

# THE 2011 KOOKABURRA AWARDS

Celebrating the  
community groups,  
people and  
projects that  
are reshaping  
Australia

“THEY CAN BE *a little* LOUD, A BIT RAUCOUS, UNPLEASANT ON THE EAR. *But as a* COUNTRY WE WOULD BE DEVASTATED WITHOUT THEM. They’re DISTINCTIVE. THEY’RE ICONIC. *They’re* IMPOSSIBLE to IGNORE. THEY’RE OUR KOOKABURRAS.”

Proudly supported by:



Community Financial Centre  
One of the 16 Knowledge Centres Our Community



[ourcommunity.com.au](http://ourcommunity.com.au)

# Our Community and Westpac

Our Community and Westpac Social Sector Banking have been working together for many years in our joint aim to help community groups to become stronger and smarter.

Together we established The Community Financial Centre ([www.ourcommunity.com.au/financial](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/financial)) to provide financial management information and tools for community groups, and we run a number of other special initiatives, such as the Westpac Community Treasurers' Awards, Community Financial Literacy Week, and of course the Kookaburra Awards.

We have also produced a range of free financial literacy guides for community treasurers and board members.

At the "money in" end, we also provide access to commission-free online donations through GiveNow.com.au.

Westpac Social Sector Banking focuses on two-way communication with the community sector, breaking away from banks' traditional approach of dictating terms to the community sector or pushing them into products designed for other types of organisations. Westpac's tailored banking products are the best in the market.

Facilitating links between the community sector and business, the general public and government is part of Our Community's mission. Our Community is a world-leading social enterprise that provides advice and tools to help strengthen Australia's 600,000 not-for-profit community groups and schools.

By supporting the Kookaburra Awards, Westpac and Our Community hope to encourage all community groups to make sure their voices reach all corners of Australia, rather than being confined to a small locality or specialised area of interest.

Our society cannot afford to sit still. Someone has to bring change. Someone has to make us change.

We thank all 2011 Kookaburra Award nominees for taking up the challenge and stretching our vision of just what's possible.

# Introduction

The words on these pages tell the stories of people who have made it their mission to push for changes in our society, as well as the projects and community groups that result from those passions.

The changes they seek – and often achieve – are things many of us leave in the too-hard basket, the things that most of us sit back and wait for someone else to take on. They may be issues that some of us have never even thought of as a problem before someone was loud enough and bold enough and persistent enough to force us to understand.

The Kookaburra Awards celebrate those people, community groups and projects that have raised their voices above the din and in doing so have helped to reshape the social foundations of our nation.

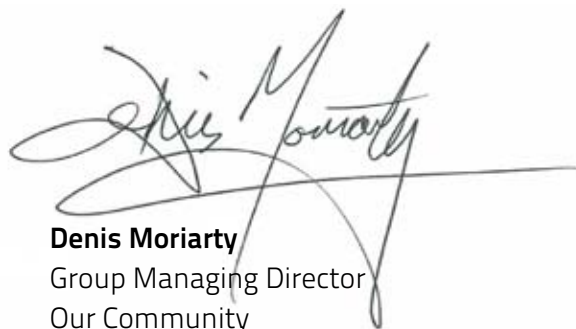
As you read these stories you will learn about people who have recovered from adversity and channeled their energy into advocating on behalf of others; people who have confronted issues that others are afraid of or uncomfortable about; groups and projects that battle on without sufficient resources to do their work; and those who inspire others to support their cause.

Without these people, groups and projects, there are fundamental problems that would never be solved, and people who have difficulty speaking for themselves whose voices would never be heard.

We are proud to bring you these stories, to honour the work that's being done, and to play a small part in celebrating the changes that these special people, projects and community groups are bringing about. We hope that you will be just as inspired as we have been.



**Julienne Price**  
Head of Social Sector Banking  
Westpac



**Denis Moriarty**  
Group Managing Director  
Our Community

**“They can be a little loud,  
a bit raucous, sometimes  
slightly unpleasant on the ear.  
But as a country we would be  
devastated without them.**

**“They’re distinctive.  
They’re iconic. They’re  
impossible to ignore.**

**“They’re our Kookaburras.”**

# About the Kookaburra Awards

The Kookaburra Awards honour those community groups, people, and projects that have changed the world for the better. Nominees might be people we see as stirrers, radicals, subversives or single-minded obsessives. But they make a difference, and often they make us see things differently.

Whether or not they have won their battle is not the most important thing; what is important is that they are fighting the good fight, that they tell truth to power, that they are working to make a lasting difference.

Entrants can be self-nominated or nominated by others. Each winner in 2011 received a total prize package valued at more than \$10,000. The package included a selection of Our Community books and newsletters, Communities in Control DVDs and training, plus a \$3000 cash prize thanks to Westpac.

## The Categories

### Individual

This category is for a person working for, through, or in collaboration with an Australian community organisation to change the community for the better. It's not about being a saint, a guru, or a great philanthropist. It's about being someone who can bring ordinary people along with a movement to change their lives, and ours.

### Community Group

Australian community organisations (not-for-profit, incorporated or not) are eligible for this category. It's not designed to recognise the biggest, best-resourced, or highest-profile group; instead, it's intended to recognise groups that perform brilliantly, those that are beacons of innovative community leadership and those working to change things for the better.

### Project

Projects that have changed people's lives, or changed their beliefs in life's possibilities, are in the running for this category. It is for a project done by a community group, business, school, local government authority — really anyone or any body that has changed the community for the better.

## WINNER: Kookaburra Award for an Outstanding Individual

# Stephen Mayne



**Outspoken Crikey founder, award-winning journalist, councillor, media contributor and shareholder activist Stephen Mayne won the individual category Kookaburra Award for his work to further the cause of good governance and women's leadership.**

**Stephen, who is a Director of the not-for-profit Australian Shareholders' Association, has been at the forefront of a crusade to shame more Australian publicly listed companies into getting more women on their boards.**

**His work to improve transparency, accountability and governance in business, politics and communities was also noted by the Kookaburra judges.**

Stephen gave up his lone wolf status in May 2011 to become a director of the not-for-profit umbrella group representing shareholders, the Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA). He now has to be more careful about what he says, but maintains a very strong advocacy role in which he has continued to be forthright and outspoken.

Since his appointment to the ASA role, Stephen had been to the Annual General Meetings (AGMs)

“  
**A force of nature and a driver of social change.”**

of companies including News Corporation, Ansell, Lend Lease, Gunns, the REA Group, carsales.com, SEEK and BHP Billiton.

He enjoys the public debate of AGMs, and understands the power of the publicly-spoken word and the extra power that comes with the opportunity to address a company's full board at an AGM. The power is greater still when the issue raised attracts media coverage.

Stephen has attended about 400 AGMs over 13 years and has been waging a particular campaign for companies to increase the number of women on their boards. He says the merit of the issue was clear from the outset, given that 50% of law and accounting graduates are

female, but only 3% of managing partners fall into that category.

"It's just ridiculous that the drop-off rate was so high," he says, noting that numerous financial studies have shown that companies perform better with more gender diversity.

Stephen first raised the issue of women on boards in late 2009, at the David Jones and SEEK AGMs. Within three months both companies had appointed a new female director.

"I then quite systematically went about raising it at a number of AGMs, in effect putting boards on notice that if they hadn't addressed the issue within 12 months, that I would be potentially supporting a female candidate to run in a hostile way for the board."

He thinks Australia has a good framework for corporate governance now, with excellent disclosure of executive pay and good tools for shareholders to impose good governance.

"The biggest weakness in our system is the blind faith that shareholders show in incumbent directors, and the lack of interest that shareholders show in proactively turning over the

directors' club, removing duds, promoting talent.

"The elevation of the (boards diversity) campaign is an important feeder into lifting the meritocracy, the accountability and the performance of the directors' club."

“

**Stephen is a man who has no tolerance for injustice of any sort. He's a force of nature and a driver of social change.**

**As Stephen has pointed out, women constitute only 13% of directors of ASX200 boards a shocking reality, not to mention a poor business decision for those boards.**

**It takes conviction and courage to take on this issue in the way Stephen has. He has attended numerous AGMs so he could publicly and personally question key boards on their plans for improving diversity, published 'shame files' outing companies with no women on their boards, exploded the myth of there being no suitable women for such positions by publishing a file of 'talented and under-worked' female directors, and basically banged the drum in public forums and the media at any opportunity."**

## WINNER: Kookaburra Award for an Outstanding Community Group

# Project Respect



Project Respect took out the community group category of the 2011 Kookaburra Awards in recognition of the organisation's work to fight against trafficking of women and to stand up for the rights of women in the sex industry.

