Books from Birth	\$11,500	
Ocean Mind	Changing Lives through Surfing	\$10,000	
Opening The Doors Foundation	Aboriginal Students finding their place in life	\$10,000	
Zoe Support	Core Funding Support	\$20,000	
TOTAL		\$721,442	

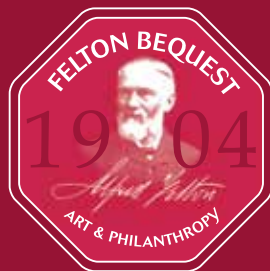
Current Charitable Priorities

The Charitable Bequest supports the development of 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 \$20,000 to special projects that will alleviate a pressing need. Currently we have a preference for projects that:

- provide support for vulnerable women, children and young people;
- address the growing incidence of dementia and the ageing process;
- assist the elderly, including accommodation needs and homelessness amongst the elderly;
- tackle early intervention or prevention and the causes of disadvantage;
- have the potential for wider adoption and broader impact in the future;
- are new or existing programs of the kind listed above that currently do not attract government funding and require seed funding to get started, build momentum and/or build organisational capacity.

Contact details

The Felton Bequests' Committee
c/o Equity Trustees Limited
GPO Box 2307
Melbourne VIC 3001
T: (03) 8623 5000
F: (03) 8623 5200
E: charities@eqt.com.au
www.eqt.com.au/felton



Managed by



Equity Trustees