

The Reichstein Foundation Report

January 2006 – June 2007



Old-growth River Red Gums, Barmah Forest
Photographer: Jonathan La Nauze

The Reichstein Foundation
2nd Floor, 172 Flinders Street
Melbourne 3000
Victoria Australia
Telephone: 61 (03) 9650 4400
Fax: 61 (03) 9650 7501

Email: info@reichstein.org.au Website: www.reichstein.org.au
ABN 610 663 84211

The Foundation

The Reichstein Foundation was established in 1971 by Lance Reichstein. Lance was born in 1900 in South Australia, studied engineering at Adelaide University, and founded his company, Industrial Engineering in 1928.



Lance Reichstein set up the Foundation to give back to the community that helped create his wealth.

Jill Reichstein, Lance's daughter, is Chair of the Foundation, and with the legacy left by her father, has reshaped the foundation from a traditional supporter of established charities, to one actively involved in community development, social change and progressive philanthropy.

Inspired by the work of Tracy Gary, who pioneered social change philanthropy in the US, Jill continues to work as a mentor for others who have inherited wealth. Under Jill's guidance, the Reichstein Foundation has encouraged individuals and foundations to support social change philanthropy projects.

In the early 1990's Jill started the Women Donors Network, which was the genesis for Changemakers Australia, a progressive funders network officially launched in October 2005.

As Chair of the Reichstein Foundation, Jill has encouraged the appointment of trustees that have experience working as community activists. The family involvement continues through Lance Reichstein's grandchildren, Lucy Larkins (who joined the Board in 2000) and Tom Larkins (who joined in 2006)

The Reichstein Foundation works for social change through its granting program, its methods of engagement (consultation, developing projects in partnership with community groups, open and transparent evaluation and reporting) and in working to support and develop social change philanthropy with other donors, trusts and foundations. By building its funding networks and donor partnerships, the Reichstein Foundation has been able to greatly increase the scope and effectiveness of its grants and projects.

Chair's Report

For a number of years, the Reichstein Foundation has prepared reports covering three year periods but we will now produce a report annually. This report is a catch up of Foundation activities over the past 18 months.

This year we have focused a lot of our granting on the environment and climate change and in the spirit of being green we are producing our report online.



The environment has always been one of the Foundation's priority areas for funding. In fact, the Foundation was very much behind Greenhouse Action Australia when it was formed over 12 years ago, putting kits into classrooms to fight against climate change. In the past 18 months, we have focused a great deal on environmental issues, as have many philanthropic foundations. The reality is becoming all too clear; climate change is not a single issue, it's an issue that will affect all the work philanthropy supports, such as poverty, social justice, health, refugees, the lot.

The urgency to address environmental issues is beginning to be reflected in the philanthropic world. Many of our donors have wanted to support environmental issues but are often overwhelmed by the enormity of it all. Where do you begin? But when the Australian Conservation Foundation worked with Al Gore to undertake power point presentation training program, our donors were really happy to support it as it appeared to have such positive outcomes. And it has. The 250 trained Al Gore Climate presenters have been very active giving presentations to over 25,000 people around Australia.

Another project with the Australian Conservation Foundation was their Legal and Corporate Environmental Responsibility Program. The legal advisor acts as general in house counsel, assisting all campaigns on legal issues that arise in the course of its advocacy work. Alongside these major grants, we funded a number of projects building capacity of environmental not-for-profit and community organizations. The year the Foundation has also been involved with the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network.

I want to thank all those donors who have worked with us this year, and our staff, Christa Momot and Leonie Mugavin and our Trustees who give so much to the work of the Foundation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Jill Reichstein'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jill Reichstein OAM - Chair

Executive Officers Report

I find my work with community groups, actively organising for social justice, and the donors who support this work, deeply rewarding.



Prior to coming to the Foundation, I spent 18 years as a community development worker/CEO in the community sector as well as teaching advocacy and campaigning skills to social science students. This experience provides me with a sound understanding of the resource implications and project development needs of groups who seek our assistance.