**Among the varied activities undertaken by the Melbourne-based organisation have been a campaign against sex slavery, research and advocacy for policy and legislation that prevent exploitation of women in Australia, an advocacy training program for women in the sex industry, and establishment of a social enterprise to train and employ women exiting the sex industry.**

Project Respect conducts research and advocates for policy and legislation that prevent the exploitation of women in the sex industry in Australia, including those who have been trafficked in from other countries.

The Melbourne-based organisation has also founded a social enterprise to train and employ women who have been trafficked, assisting them with general workplace, business and hospitality management skills.

“  
**Pushing us to acknowledge some dark truths.”**

Project Respect outreach workers spend time with women in brothels, and provide them with information, referrals, confidential intensive case management and counselling as required. The organisation provides emergency accommodation for women who have been trafficked, weekly peer support lunches for women in the sex industry, raises community awareness about the issues faced by women in the sex industry, and advocates to all levels of government, based on the expertise of women in the sex industry.

Executive director Kelly Hinton says the people at Project Respect do as much public speaking as they possibly can, addressing anyone who is interested in their work,

and conduct a public training day on the sex industry and trafficking biannually

They also spend time speaking with those people in government who are able to make decisions or influence policy, ensuring that women who might not want to speak themselves still get their message through. They invite women from the sex industry to attend meetings with them if they would like to speak for themselves.

Activism and advocacy are a huge part of Project Respect's work, but Kelly says a significant balancing act takes place to ensure resources are shared between that work and working directly with women.

"We don't have ongoing or adequate resources to do the on-the-ground work and we don't get any resources to do the advocacy. But we recognise that unless we do the bigger-picture advocacy and activism, the situation on the ground will never change," she says.

Sex industry issues and the trafficking of women are difficult to get on the public agenda. Kelly says there is a general lack of awareness about the reality of the legal sex industry, but also what seems

to be a lack of willingness to even discuss it.

"It's an issue that a lot of people don't know about, and quite honestly, a lot of people don't seem to want to know about it," she says.

She says awareness is slowly increasing, and there is more

support available for women in the sex industry now than there was before. But she says many of the problems women face have not improved, and while there may be greater awareness, there are not sufficient resources available to carry out all the work that needs to be done.

“

**This is an organisation that pushes us to acknowledge some dark truths about our society that most of us would probably prefer never to have to think about.**

**Project Respect's mission is to support women in the sex industry and to help prevent the exploitation and enslavement of women.**

**Importantly, the organisation's work is centred around the principles of empowerment, education, advocacy and activism, tackling the often invisible structural inequalities that support discrimination against women. This is about true, sustained social change."**

## WINNER: Kookaburra Award for an Outstanding Project

# Live Animal Exports (Animals Australia)



Prominent animal protection organisation Animals Australia took out the project category of the 2011 Kookaburra Awards for its campaign to end Australia's live export trade.

The organisation sparked public outrage in May 2011 when it joined with the RSPCA and Four Corners (ABC TV) to expose the dark side of Australia's trade in live cattle to Indonesia.



The *Four Corners* exposé featured shocking footage revealing atrocities relating to the way Australian cattle were being treated in Indonesian abattoirs.

When Animals Australia was formed in 1980, live animal exports was one of the two top issues its member organisations wanted to do something about.

In 2003, Animals Australia's cruelty investigator Lyn White first captured footage of how Australian animals were being treated overseas. In early 2011, Lyn undertook the organisation's 9th investigation into the live export trade, this time in Indonesia, and the issue gained traction with the public like never before. Shocking footage was broadcast by the ABC's *Four Corners* program

“  
Breaking through the noise to truly move a nation.”

before other media picked up the issue and ran with it. The Federal Government was paying attention too, and Australian laws around live exporting have changed as a result.

Animals Australia is opposed to all live export due to the inherent suffering involved in long-distance transport and the inability to protect Australian animals on foreign shores. Executive director Glenys Oogjes says while the new rules will prevent some of the worst abuses against Australian animals overseas, one of the cruelest aspects of the trade fully conscious slaughter will remain.

"Stunning animals unconscious prior to slaughter is law in Australia

**Animals Australia**  
the voice for animals

and we should demand it for all animals we export. Animals Australia's work in Jordan has led to over 80% of animals being stunned in that country and stunning is being rapidly introduced in Indonesia since our investigation there.

"The Australian Government had absolute leverage to include pre-slaughter stunning in this new system so it was incredibly disappointing that they chose not to."

One result of this year's campaign – which was conducted in partnership with RSPCA Australia – is that Animals Australia can expect to have more attention paid to its messages in future. Recently, it took only one whistleblower and a cruelty complaint from Animals Australia for a Victorian abattoir to have its licence revoked.

Glenys Oogies believes authorities are now aware of Animals Australia's ability to draw attention to an issue if appropriate action is not taken.

Animals Australia has had plenty of media coverage in the past, with its work featured at some point on almost every current affairs program on Australian television.

Despite this, past surveys have shown that people in Australia think our animals are fairly well protected by laws and regulations.

"Sadly that's not the case at all," Glenys says. "In fact, the animals most in need of legal protection the 500 million raised in factory farms every year are excluded from many laws that protect companion animals, solely because of commercial interests. Therefore one of our primary roles is to educate people so consumers can make informed choices." "

An enormous amount of work goes on behind the scenes to bring these issues into the public domain. This

year's groundbreaking focus on live export, for example, involved trawling through a decade's worth of industry reports; sending investigators first to Indonesia and then, four months later, to Turkey; educating government departments and members of parliament; lobbying the Australian Government; and working with RSPCA Australia on the media, social and political campaign that ensued.

Animals Australia describes itself as committed and unrelenting". The organisation was able to look back on 2011 as a memorable year, but it expects that 2012 might be even more so.

“

**Few grassroots campaigns manage to break through the noise and truly move a nation but this one did.**

**The campaign resulted in an outpouring of outrage among members of the general public, and a change in the political climate.**

**This is the latest salvo fired in a sustained campaign by Animals Australia against inhumane animal export practices.”**

# Congratulations to all 230 nominees

The 2011 Kookaburra Award judges were overwhelmed by the number and quality of nominations that were lodged for the awards.

While nominees came from a variety of places and carried out their work in a diversity of arenas, they did have some things in common: almost exclusively, they were driven, noisy, passionate and relentless.

These are the people, organisations and projects that will not take no for an answer.

Their work embodies what the Kookaburra Awards are all about – recognising those who squawk the longest and the loudest, not for their own gain, but to right wrongs and to build a better world.

We could have chosen practically any of the 230 nominations to highlight in this booklet; sadly we didn't have the space. We encourage you to read the ones we have included in the following pages, and also check out the list of all nominees at the end of the booklet. Take some time to visit the websites listed and find out more about the important and selfless work that's being done right across the country.

Then look around you and see who else is doing important work and keep them in mind for next year's awards.

Nomination forms will be available at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/kookaburras](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/kookaburras).

## NOMINEE: Individual Category

# Dr. Ann O'Neill – angelhands

## Western Australia



In 1994, Ann O'Neill was shot by her estranged husband. He also shot her two children and himself. She was the only one to survive, albeit with a serious injury she lost a leg. Not to be overcome, Ann returned to full-time study seven months later. She wrote an honours dissertation for her social work degree on how people whose loved ones have been murdered continue on with their lives, before completing her PhD in International Health.

An award from the University of Western Australia in 2001 enabled her to share her research and that of others through the creation of the angelhands website ([www.angelhands.org.au](http://www.angelhands.org.au)). The website provides information and support for all victims of serious crime.

Ann counsels victims of crime and advocates on their behalf, championing their needs and rights. She sits on various boards, including one that advises the Western Australia Department of the Attorney General on crime victim issues, and is the secretary of another community group, Victim Support Australia.

In addition to her work in Australia, Ann has spoken about victims of

crime in the UK, the US and Croatia. By raising community awareness, the work that angelhands carries out some of it in partnership with other organisations improves people's recovery from trauma as well as their experiences with the criminal justice system.

“

**An innovative approach to educating and assisting people to deal with trauma, stress and change.”**

## NOMINEE: Community Group Category

# Tarwirri – The Indigenous Law Students and Lawyers Association of Victoria

## Victoria



Pictured at Tarwirri's 2010 'Women's Business in the Law' fundraising breakfast are Deputy Chief Magistrate Jelena Popovic, Past LIV President Steven Stevens, Former VWL President Astrid Haban-Beer, Tarwirri member Munya Andrews, Melissa Castan, Aunty Pam Pedersen, Former Tarwirri president Holly Charles Ireland and Janet Van der Kolk.

Tarwirri provides assistance and support to Indigenous law students and legal professionals.

In an industry still heavily dominated by older, non-Indigenous men from privileged backgrounds, the association also advocates for members who experience discrimination at university or in employment.

The organisation works to ensure, for example, that Indigenous students attain the same graduation and workplace participation rates as other students.

And it has worked with law firms across Victoria to create 10 seasonal clerkship (paid work experience) positions for Indigenous graduates.

Many of Tarwirri's members are the first people in their families to attend university, and Tarwirri works hard to provide them with a support network they can turn to when they experience difficulties.

The association has relationships with a number of top-tier law firms including Allens Arthur Robinson, Arnold Bloch Leibler, Lander & Rogers, Maurice Blackburn and Hall & Wilcox. It also works closely with the Victorian Bar, the Law Institute of Victoria and members of the Judicial Officers Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Committee.

“

**Fighting entrenched opposition and providing a support network for people to turn to.”**

## NOMINEE: Project Category

# Dress for Success Sydney Outreach Project

## New South Wales



Volunteers Jane Betts and Catharine Miller preparing to visit Silverwater with clothing for women inmates.

Based in Marrickville, in Sydney's inner-western suburbs, Dress for Success Sydney was established to promote women's economic independence, providing them with initial and ongoing support to achieve their goals and help them thrive in work and in life.

Since the group was established in 2009, it has assisted more than 2000 women with clothing and styling advice to boost their confidence to present themselves at appointments such as job interviews and court appearances. It also offers a Career Support and Mentoring Program.

In 2010, a small group of Dress for Success volunteers began making regular visits to the Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre, about 20km outside the centre of Sydney.

The Outreach Program that has resulted provides women who are soon to be released from prison with appropriate clothing to wear as they begin to rebuild their lives. Volunteers also help kit inmates out for court appearances.

The program has now been extended to Emu Plains Correctional Centre and Gosford.

The organisation's clients, who are referred by agencies, include

migrant and refugee women, women who are long-term unemployed, Indigenous women and women seeking their first job after secondary school.

The outreach program takes the service to women who may otherwise never have had the opportunity to access the Dress for Success service due to incarceration or distance. It was developed in partnership with Corrective Services NSW, with financial support from the New South Wales Minister for Women.

“  
**Building skills  
 and confidence  
 that will last a  
 lifetime.”**

## NOMINEE: Individual Category

# Rodney Croome – Gay Advocate

## Tasmania



Rodney Croome has been campaigning for equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community for many years.

Most recently he has been raising his voice to argue the case for marriage equality in Australia. He has written on the issue for *On Line Opinion* and *The Mercury* and been interviewed by other media including the ABC, the *Herald Sun* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

Rodney says that when he “came out” in the late 1980s, you either stayed in Tasmania and were very quiet about the fact that you were gay, or you went away. He decided to stay, but not to keep quiet.

He fronted the successful campaign to decriminalise homosexuality in Tasmania, he is a spokesperson for the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group and he is one of the founders of the Australian Coalition for Equality, as well as campaign coordinator for Australian Marriage Equality.

Rodney says a majority of politicians he met with over three days in 2010 either had an open mind on marriage equality or supported reform, a significant change from two and certainly four

years previously when there was much less support.

He believes the change came about when politicians began to hear people from beyond the LGBTI community, and beyond the inner city, voicing support for marriage equality.

“  
**Working  
against myths,  
ignorance and  
prejudice.”**

## NOMINEE: Community Group Category

# Little Haven Palliative Care

## Queensland



A team approach to care business manager Sue Manton (frong, centre) discusses options with clinical coordinator Bronwyn McFarlane (left) and bereavement support nurse Heika Williams

Little Haven Palliative Care confronts an issue that many people are uncomfortable talking about: death and dying.

The organisation offers compassionate, comprehensive palliative care to people who are dying, as well as their family and friends. It educates people about their palliative care options, and initiates conversations within communities and with government about how and where people choose to die.

Little Haven Palliative Care says that while most people would choose to die at home surrounded by family and friends, many Australians who are diagnosed with a terminal illness are forced into an overcrowded hospital system which focuses on cure rather than care.

The organisation provides in-home care to more than 140 patients each year. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, without charge. Nurses cover 3000 square kilometres around the Cooloola/Sunshine Coast area, visiting people in their homes or in hospital rooms that are furnished and maintained by Little Haven Palliative Care.

To operate, the organisation

requires more than \$300,000 each year, which is raised through various fundraising appeals and events. Carers and family members who have been helped at their own time of need often later volunteer themselves as fundraisers, respite carers, home helpers, support workers and administration and maintenance workers.

“  
**Challenging  
 Australia to  
 look at the  
 bigger issues  
 of how and  
 where we  
 choose to die.”**

## NOMINEE: Project Category

# Positive Self Image Projection Project

## South Australia



Each year, for a number of years, the YWCA of Adelaide went to public spaces on International No Diet Day and took Polaroid photographs of young women.

The community group asked each young woman to write something that she liked about herself at the bottom of the photograph.

In 2011, every night for the month of May, those photographs were projected three storeys high on the side of a building on Rundle St, Adelaide's busiest street. The aim was to challenge the media's representations of women after research found links between low self-esteem, depression, and eating disorders, and mass media images of idealised women.

The media, for its part, supported the initiative, which was covered by television, radio and newspapers.

One young woman who had been walking past and stopped to view the images said she had seen the effects of negative body image on her peers and was "heartened to

see the project and be reminded that people are beautiful for their diversity and we can create a culture that believes that".

The YWCA of Adelaide provides advocacy, support, empowerment and leadership opportunities for women aged under 30 through services, programs and campaigns.

**“ Giving young women permission to like themselves.”**

## NOMINEE: Individual Category

# Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM – Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

## Victoria



Konstandinos (Kon) Karapanagiotidis OAM founded the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) more than 10 years ago as a TAFE project in one of Melbourne's inner suburbs.

What began as a small food bank has become Australia's largest provider of aid, advocacy and health services to asylum seekers.

Kon is the ASRC's chief executive officer and a familiar name in the media. He engages in public policy debate around asylum seekers, refugees and immigration policy, and has contributed to a number of policy changes at both state and federal levels of government.

An inspirational public speaker, Kon has recruited thousands of volunteers to support the ASRC over the years. In 2010, the ASRC ([www.asrc.org.au](http://www.asrc.org.au)) won the Kookaburra Award for its contribution to community.

Kon's Kookaburra Award nominator says his actions speak even louder than his words. He has helped thousands of asylum seekers overcome life-threatening mental health issues and he has personally won legal asylum for hundreds of people.

Kon has shared his knowledge with

hundreds of junior lawyers, training and mentoring them to fight for asylum seekers as they make their way through the visa application process. He also promotes human rights more broadly within the legal profession.

While slowly changing community attitudes have meant Kon has at times felt like he is swimming against the current, he has been unflinching in his support for asylum seekers.

“

**Visionary ...  
inspirational ...  
selfless.”**

## NOMINEE: Community Group Category

# The Val Lishman Health Research Foundation

## Western Australia



Val Lishman supporters are pictured at a recent Val Lishman fundraiser

The Val Lishman Health Research Foundation has used the power of speech both to secure funding and to get the health issues of regional and remote communities onto the public agenda.

The foundation is unique in the research community in that it is not associated with a university or a hospital. It is wholly community based, securing funding from local people and organisations and focussing research on local health needs.

Issues that warrant research are identified by general practitioners, other health service providers and the general community. Funding is then sought through meetings with politicians from all levels of government and all political persuasions.

Foundation representatives advise the politicians about the community's health needs when they are seeking funding, and then make the results available for MPs to respond to once research has been completed. Health professionals are also provided with research results.