We work alongside groups by providing the resources to enable them to 'strengthen their voice'. Grants have been provided to raise community consciousness about important issues such as the inability to access mental health services, Indigenous peoples' struggle for self determination, victims of workplace injury, disability discrimination and climate change.

The Friends of the Earth pesticide project, showcased in this report, is an excellent example of how a grant can enable the community to stand up to government and brought about changes to the safety and quality of the water supply of Geelong.

Priority is given to small consumer run groups to help them become robust and bring about the change identified by members. Whilst these groups are well placed to advise government on what change is needed, they are least likely to receive government or philanthropic support to carry out this work. The current narrow government definition of 'charitable' is a huge impediment to obtaining the tax status needed to enable these groups to apply to philanthropy.

Indigenous, rural and remote, newly arrived communities and small consumer groups all consistently state that philanthropy is inaccessible to them. Sadly, these are the very groups who desperately need additional financial resources. I endeavour to outreach to these groups and resource them to have a better understanding and increased confidence to improve their access to philanthropy.

Several excellent projects, in particular from African community groups in Melbourne's western metropolitan region have been received as a result of this approach. The establishment by the Victorian Community Council of Social Service of a community clearinghouse which provides capacity building assistance and links to pro bono services and low cost resources is already beginning to make a difference to the organisational capacity and the skill level of these groups.

A highlight has been working alongside the Indigenous community to develop the '*ATSI Community and Philanthropy Partnership*' project. It aims to change the way philanthropy and Indigenous organisations in Victoria work together. Hosted by the Koorie Heritage Trust, it has the potential to substantially increase the amount of philanthropic funding going towards Indigenous self determination. More importantly, it will provide a valuable professional development resource to philanthropy to ensure our granting structures and processes are relevant and accessible.



Christa Momot - Executive Officer

Trustees

Lucy Larkins - Lucy commenced as a Trustee in 2001. Lucy studied Arts/Law at the University of Melbourne and is currently a full time volunteer at the Louisiana Capital Assistance Centre, a non-profit law firm that represents people facing the death penalty in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi.



Ian Seal - Ian has been a teacher, a youth worker, a lecturer, a community project worker and a consultant to government, schools and community organisations. Ian is active in a number of areas with young people who are marginalised - working with Indigenous communities, creating safe schools for same-sex attracted young people, advocating for improvements to the foster care system, and developing models for connecting disadvantaged young people to school and community. Ian commenced as a Trustee in July 2004.



Fiona Smith - Fiona commenced as a Trustee in July 2004. Fiona is Chairperson of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and Chair of the Victorian Business Licensing Authority. Fiona is also an Ambassador for the Melbourne Community Foundation.



Jane Tewson - As Director and Founder of Pilotlight Australia, Jane seeks to build bridges and create alliances between people so that those who are in a position to help can assist those who need it. Pilotlight Australia is the 5th charity Jane has founded – the others, all flourishing today, include the phenomenally successful Comic Relief UK. Jane has been a trustee of the Reichstein Foundation since 2001 and sits on both the International and Australian Boards of Virgin Unite.



Father Peter Norden to March 2006 **Tom Larkins** from March 2006

Staff and Volunteers

Kaye Bratetich (to June 2006) **Judith Freidin** (to January 2007) **Rachel Lowe** (to September 2006), **Jenni Mitchell**, **Leonie Mugavin** (from September 2006), **Selma Sali**