Volunteers who work with the foundation (which has only one paid, part-time employee) gain

insight into health issues that they in turn share with the wider community.

The people at The Val Lishman Health Research Foundation have spent years arguing that health issues in regional and remote communities are different to those identified by most health research, which is conducted in urban areas where the associated universities and hospitals were located. Now, they encounter very little resistance to that notion and there is an acceptance of the need for regional health research.

“  
**Battling  
against  
resistance  
to make the  
community  
healthier.”**

## NOMINEE: Individual Category

# Marian Sampson

## New South Wales



Marian Sampson is an entrepreneur and a community advocate, who is delivering economic, social and environmental outcomes in her community.

Marian leads a team of volunteers to deliver festivals and events in the Nelson Bay Region and has led her organisation, Nelson Bay & District Business Chamber, to win the 2011 NSW Regional Achievement Award for Economic Development.

She has also been instrumental in gaining grant funding to deliver cultural programs in her community, and has, with the Business Chamber, founded the annual sculpture acquisition program and festival on the Nelson Bay Foreshore.

About 10 years ago Marian's son was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer, and had only a small chance of survival.

It was at this time that Marian became an advocate for patients at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. At a seminar for doctors and nurses she explained the hospital experience from a child's perspective, as well as that of their family, and pointed out how small things could make a big

difference during times of stress.

Marian worked with a team of parents and child advocates and the hospital's service improvement unit to develop an information handbook for parents, and other documents and services for families.

**“Striking forth, creating change and bringing people along.”**

## NOMINEE: Community Group Category

# Beyond Zero Emissions

## Victoria



Beyond Zero Emissions' Matthew Wright talking to the public about renewable energy, with a model of the baseload solar thermal plants that make up 60% of BZE's 100% renewable grid.

The people at Beyond Zero Emissions have been described as "storytellers with the power of the sun and wind behind them."

The story they are telling is about a 10-year plan for Australia to shift to using 100% renewable energy. Beyond Zero Emissions believes our society and ecosystems have a chance of surviving well into the future if measures are taken now to drastically reduce our carbon emissions.

The *Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan* was published by Beyond Zero Emissions in 2010, in partnership with the University of Melbourne Energy Research Institute.

The group spent 2011 giving a series of "Repower Australia" public talks, which they estimate have so far reached 12,000 people. Two hundred people were trained to present the research in their local cities and towns.

Executive director of Beyond Zero Emissions, Matthew Wright, is featured on the front cover of the

2011/2012 *Sydney White Pages*, as part of a series on Australians creating a better future".

He's not scared of tackling the hottest of environmental topics, recently publishing an opinion piece in *The Australian Financial Review* calling for an official national assessment of the lifecycle carbon emissions of coal seam gas.

“  
**Helping  
Australians  
rise to the  
challenge.”**

## NOMINEE: Project Category

# Creating Dreams Project

## Victoria



The Creating Dreams Project was designed to recognise the extraordinary results that disadvantaged young people achieve whilst facing huge barriers every day.

It is funded by staff who work for The Salvation Army Westcare, which provides accommodation and support services for young people who are unable to live with their own families. Fundraising activities are also conducted for the project to enable it to help young people achieve their goals.

Official acknowledgement provides encouragement for young people to continue to strive for achievements, and it gives inspiration to others in a similar situation.

The program also has a category that gives recognition to members of the community who make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged young people.

Young people aged up to 24 are eligible for the program if they have:

- A vision, dream or goal for their life
- Achieved results in areas such as personal growth, education, employment, health, sports and the arts
- Exhibited generosity, compassion or assistance to others

- Participated in community services
- Demonstrated leadership (for those older than 11 only).

For very young people, such as those living in foster care, the program is designed to help them achieve a dream, which might be as simple as having access to some of the same opportunities as their peers music, sports, arts or dance opportunities, for example, or perhaps to attend a holiday camp.

“  
**Encouraging  
 young  
 people to see  
 themselves  
 as strong and  
 extraordinary  
 individuals.”**

## NOMINEE: Individual Category

# Ps Lee Bromley – Eternity Aid

## New South Wales



After working as a chaplain at the Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre (RJJC) for two years, Lee Bromley established a not-for-profit organisation called Eternity Aid to provide a life skills program at the centre outside school hours.

RJJC is near Campbelltown, where Lee and her husband John are the founding pastors of the Eternity Christian Church Campbelltown (ECCC). ECCC is part of the Apostolic Church Australia.

Lee secured funding from the New South Wales Department of Education for the RJJC program, and she completed a post-graduate diploma in counselling to assist with her work. The program provides homework assistance, sporting activities, cognitive behaviour counselling, grief and loss workshops, and spirituality programs.

After at first struggling to work with young offenders, Lee is now highly regarded by both detainees and staff, and the Homework Centre program was recognised in the 2008 Department of Juvenile Justice's Director General's Excellence Awards.

Lee has since established a similar program at Emu Plains Juvenile Justice Centre, and has set up an allied health early intervention program in Bourke, where many of the juvenile justice detainees were coming from. Both of these programs are now run in partnership with Save the Children.

“  
**A long term  
labour of  
love.”**

## NOMINEE: Community Group Category

# Life's Little Treasures Foundation

## National



Life's Little Treasures Foundation co-founders Shusannah Morris and Parool Shah (both mums of premature babies back in 2003), are pictured with the foundation's ambassador, swimmer Brooke Hanson.

The Life's Little Treasures Foundation (LLTF) has been instrumental in changing the way families of sick and/or premature babies are cared for both in hospitals and as they make the transition to living at home.

Significant stakeholders including hospitals, maternal health nurses and other services now work closely with the LLTF to create complete family care plans.

The foundation's main goal is to be a voice for premature/sick babies and their families and to change things for the better. It empowers families and enables them to become advocates for their children.

The five mothers who started the organisation in 2005 know that having a sick or premature baby can be the beginning of a very traumatic rollercoaster ride.

The foundation provides families with the information they need, in hospital resource packs as well as online. It provides practical and emotional support and helps to

ease the transition from hospital to home.

LLTF also works to increase community awareness of the unique issues faced by families with premature or sick babies, as well as working with key healthcare providers and participating in research.

**“Providing a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen and a hand to guide.”**

## NOMINEE: Project Category

# Drop In Youth Program

## Victoria



The Drop in Youth Program is an initiative of Ocean Grove Neighbourhood Centre

Drop In is a project run by the Ocean Grove Neighbourhood Centre. It gives young people on the Bellarine Peninsula a place to go where they can be themselves and also be supported by qualified youth workers.

The centre says that since the project began 11 years ago, the youth crime rate on the peninsula has decreased by 85%. At a reunion marking the 10th anniversary of the program, many people who had attended the program as troubled young men and women were found to have grown into responsible adults.

The program has supported more than 1200 young people over the years. It has provided support for a broad range of life issues including emotional issues, family problems and mediation, death, early school leaving, peer pressure, bullying, anger management, and substance abuse.

Previously, people in the local community had been afraid of groups of teenagers. The program initially did not receive any community support, funding or recognition. That has also changed, with young people now having opportunities to speak publicly about their achievements and

issues at the Rotary and Lions service clubs. Rotary has also provided funding for young people to complete first aid courses.

People undertaking training in youth work have completed field placements at the centre, and the centre has supported the implementation of other similar programs around Victoria.

“  
**Swimming  
against the  
current.”**

## NOMINEE: Individual Category

# Claire Lynch – occupational therapist

## Victoria



At 25 years of age, occupational therapist Claire Lynch could identify where people were having difficulties with the ageing process, but didn't feel she had the life experience necessary to help them. Together with some colleagues she held a meeting with the older people and they themselves identified the issues they wanted to address.

The result was the first of two support groups established by Claire to enable clients to help themselves and others in situations similar to their own.

That first group ran for five weeks in a retirement village.

It was a great success, based on levels of attendance and evaluations. Members were connected with community services to ensure they received the ongoing support they required.

Claire who works for ISIS Primary Care later applied the same self-management approach to another group of clients: women aged between 40 and 65 who were living alone with chronic conditions and who were socially isolated.

Again, the women decided on the topics for discussion, and Claire and colleague Caroline Hodza set up an

eight-week program.

Claire says the results were amazing, and the group still meets on a regular basis. One of the participants reports that she no longer feels isolated, has learnt about services available to her and has developed her confidence.

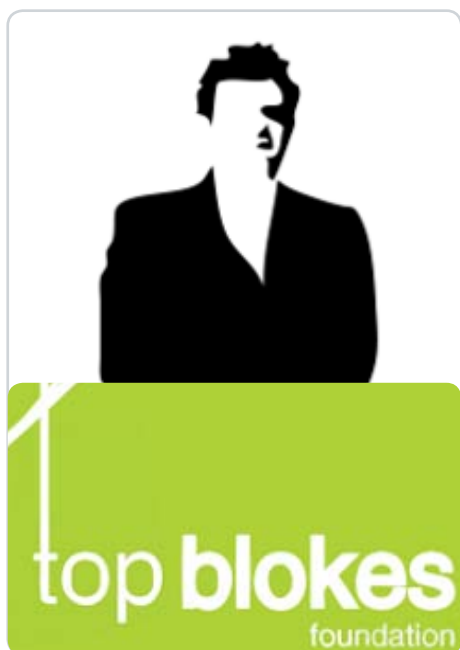
“

**Fostering  
friendship,  
togetherness.”**

## NOMINEE: Community Group Category

# Top Blokes Foundation

## New South Wales



The Top Blokes Foundation, which is based in Wollongong in New South Wales, engages with young men in the Illawarra region who are aged between 18 and 24. It encourages them to become positive role models by volunteering in their communities and mentoring younger men.

The foundation estimates that 70% of social commentary about young men is negative, and says Australia has not traditionally had a culture of positive reinforcement for young men who act with integrity, respect and commitment to their community.

It's working to change that culture with programs including a Top Blokes Award, which recognises and celebrates young men's volunteering achievements, and another called 50 Top Blokes in 50 Days.

The latter program involves recruitment of 50 young men who have never volunteered before and connects them with organisations including St John Ambulance, the Cancer Council and the State Emergency Service. The program attracts strong media support.

As it works towards improving the social inclusion of men and

improving their overall wellbeing, the foundation also builds community networks, helps to reduce long-term unemployment, and improves overall mental health and wellbeing.

“  
**Rethinking  
what it means  
to be a young  
man today.”**

## NOMINEE: Project Category

# Caring Through Connection

## Tasmania



ACCSA award winner Shirley Radford, who qualified in the Caring through Connection Program

With an ageing population, caring for the elderly is an increasing challenge for society. Managing challenging behaviours and getting appropriately trained staff is imperative.

Memories and feelings associated with trauma that occurred earlier in life can return and trouble elderly people. This includes, but is not limited to, those who have dementia. The 'revisiting' of trauma can result in a lower quality of life and behavioral issues for many elderly people.

Early life trauma might include domestic violence, experiences during wartime, and child sexual, physical and emotional abuse. The consequences can last a lifetime.

In a new approach, aged care training specialist Adelle Williams has created a therapeutic program, which not only aids to remove the secrecy and stigma associated with early life trauma but also provides aged care staff with specialised training for working with people who are experiencing related difficulties.

The program was trialed in late 2010 at Vaucluse Gardens in Hobart, with positive results for the quality of life of the elderly people

and the job satisfaction for staff involved.

After completing the program, all five staff members and management at Vaucluse Gardens believe that all aged care staff should receive this training. Adelle is now working to help facilitate the spread of the program.

“  
**Removing the  
 secrecy and  
 stigma related  
 to early life  
 trauma.”**

## NOMINEE: Individual Category

# Theodore Kitchener – Sharehood

## Victoria



Theodore Kitchener is not someone who puts up with a problem or an inconvenience for long. He's a problem-solver, an innovator and a community activist.

He has ideas, he brings people together and he inspires them to make changes to live a simple, more sustainable life, and reduce their carbon footprints.

In 2007, Theo co-founded the Loophole Community Centre. Loophole is described as "a shared space where we can exchange skills, resources and knowledge, and where we can find inspiration and support as we develop our ideas, our projects and ourselves." It houses a community library and a community kitchen, a bike workshop and a meeting space.

In 2008, Theo founded Sharehood, a neighbourhood sharing project.

Living in a share house without a washing machine, he had to lug his laundry to a friend's house. It occurred to him that other people living on his street would have washing machines they could loan, and there were all sorts of other things that people could share with one another.

He made a list of suggestions, wrote a letter and dropped it in

more than 200 letterboxes within a five-minute walk from his home.

When people responded, the first Sharehood began. There are now more than 20 Sharehoods, mostly in Melbourne but also in other parts of Australia and around the world.

Theo is now working to raise awareness about peak oil, the financial crisis and the potential changes we could make to the way our society and economy are organised. He's also working on setting up a demonstration house with a big permaculture garden, appropriate technologies and community engagement.

“  
**A problem-solver, innovator and community activist.”**

## NOMINEE: Community Group Category

# Touching Base

## New South Wales



Touching Base supporters marching in the Sydney Mardi Gras 2010 - photo by Catherine Scott



Eva Cox AO and Dr Gary Fulcher celebrate Touching Base's 10th Anniversary - photo by Belinda Mason

Touching Base was established in 2000 to connect people with disabilities and sex workers.

The organisation provides people with disabilities and their carers with information on how to access the sex industry, and it provides sex workers with training workshops, resources and information about disability. It also offers workshops for disability service providers.

Touching Base's website has been visited by people from more than 72 different countries. The organisation has also developed a strong media profile through print, radio, television and documentaries. One recent ABC Radio National documentary, "The Too Hard Basket", has won multiple awards.

There is a growing demand for referrals to sex workers who work with clients who have a disability. A range of organisations throughout Australia contact Touching Base to request advocacy, workshops and

training. They also receive enquiries from people around the world wanting to emulate the model they have created.

The organisation uses the "nothing about us without us" philosophy, facilitating peer education and grassroots capacity building, and reserving the board roles of president and vice president for people with disabilities and sex workers.

“  
Creating  
unique  
connections.”

## NOMINEE: Project Category

# Youthoria

## South Australia



Jake Swalue and Liam Black at Youthoria

The Youthoria cinema and café in Port Lincoln provides a space for young people to take part in community events and activities and to contribute to the community at a local level.

Young people are responsible for operating the venue themselves, with guidance from West Coast Youth Services (WCYS) and other business mentors.

WCYS is a non-government youth and homelessness support service, and Youthoria is an initiative of the WCYS's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).

The local cinema was threatened with closure and the YAC took the business on and re-established it, creating what one WCYS representative called "a triumph of youthful optimism and community endeavour."

It is a safe, drug- and alcohol-free venue which provides training and employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth in the surrounding area. Twenty-five young people have been employed and trained at Youthoria, and then have successfully obtained employment elsewhere and moved on.

Currently, 15 part-time employees

are being trained in retail, cash-handling, organisation, cleaning, scheduling, cinema projection, teamwork and other transferrable skills. A management committee of six young people has gained skills in business planning and management, human resources, training, marketing and mentoring.

Young people who access the venue also become aware of WCYS and the support and facilities it offers.

“  
**A triumph  
of youthful  
optimism and  
community  
endeavour.”**

## NOMINEE: Individual Category

# Ron Trimble – Newbridge Football and Netball Club

## Victoria



The president of the Newbridge Football and Netball Club, Ron Trimble, is a determined man who rallies supporters and doesn't let bad weather stand in the way of community sport.

In 2009, the club applied for funding to bring two netball courts up to Netball Australia standards. It received funding for one, but not the other. Ron, along with the club's treasurer, made sure the job was done anyway by raising further funds and organising committee members and past and present players to demolish the old courts and lay a new base.

A number of weeks were spent preparing the courts, and Ron juggled his job commitments and his spare time so that he could oversee the project. When flooding damaged the newly built foundations, Ron organised their restoration.

He then organised teams of past and present football and netball players and their spouses to lay reinforcements and infrastructure,

and to assist with the pouring and leveling of concrete on the two courts.

Then came the floods. In January 2011, Newbridge suffered its worst floods in living memory. Two metres of water flowed over the courts. Ron called the volunteers in again to clear away debris and silt, but careful workmanship ensured that there was little damage to the concrete. The courts were covered with Rebound Ace Sports acrylic surface before the netball season began, and finally were able to be used.

The floods damaged beyond repair the tennis courts, clubrooms, kitchens, social rooms and toilets. Ron is, again, the driving force behind the recovery program.