Granting

1 January 2006 to 30 June 2007

People with a Disability

Action for Community Living	www.advocacyhouse.org	\$30,000
<i>Strengthening Advocacy - "Victorian Local Action Network" - supported by an anonymous donor</i>		
<i>Diversity in employment in Victoria</i>		\$32,275
Annecto	www.annecto.org.au	\$20,000
<i>Western Region Disability Network</i>		
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations	www.afdo.org.au	\$20,000
<i>Monitoring and Evaluating the Impact of Welfare to Work on People with Disability</i>		
<i>Strengthening National Advocacy - supported by an anonymous donor</i>		\$50,000
Communication Rights Australia	www.caus.com.au	\$9,000
<i>Human Rights Audit Project</i>		
Disability Advocacy Information Services Inc	www.disability-advocacy.com.au	\$15,000
<i>Public Transport Awareness Watch (Rural)</i>		
Disability Discrimination Legal Service	www.communitylaw.org.au/ddls	\$10,000
<i>[Dis]Abling reports: mapping uptake, progress and outcomes of police reports</i>		
Disability Resources Centre	www.drc.org.au	\$25,000
<i>Public Transport Awareness Watch</i>		
Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc	www.gards.org	\$25,000
<i>Pilot Asbestos Storage Facility in Gippsland & Asbestos Awareness Project</i>		
Headway Victoria and the Victorian Young People in Nursing Homes Consortium	www.headwayvictoria.org.au	\$35,000
<i>Creating Our Futures - supported by the Ballandry Foundation, a sub-fund of the Melbourne Community Foundation</i>		
i-GAIN Quality Learning Incorporated	www.igain.vic.edu.au	\$20,000
<i>Voices for Change Project</i>		
Latrobe Community Health Services	www.lchs.com.au	\$20,000
<i>Gippsland Auslan Interpreting Service Community Development Project</i>		
Lifeline South West (Vic) Inc.	www.lifeline.org.au/southwest.vic	\$22,000
<i>Community Crisis Response Partnership</i>		
Mental Health Legal Centre	www.communitylaw.org.au/mentalhealth	\$20,000
<i>Planning for Community Wellbeing - living wills for people living with mental illness - supported by Fleur Spitzer</i>		
Reinforce Inc.		\$10,000
<i>Know Your Rights</i>		
SoFA - Social Firms Australia	www.socialfirms.org.au	\$50,000
<i>Advocating for access for people with a mental illness - supported by an anonymous donor</i>		
Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council	www.vmiac.com.au	\$30,000
<i>Consumer Control and Human Rights</i>		
<i>Education and Training Mental Health Consumer Participation Project</i>		\$20,000
TOTAL		\$463,275

Environmental Sustainability

Australian Conservation Foundation	www.acf.org.au	\$50,000
<i>The Climate Project</i>		
<i>Environmental Projects Support</i>		\$50,000
<i>Mittagong Forum National Training Program</i>		\$30,000

Climate Action Network Australia	www.cana.net.au	
<i>Positive Australian Engagement with the Kyoto Protocol</i>		\$3,000
<i>Positive Australian Engagement on International Climate Negotiations</i>		\$30,000
Environment Victoria	www.envict.org.au	\$15,000
<i>Restoring the Rivers in the Snowy Hydro Scheme</i>		
Friends of the Earth Melbourne	www.foe.org.au	
<i>Barmah-Millewa Campaign</i> - supported by the Hartline and Curlew Funds, subfunds of the Melbourne Community Foundation and Jane Abercrombie		\$75,000
<i>It's time for a change in public transport</i>		\$20,000
<i>Strength in Numbers: Fighting for Goolengook</i>		\$2,640
<i>Water Supply Catchment Mapping and Research</i>		\$25,000
Mount Alexander Sustainability Group	www.masg.org.au	\$7,500
<i>Finding our power; helping our community determine its energy future; a community change event</i> supported by the Curlew Fund, a subfund of the Melbourne Community Foundation		
Port Phillip EcoCentre	www.ecocentre.com	\$30,000
<i>Love the Bay</i>		
TOTAL		\$338,140