“

**Rallying the troops.”**

## NOMINEE: Community Group Category

# Anti Racism Action Band

## Victoria



2012 performance of Northern Trax, involving more than 250 young people and attracting more than 17,000 audience members.

The Anti Racism Action Band (ARAB) is an Initiative of Victorian Arabic Social Services (VASS).

It is a performing arts program for young people, helping to raise their self-esteem, increase their confidence, challenge racial tensions and promote social inclusion.

It has worked with thousands of young people since being established in 2003, engaging them in 24 major projects, giving them performance, life and social skills, and generating employment and mentoring opportunities.

The group was originally intended to be a one-off project for young Arabic Melbournians who were experiencing racial vilification and harassment after the events of September 11, 2001.

It was designed to provide a positive outlet for young Arabic men who might otherwise respond to harassment by becoming reactive and extreme in their social and political views, and who might become further disconnected from the wider community.

When ARAB began, the team soon saw that racism, gang culture and discrimination against and between young people was fuelled by low

self-esteem and a lack of creative and social outlets across all cultural groups. The project expanded, welcoming any young person who wanted to join.

In 2004, the ARAB team of artists began collaborating with large numbers of culturally diverse young people, fusing high-energy, traditional, street and theatrical performing art forms with spoken word and video – the results were explosive and the ensemble quickly expanded in size and form.

The young people who are involved are becoming healthier, better-functioning individuals and form strong social bonds and friendships.

“  
**An explosive combination.”**

NOMINEE: Project Category

# Companion Animal Service and Employment Centre

Western Australia



The Companion Animal Service and Employment Centre (CASEC) is a prison-based program that prepares retiring greyhounds for life as pets (after their previous life of racing).

In doing so, the program also provides prisoners with accredited training, skill development and assistance with career and community re-entry planning.

Hakea Prison in Canning Vale, Western Australia, where CASEC is based, is a maximum-security remand prison. It has 480 staff and 900 prisoners.

When the prison partnered with Greyhounds as Pets and Extra Edge Community Services to establish CASEC, the prison had to build dog kennels and prepare complex security arrangements. In fact, there were a number of significant cultural and physical hurdles to overcome.

Greyhounds as Pets selects, moves, trains and supervises the dogs participating in the program, and Extra Edge Community Services provides prisoners with intensive training and career development.

Prisoners who have participated in the program have said they have

increased confidence, knowledge, job-search awareness and belief in themselves, and that it has improved their commitment to change.

The program advocates for prison pet programs and the many benefits that can result from them. Organisers have received enquiries from other prisons interested in the program.

Program proponents also advocate the view that the whole community has a role to play in the re-entry and re-integration of prisoners into society.

“  
**The dogs broke down much of the opposition with their wagging tails.”**

## NOMINEE: Individual Category

# Faduma Musse – Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program

## Victoria



Faduma Salah Musse arrived in Australia with her family in 1995, fleeing the war in Somalia.

Since 2001 she has been employed as a Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP) worker at the Greater Dandenong Community Health Service. The program works with communities that traditionally practice female genital mutilation.

When Faduma returned to her hometown of Erigavo in Somaliland, she became concerned about how little the local hospital had in the way of equipment and supplies.

Back in Australia she collected enough donated hospital supplies to fill a shipping container, including beds, trolleys, furniture, bed linen, first aid supplies, clothes and toys.

She raised \$7500 to cover the shipping costs, and went back to Somaliland again herself in 2011 to escort the shipping container from the port to Erigavo. It took five days of negotiations with government

officials before the container was released at the port, and another two days of travel to reach Erigavo.

Faduma provided supplies to Erigavo Hospital as well as six other hospitals in the region.

Also concerned about the continuing practice of female genital mutilation, Faduma spoke to more than 100 men and women about the issue, as well as lobbying government officials, the police and practitioners.

“

**Rallying the community.”**

## NOMINEE: Community Group Category

# NSW Council for Intellectual Disability

## New South Wales



A NSW Council for Intellectual Disability board meeting



NSW Council for Intellectual Disability Chair Fiona McKenzie.

The NSW Council for Intellectual Disability's constitution stipulates that its board must have a majority of people with intellectual disability as members.

Having people with intellectual disability drive the work of the peak body ensures that they are making informed, educated choices about the policy matters that directly affect their lives and the lives of people with intellectual disability throughout New South Wales.

The group's award nominator says board members with and without intellectual disabilities work in true partnership to discuss issues that matter, even when those issues are sensitive, tough and complex.

Issues addressed recently include access to health care, ceasing institutionalisation, ageing, mental health, criminal justice, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

A meeting with (and requested by) the Productivity Commissioner about the specific barriers people with intellectual disability face when they just want to get on with life proved to be instrumental in influencing the final report and, hopefully, the policy that will

underpin the proposed NDIS, the organisation says.

The council's board members do not just engage with people of influence. They also consult widely with council members throughout New South Wales who do not often have the chance to be heard. They are human rights advocates who are inclusive in what they say and in what they do.

“  
**Human rights  
advocacy in  
action every  
day!**”

## NOMINEE: Project Category

# Cultural Cafe

## New South Wales



Shoppers at markets in Coffs Harbour, on the mid-north coast of New South Wales, now have access to foods from a variety of cultures with the opening of a Cultural Café.

The café is a market stall where groups from different migrant and refugee communities take it in turns to cook and serve some of their national dishes each week.

The project is coordinated by the Coffs Coast Community College, which teaches Cultural Café participants language, literacy and numeracy skills, along with hospitality and business training. The aim is to increase migrants' and refugees' skills and thereby their chances of employment and to provide them with the qualifications and experience they need to run the cultural café and perhaps their own businesses.

The project also aims to break down some of the stereotypical assumptions that are made about migrants and refugees in the area. There are at least 26 nationalities among new migrant and refugee communities, but people from different backgrounds are often

assumed to have come from the same background. The Cultural Café highlights the different cultures and people and the skills they have to offer the community.

The café has been so successful that the college has received requests to coordinate catering for functions including a film festival and a state emergency services forum.

“  
**Breaking down  
the barriers  
between the  
'old' and the  
'new'.**”

# The 2011 Nominees

“THEY  
CAN BE *a little*  
LOUD, A BIT>  
RAUCOUS,  
SOMETIMES SLIGHTLY  
**UNPLEASANT**  
ON THE EAR. *But as a*  
**COUNTRY** WE WOULD BE  
**DEVASTATED**  
WITHOUT THEM. They’re  
**DISTINCTIVE.**  
THEY’RE **ICONIC.**  
*They’re* **IMPOSSIBLE**  
**to**  
IGNORE.  
THEY’RE  
OUR  
KOOK-  
ABUR-  
RAS.  
”

# The 2011 Nominees

Sadly, we didn't have space in this book to tell you about every single one of the 2011 nominees, but we would like to acknowledge them in an honour roll.

We urge you to visit their websites, where available, to find out more about them yourselves.