General

Australian Polish Community Services	www.apcs.org.au	\$20,000
<i>Provision of Quality Culturally and Linguistically Responsive services for Ethnic Elderly in Residential Aged Care Services</i>		
Broadmeadows Uniting Care and the Fairwear Campaign		\$20,000
<i>Consumer Education, Sweat-free Cities, Outworker Leadership</i>		
Castlemaine Community House	www.cch.org.au	\$27,245
<i>'Just-is' - a community development project</i>		
Portland District Health		\$25,000
<i>Many United Tribes Together – a youth community engagement project</i>		
St Luke's Anglicare	www.stlukes.org.au	\$30,000
<i>DGR Research and Advocacy project for Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres (Stage Two)</i>		
Thornbury Women's Neighbourhood House	www.twnh.vic.edu.au	\$3,000
<i>Meet the Director</i>		
Try Youth & Community Services Inc	www.tryyouth.org.au	\$35,000
<i>Our Future, Our Place</i>		
Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North		\$20,000
<i>Demand Research for "No Need to Go it Alone" – supported by the E.M.Horton Family Trust</i>		
Young People's Legal Rights Centre	www.youthlaw.asn.au	\$12,000
<i>Australian Human Rights Project 2006</i> - supported by the Hartline Fund, a subfund of the Melbourne Community Foundation		
TOTAL		\$192,245

Human Rights – Discrimination against Same Sex Attracted

Brophy Family & Youth Services	www.brophy.org.au	
<i>SSAFE in the South West</i> - supported by Ian Gould		\$31,000
Cobaw Community Health Service	www.cobaw.vic.gov.au	
<i>SSAYing Homophobia in the Sticks</i> - supported by Ian Gould		\$31,000

Matrix Guild www.matrixguildvic.org.au	\$20,000
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Exploring the Experiences of Non-heterosexuals in Aged Care in Relation to Discrimination

TOTAL \$82,000

Human Rights - Violence against Women

Central Highlands Community Legal Centre	\$27,000
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Women's Voices for Justice & Human Rights – supported by an anonymous donor

Emma House Domestic Violence Services in collaboration with Violence Against Women Integrated Services	\$30,000
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Capacity Building Project

Federation of Community Legal Centres www.communitylaw.org.au/fedclc	\$21,000
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Sexual Offences Project Stage 4 - More than Access: The Need for Advocacy, the Right to Justice

Multicultural Centre for Women's Health www.mcwh.com.au	\$20,000
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It's Up To Us

PACT Community Support/Grampians Housing Network www.pact.org.au	\$19,650
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Family Violence in the News

South Western Centre against Sexual Assault www.casa.org.au	\$15,000
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Ensuring equity for victims of sexual assault

TOTAL \$132,650

Indigenous Peoples

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) www.antarvictoria.org.au	\$1,000
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Reconciliation : the next step

Melbourne Workers Theatre www.melbourneworkerstheatre.com	\$7,500
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Show us ya Tidda's

Mildura Aboriginal Corporation	\$25,000
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Child Removal - The Last Resort - Stage 4

Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place	\$30,000
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1967 Referendum Forum: 40 years of citizenship - where to now?

Victorian Council of Social Services www.vcross.org.au	\$1,032
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The Diplomacy Training Program - Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy

Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation www.wmac.org.au	\$25,000
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Portland Young Peoples Community Engagement Project - supported by the Morawetz Social Justice Fund, a subfund of the Melbourne Community Foundation

Worowa Aboriginal College www.worowacollege.com.au	\$26,000
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Worowa Elders Circle – supported by the Nordia Foundation

TOTAL \$ 115,532

Justice and Correctional Issues

Anglicare Victoria and the Gippsland Community Legal Service www.anglicarevic.org.au	\$3,000
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RRR Network Family Violence

Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre www.communitylaw.org.au	\$30,000
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Centre for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People

Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd. www.hrlrc.org.au	\$15,000
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UN - NGO Human Rights Establishment Project

Victorian Council of Social Services www.vcross.org.au	\$5,000
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International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Shadow Report

West Heidelberg Community Legal Service www.communitylaw.org.au/westheidelberg <i>Impact of Victorian Community Legal Centre Community Legal Education and Law Reform Initiatives on Improving the Responsiveness of the Justice System</i>	\$19,000
Young People's Legal Rights Centre www.youthlaw.asn.au <i>Children's Rights Monitoring Kit</i> - supported by the Curlew Fund, a subfund of the Melbourne Community Foundation and the E.M. Horton Family Trust	\$20,000