## Community Groups

- 139 Club Inc** [<http://www.139club.com.au/>]
- Access Arts Darwin** [<http://www.darwincommunityarts.org.au/node/30>]
- Anti Racism Action Band** [<http://arab-vass.com/>]
- A Start in Life** [<http://www.astartinlife.org.au/>]
- Ardeer Primary School** [<http://www.ardeerps.vic.edu.au/>]
- Arthritis & Osteoporosis NT** [<http://www.aont.org.au/>]
- Arts Project Australia** [<http://www.artsproject.org.au/>]
- ausee Inc.** [<http://www.ausee.org/>]
- The Aussie Hands Foundation Inc** [<http://www.aussiehands.org/>]
- Australian Goodwill Bicycles Abroad** [<http://goodwillbicycles.com/>]
- Back to Syeiglitz Association**
- Ballina Bridge Club** [<http://www.users.on.net/~bbclub/>]
- Bathurst Seymour Centre** [<http://www.bathurstseymourcentre.org.au/>]
- Betty Sussman Centre** [[http://www.bcac.com.au/betty\\_sussman](http://www.bcac.com.au/betty_sussman)]
- Beyond Zero Emissions** [[www.beyondzeroemissions.org](http://www.beyondzeroemissions.org)]
- Boggabri Drivers Campfire (Boggabri Lions Club)** [<http://tinyurl.com/743nmev>]
- Bridport Innovations Incorporated**
- Central Coast Community Shed** [<http://tinyurl.com/8972dhg>]
- Central Highlands Community Mens Shed Inc**
- Community House Port Lincoln Inc** [<http://tinyurl.com/7geydr>]
- Creativity Australia** [<http://www.creativityaustralia.org.au/>]
- Diabetes Counselling Online** [<http://www.diabetescounselling.com.au/>]
- Disabled Surfers Association (Victorian branch)** [<http://surfershelpingsurfers.com/>]
- Eagles Nest Wildlife Hospital** [<http://eaglesnestwildlifehospital.org/>]
- Fishtas.Com** [<http://www.fishtas.com/>]
- Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley** [<http://www.fmvonline.com/>]
- Girl Guides Australia** [<http://www.guidesaus.org.au/>]
- Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park** [<http://gasp.org.au/>]
- Green Hubs – Conservation Council SA** [<http://www.conservation.sa.org.au/green-hubs.html>]
- Green Renters** [<http://www.greenrenters.org/>]
- GriefLine** [<http://griefline.org.au/>]
- Griffith Business Chamber** [<http://www.griffithchamberofcommerce.com.au/>]
- Heartland Church** [[www.heartland.asn.au](http://www.heartland.asn.au)]
- Help Enterprises** [<http://www.helpenterprises.com.au/>]
- Heyfield Community Resource Centre Inc** [<http://www.heyfield.net/pages/resource/resource.htm>]

## Community Groups (cont.)

- Homework @ Hallam** [<http://www.caseyconnect.net.au/hallamhomework/>]
- Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia** [<http://www.wetlands.org.au/page4627/Home.aspx>]
- Isabel's Cottage** [<http://tinyurl.com/crddb56>]
- Joining In The Dreaming Aboriginal Corporation**
- Kenilworth Queensland Country Women's Association** [[www.qcwa.org.au](http://www.qcwa.org.au)]
- Kinglake Ranges Men's Shed** [<http://www.kinglakerangesmensshed.org.au/>]
- Koha Community Cafe**
- Life's Little Treasures Foundation** [<http://www.lifeslittletreasures.org.au/>]
- Lions Club of Floreat** [<http://lionsfloreat.webs.com/>]
- Little Haven Cooloola/Sunshine Coast Palliative Care Inc** [<http://littlehaven.org.au/>]
- Massive Hip-Hop Choir** [<http://massivechoir.wordpress.com/>]
- Maules Creek Community Council** [<http://www.maulescreek.org/>]
- Maydena Community Assoc. Inc** [<http://www.maydena.tco.asn.au> ]
- Metro Community Care** [<http://www.metrocommunitycare.com/>]
- Moonya Gardening Services** [<http://www.moonya.org.au/pages/display/2>]
- Mountain Gardens** [<http://mountaingardens.com.au/>]
- Moving Theatre** [[http://www.theatre.asn.au/company/moving\\_theatre](http://www.theatre.asn.au/company/moving_theatre)]
- Nagambie Preschool and Childcare Centre** [<http://tinyurl.com/c7lrwod>]
- New South Wales Council for Intellectual Disability** [<http://www.nswcid.org.au/>]
- Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre Inc** [<http://www.nimbinneighbourhood.com.au/>]
- Northern Suburbs Community Centre**
- Nunawading Cricket Club Junior Section** [<http://www.nunawadingcc.com.au/>]
- Oaklands Community Health & Fitness Centre** [<http://tinyurl.com/bsx9jqb>]
- Our Place Ministries** [<http://www.ourplaceministries.com/>]
- OVA Netball Club**
- OzHarvest Canberra** [<http://www.ozharvestcanberra.org/>]
- Paws for Diabetics Inc.** [<http://www.pfd.org.au/>]
- Paynesville Men's Shed** [<http://tinyurl.com/c8rw45g>]
- Post Growth Institute** [[www.postgrowth.org](http://www.postgrowth.org)]
- Project Respect Inc** [<http://www.projectrespect.org.au>]
- The Rainbow Choir**
- Razz Band** [<http://tinyurl.com/7k6pcyy>]
- Richmond Community Services Inc** [<http://www.rcsi-neighbourhoodcentre.org/>]
- Ride Beyond The Trauma Foundation** [[www.ridebeyondthetrauma.org.au](http://www.ridebeyondthetrauma.org.au)]
- Riding for the Disabled in the Top End Inc** [<http://rda.org.au/rdant.aspx>]

**Riding For The Disabled Victoria** [<http://rda.org.au/rdavic.aspx>]

**S.C.O.P.E. Inc [QLD]** [<http://www.scopeinc.org.au/>]

**Seaford Meadows Scout Group**

**Shine Community Care Ltd** [<http://tinyurl.com/7v6rlgs>]

**Signpost Community Magazine** [<http://www.signpostmagazine.org.au/>]

**Slings and Arrows**

**Solutions Adult Learning Centre** [<http://tinyurl.com/7xc4zvw>]

**Spirit of the Streets Choir** [<http://www.spiritofthestreetschoir.org.au/>]

**St John Ambulance Granville Division**

**Sustainable Living Foundation** [<http://www.slf.org.au/>]

**Tarwirri – Indigenous Law Students and Lawyers Association of Victoria** [<http://tarwirri.com.au>]

**The Shepherd Centre** [<http://shepherdcentre.org.au/>]

**Top Blokes Foundation** [[www.topblokes.org.au](http://www.topblokes.org.au)]

**Theodore District Health Council**

**Toowoomba Youth Foundation** [<http://www.tyf.net.au/>]

**Touching Base** [[www.touchingbase.org](http://www.touchingbase.org)]

**Tune In Tune Out** [<http://www.tuneinnotout.com/>]

**Val Lishman Health Research Foundation** [<http://www.vlffoundation.com.au/>]

**Western Sydney Transgender Support Group** [<http://tinyurl.com/8xgdsqd>]

**Wonderful World Media Network** [[www.wwmn.net](http://www.wwmn.net)]

**Young Parents Program Inc**

## Project

**AccessIT Seniors - 'Connecting the Community'**

**AFL Gold Coast Juniors disadvantaged children's program** [[www.aflgoldcoastjuniors.com.au](http://www.aflgoldcoastjuniors.com.au)]

**African Mental Health Forums**

**A Living Classroom – The Australian Centre for Regenerative Agriculture**

**Appin Hall Children's Foundation Respite Village** [[www.appinhall.com](http://www.appinhall.com)]

**Arts Access Darwin** [<http://tinyurl.com/cdvarfs>]

**Babes with Babes (Narara Valley High School)**

**Bibs 'n' Books – Parramatta City Library** [<http://tinyurl.com/c566zqv>]

**Branching Out: New Connections-New Directions – Tasmanian Regional Arts** [<http://www.tasregionalarts.org.au/branchingout/>]

**Breaking the Silence in Schools** [<http://tinyurl.com/86vyr6p>]

**Busy Beat Community Hub**

**Camp Kookaburra** [<http://www.campkookaburra.org.au/>]

**Caring through Connection**

**Comfy Homes Project** [<http://masg.org.au/comfyhomes/>]

**Companion Animal Service and Employment Centre** [<http://tinyurl.com/82dknhl>]

**Creating Dreams Project – Salvation Army Westcare** [<http://tinyurl.com/6woy5oc>]

**Crossing Roper Bar – Australian Art Orchestra** [<http://aao.com.au/>]

**Cultural Café** [<http://tinyurl.com/6o75af5>]

**Dabble 'n' Dance** [<http://bluebirdfoundationinc.org.au/dabble-n-dance/>]

**Dalai Lama on the Sunshine Coast**

**Dress for Success Sydney outreach project** [[www.dressforsuccess.org/sydney](http://www.dressforsuccess.org/sydney)]

**Drop In Youth Program – Ocean Grove Neighbourhood Centre** [<http://oceangrovenc.com/>]

**The Drivers Camp** [[www.driverscamp.com.au](http://www.driverscamp.com.au)]

**DRUMBEAT** [[www.holyoake.org.au](http://www.holyoake.org.au)]

**EastWeb Fund** [[www.eastweb.org.au](http://www.eastweb.org.au)]

**FH Project [Familial Hypercholesterolemia Project] – Val Lishman Foundation** [<http://tinyurl.com/6ttcq7r>]

**Fresh Hope Drop In** [<http://www.facebook.com/freshhopebowral>]

**Glenorchy Arts and Sculpture Park** [<http://gasp.org.au/>]

**GIVIT** [[www.givit.org.au](http://www.givit.org.au)]

**GOATS Organising Committee – San Remo Neighbourhood Centre** [<http://www.sanremo.org.au/>]

**The G.R.A.I.N. Store (Growing Rural Arts in Nathalia)** [[www.thegrainstore.org](http://www.thegrainstore.org)]

**Hello Sunday Morning** [<http://hellosundaymorning.com.au/>]

**Horses for Hope** [<http://www.horsesforhope.org.au/>]

**Interchange Outer East Volunteer Program** [<http://www.ioe.org.au/>]

**Knitting for Troops in Afghanistan (Country Women's Association of Victoria Geelong Group)** [<http://tinyurl.com/6wqakmk>]

**Live Animal Exports** [<http://www.banliveexport.com/>]

**Magabala Books Aboriginal Corporation** [[www.magabala.com](http://www.magabala.com)]

**Maitland City Library Living Library** [<http://tinyurl.com/77c8uog>]

**The Mary Poppins Project – SHYAC** [[www.shyac.org.au](http://www.shyac.org.au)]

**MJP Social Enhancement Program** [<http://tinyurl.com/6qso35c>]

**Moving Mountains Project** [<http://www.movingmountainsproject.com/>]

**National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Vic)** [<http://www.ncjwa.org.au/>]

**New Horizons Club** [<http://www.newhorizonsclub.org.au/>]

**New Way Lawyers** [<http://www.newwaylawyers.com.au/>]

**Our Big Kitchen** [<http://obk.org.au/>]

**Parenting Book Club – Riverina Regional Library and Wagga Wagga City Council** [<http://www.rrl.nsw.gov.au/parenting-book-club.html>]

**Pigeons Projects** [<http://pigeonsprojects.org/>]

**Playgroup Queensland disaster response** [<http://www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/qld/>]

**Positive Self Image Projection Project – YWCA of Adelaide** [<http://www.ywca.com.au/campaigns/current/>]

**Primary Perspectives - Radio Created for Kids by Kids** [<http://www.primaryperspectives.info/>]

**Project Australia** [[www.projectaustralia.org.au](http://www.projectaustralia.org.au)]

**River Forest Walking Track**

**Robertstown War Memorial Community Centre** [<http://tinyurl.com/6sso6ko>]

**Ronald McDonald Family Scrapbooking Project**

**Sanctuary Australia Foundation** [<http://www.sanctuaryaustraliafoundation.org.au/>]

**Schizophrenia Fellowship – Ryde Day to Day Living Program** [<http://tinyurl.com/7b6yhcz>]

**Seniors on Screen** [[www.seniorsonscreen.com.au](http://www.seniorsonscreen.com.au)]

**Shoes & Socks 4 Kids** [<http://www.brighterfuture4kids.org.au/>]

**Sing Rhyme and Storytime Early Literacy Program – Dundas Valley Branch Library** [<http://tinyurl.com/78g2fk4>]

**SPARK (St Vincent de Paul Society NSW)** [[www.vinnies.org.au/spark](http://www.vinnies.org.au/spark)]

**St Helens Ambulance Branch**

**St Kilda Sea Scouts**

**Supporting Aboriginal Involvement in Natural Resources Management Activities across the South East** [<http://tinyurl.com/87uclga>]

**Sustainability Stars – E.W. Tipping Foundation** [<http://www.tipping.org.au/projects/sustainability-project>]

**Time Out Project – Youth Suicide Action Group** [<http://tinyurl.com/d99ga78>]

**Waratah Skate Park**

**Wirraglen Support Group** [<http://www.wirraglensupportgroup.org.au/>]

**With One Voice – Creativity Australia** [<http://www.creativityaustralia.org.au/cms-programs/index.phps>]

**Yellow Pages Cardiac Challenge** [<http://www.cardiacchallenge.com.au/>]

**Youthoria Cinema and Café** [<http://www.wcys.com.au/youthoria.html>]

## Individuals

- Abu-Gazaleh, Melissa – Top Blokes Foundation** [[www.topblokes.org.au](http://www.topblokes.org.au)]
- Agostino, Raff**
- Agius, Pauline**
- Bergroth, Graham**
- Blockey, Micheal**
- Brennan, Donald – Retired Firefighters Association of Victoria**
- Bromley, Lee – Eternity Christian Church Campbelltown** [[www.eternitychurch.org.au](http://www.eternitychurch.org.au)]
- Briggs, Edward – Dorrigo Plateau Local Aboriginal Land Council**
- Carroll, Paul**
- Chandran, Shaun**
- Collyer, Heather – Harold Stevens Athletics Field**
- Croome, Rodney** [[www.rodneycroome.id.au](http://www.rodneycroome.id.au)]
- Crow, Wendy – Portland Toy Library** [<http://tinyurl.com/7azjppw>]
- Dixon, Pippa**
- Downton, Paul**
- Duke, Norm**
- Everett, Heidi**
- Fisher, Graham – Val Lishman Health Research Foundation** [<http://www.vlffoundation.com.au/>]
- Ford, Peter**
- Foran, Kelly**
- Giabardo, Rob – Beaumaris Soccer Club** [<http://www.beaumarissc.com.au/>]
- Goggin, Bernard – Coburg Harriers Athletic Club** [[www.coburgharriers.org.au](http://www.coburgharriers.org.au)]
- Goold, Rona – Australian Marriage Celebrants Incorporated** [[www.marriagecelebrants.org.au](http://www.marriagecelebrants.org.au)]
- Gounden, Shiva**
- Gray, Sarah**
- Karapanagiotidis, Kon – Asylum Seeker Resource Centre** [[www.asrc.org.au](http://www.asrc.org.au)]
- Kitchener, Theodore – Loophole Community Centre and Sharehood** [[www.loopholecommunitycentre.org](http://www.loopholecommunitycentre.org); [www.thesharehood.org](http://www.thesharehood.org)]
- Lee, Rosemary**
- Leyden, John – Unicorn Foundation** [<http://www.unicornfoundation.org.au/>]
- Lynch, Clare**
- Lyon, Doreen**
- Mayne, Stephen – Australian Shareholders' Association** [[www.australianshareholders.com.au](http://www.australianshareholders.com.au)]
- McKenzie Ferguson, Rosemary**
- Mischon, Viarnne – Wonderful World Media Network** [[www.wwmn.net](http://www.wwmn.net)]

**Musse, Faduma Salah**

**Oke, Gregory**

**O'Neill, Ann – Angelhands** [<http://angelhands.org.au/>]

**Pau, Maria – Coaching with Substance** [<http://www.coachingwithsubstance.org.au/>]

**Payne, Judy**

**Pearce, Tyrone**

**Rogers, Ros**

**Ruhr, Chris**

**Sampson, Marian**

**Spiteri, Moniquea**

**Nixon, Tamara**

**Staines, Alan – Salvation Army Suicide Prevention and Bereavement Support** [[suicideprevention.salvos.org.au](http://suicideprevention.salvos.org.au)]

**Trimble Ron**

**Uma, Vijay**

**Walker, Tracey**

**Wall, Nicci – Melton Depression and Bipolar Support Group** [<http://tinyurl.com/6sgtv3n>]

**Whyte, Julianne – Amaranth Foundation** [[www.amaranth.org.au](http://www.amaranth.org.au)]

**Wilson-Lord, Colleen – Lifeball** [[www.lifeball.com.au](http://www.lifeball.com.au)]

**Zayler, Steve – Prahran Junior Football Club and St Kilda Cricket Club** [[www.prahranjuniorfootballclub.com](http://www.prahranjuniorfootballclub.com); [www.stkildacc.com.au](http://www.stkildacc.com.au)]

“THEY  
CAN BE *a little*  
LOUD, A BIT>

RAUCOUS,  
SOMETIMES SLIGHTLY  
**UNPLEASANT**

ON THE EAR. *But as a*  
**COUNTRY** WE WOULD BE  
**DEVASTATED**  
WITHOUT THEM. They're  
**DISTINCTIVE.**  
THEY'RE **ICONIC.**

*They're* **IMPOSSIBLE**  
**to**

IGNORE.  
THEY'RE

OUR  
KOOK-  
ABUR-  
RAS.  
”