TOTAL \$92,000

Newly Arrived Communities

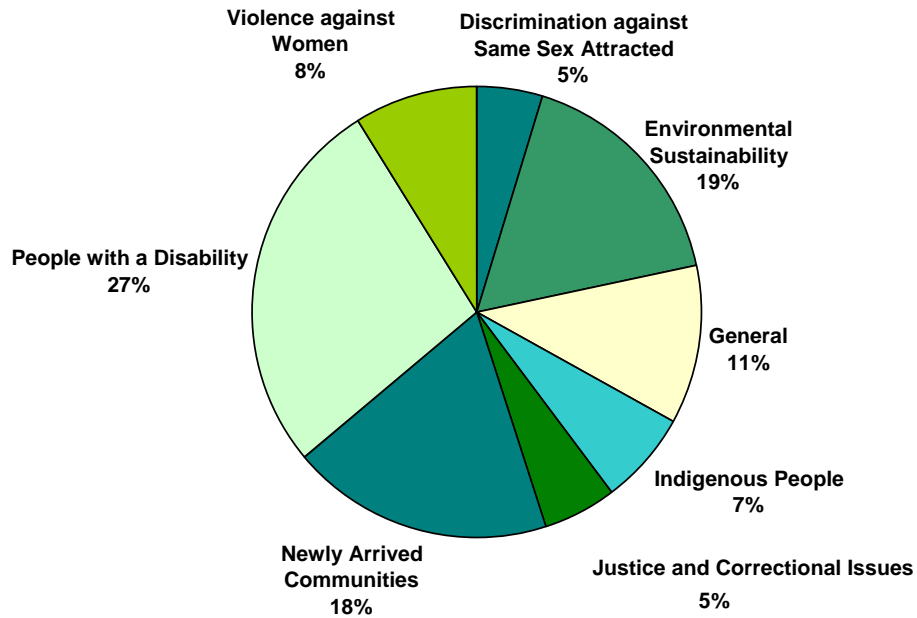
Asylum Seekers Resource Centre www.asrc.org.au <i>Hope – a documentary film</i> – supported by Claire McNamara	\$21,000
Darebin Community Health www.dch.org.au <i>Building Bridges Through Dialogue</i> – supported by Fleur Spitzer and the Precision Foundation	\$47,718
Diversitat - Geelong Ethnic Communities Council www.diversitat.org.au <i>Sudanese Women's Group</i> – supported by an anonymous donor	\$10,000
Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre <i>Migration / Settlement Support Project</i> – supported by Fleur Spitzer	\$16,000
Footscray Community Legal Centre www.communitylaw.org.au/footscray <i>Research into common legal problems within African communities in the Footscray area</i> - supported by an anonymous donor	\$20,000
Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society and the Australian Karen Foundation <i>Telling the Karen Story</i>	\$19,000
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health www.mcwh.com.au <i>Project Development for Resettled Refugee African Women</i> - supported by Fleur Spitzer and the Scanlon Foundation	\$35,000
Refugee Council of Australia www.refugeecouncil.org.au <i>Reuniting Families: Assessing the Settlement Impact of Travel Costs for Special Humanitarian Program Entrants: A Pilot Study in Victoria</i> - supported by Fleur Spitzer	\$30,000
RMIT Foundation www.rmit.edu.au/giving <i>People's Inquiry into Detention</i>	\$15,000
Uniting Church Australia - Hotham Mission www.asp.hothammission.org.au <i>Asylum Seeker Community Advocacy Project</i> – supported by Claire McNamara	\$31,000
Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition www.virwc.org.au <i>Grassroots Strategy - key to VIRWC's leadership in the women's sector</i>	\$35,000
Western Suburbs Legal Service www.communitylaw.org.au/westernsuburbs Racial Discrimination, Vilification and Harassment in the western suburbs of Melbourne	\$12,000
Windemere Child & Family Services Inc www.windemerecfs.com.au <i>Victims of Crime in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities</i>	\$30,000

TOTAL \$321,718

Total Granting \$ 1,737,560

Granting Statistics

1 January 2006 to 30 June 2007



Funding Support from Private Donors \$271,401 (15.5%)

Funding in Regional and Rural Areas \$507,395 (29%)

Funding in the Western Metropolitan Region of Melbourne \$132,000 (7.5%)

Plantation Mapping Project 2006

Anthony Amis – Friends of the Earth Melbourne

The aim of this project is to investigate forestry plantations and their impacts on pesticides and water in Victoria.

Friends of the Earth Melbourne (FoE) have been involved with monitoring logging operations in plantations throughout Victoria since 2000. FoE identified some major issues especially in regard to herbicide use, water quality and quantity issues stemming from inappropriately located plantations.

FoE produced G.I.S. computer maps of the plantation estate throughout Victoria, (except far East Gippsland) showing traditional radiata pine plantations and bluegum plantation development. The maps allow for future analysis of pesticide loads and water consumption per catchment throughout Victoria from plantation forestry. <http://www.hancock.forests.org.au/docs/maps.htm>

The project estimated that about 40,000 people living in rural regions could be impacted by spray drift associated with tree plantations in Victoria. The major issue for these people could be possible exposure to insecticides and polluted water, particularly after heavy rainfall events. As well, upwards of 300,000 people could be impacted by plantations in their water catchment, especially in the Otways, Geelong, Benalla, Ballarat, Beechworth, Yackandandah, Bright, Wangaratta and some Gippsland towns.

During the project, FoE helped to alert the public that Geelong's water supply catchments had been polluted with the highly soluble plantation forestry herbicide Hexazinone during 2004-06. According to documents obtained by a Freedom of Information request, traces of the herbicide were detected 50 km downstream of the plantation. Little is known about the long term-impact of Hexazinone.

The Reichstein Foundation has continued its support of the FoE's work through 2007, extending the focus to the impact of intensive agricultural and horticultural activities on rural communities. As well as looking more closely at the Geelong and Ballarat areas, FoE, has begun to focus on the impact of plantations on Melbourne's water supply, as well as a range of towns in Gippsland.

The project was supported the Coronella Fund, a sub-fund of the Melbourne Community Foundation.

Changemakers Australia

Changemakers Australia (CMA) was officially launched in October 2005. When CMA was first established, the Reichstein Foundation provided office space for the organisation and is an active member.

CMA grew from the belief within the philanthropic sector that there is a need for an organisation which can support and encourage the growth of social change philanthropy in Australia, along the lines of Changemakers in the United States. It emerges from the previous work of the five organisations involved with the less formalised *Horizons, the funders' network for social change*.

Changemakers Australia's mission is to encourage, educate and resource philanthropic organisations and individuals to work for significant and long-term change through effective partnership with groups experiencing disadvantage and discrimination. The major assumption underlying the approach advocated by CMA is that to be really effective, philanthropy should direct its support to activity designed to address the underlying causes of social ills, such as poverty, inequality, abuse of human rights and environmental degradation.

*Contact: Rob Wardell
(03) 9663-7882*

Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network

The Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network was set up in July 2007 with the Myer, Poola and Reichstein Foundations and the Mullum Trust, the Purves Environment Fund and the Spinifex Fund as founding members. The AEGN aims to help member organisations and others to become more effective environmental grantmakers through information sharing, collaboration and networking. Through this, the organisation will improve the conservation, protection and functioning of Australia's natural environment and ecological processes.

After a symposium in October 2007, the AEGN has agreed to hold several seminars on environment issues, distribute a bi-monthly newsletter, hold an annual symposium and field trip and conduct research into environment issues and philanthropic giving. It also hopes to set up an environmental projects clearing house.

*Contact: Amanda Martin
amanda@aeqn.org.au*

Jill, Chris and the Trustees would like to thank the following people for their assistance during 2006-07
David Gale, Gordon Moffat, Christopher Reid, Carnbrea and Co., Arnold Bloch Leibler (Joey Borensztajn, Peter Siedel, and Leonie Thompson), Philanthropy Australia (Grant Hooper and Vanessa Meacham), Carole Fabien