



# PROGRAMS

*Photo courtesy and copyright of Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal*

The Ross Trust Programs have been designed and developed to achieve positive impact for the benefit of the public in areas of priority to the Trust.

Programs can be developed in a number of ways, for instance by the Ross Trust commissioning an organisation with special expertise to administer a program to achieve defined outcomes as in the case with the Trust commissioning the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to manage The R E Ross Trust Travelling Scholarship Program. Alternatively the Trust may invite a small number of organisations with expertise and interest to undertake defined work, such as the Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program.

The R E Ross Trust programs in 2007-2008 were:

- > Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program
- > Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program
  - with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and a number of other donors.
- > The R E Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Development Awards Program
  - with the State Library of Victoria and fortyfive downstairs.
- > The R E Ross Trust Regional Fellowship Program
  - with the Centre for International Child Health.
- > The R E Ross Trust Travelling Scholarship Program
  - with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.
- > The R E Ross Trust Prospectus Development Small Grants Program

### Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program

[www.rosstrust.org.au](http://www.rosstrust.org.au)

#### **\$1,400,500 approved over three years to various community services organisations**

In March 2008, The RE Ross Trust Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program entered its third three year funding program following its second major review. The Program, established in 2001 to assist charitable organisations meet the immediate and basic needs of those most disadvantaged and vulnerable in Victoria, is reviewed on a triennial basis to ensure that it is continuing to effectively assist welfare agencies meet the needs of the community.

Under the program, 17 organisations share grants totalling \$456,850 each year for three years to provide direct financial assistance or material aid - food, travel, health related costs, housing, education expenses, clothing, toiletries, utilities vouchers and direct financial assistance - to individuals and families affected by poverty and disadvantage.

Individuals and families often face serious difficulties as a result of a one off or ongoing crisis such as drought or other natural disaster, job loss, homelessness, physical or mental health related problems, asylum seeker status or ongoing financial hardship as a direct result of increases in housing and petrol costs.

The second triennial review of the Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program showed that the high cost of school supplies was mentioned by all agencies who work with families with children. In order to respond to this need the Trustees expanded the Program to include an Education Costs sub-component. The Trust will make grants to a number of organisations under the Program for the purpose of assisting welfare organisations response to families struggling to meet the high costs of educational supplies, school uniforms and school excursions and camps.

For more information on the Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program please please contact:

Margarita Sagris  
03 9690 6255  
[information@rosstrust.org.au](mailto:information@rosstrust.org.au)  
[www.rosstrust.org.au](http://www.rosstrust.org.au)



*With no source of income asylum seekers are often totally reliant on donations to feed their families. The ASRC has assisted more than 3000 asylum seekers by providing material aid and support services. In addition to preparing food parcels, the ASRC also provides families with groceries, such as toiletries, sanitary items and cleaning products and hosts a free daily lunch where between 30 -80 asylum seekers and volunteers come together to prepare and share a meal. Photo courtesy and copyright of the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre.*



*Grocon volunteers assembling education packs at Brotherhood of St Laurence. Photo courtesy and copyright of Brotherhood of St Laurence.*

## Programs

In 2007- 2008 the Trustees approved grants totalling \$1,400,550, some of which may be paid over a period of up to three years, under the Emergency Relief and Material Aid Program.

ANGLICARE Towards emergency relief - Northern Melbourne metropolitan growth corridor areas	(Over three years) \$132,000
BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE Towards emergency relief - Education packs for school children in rural areas of Victoria	\$10,000
COUNCIL OF SINGLE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN Towards emergency relief - Single parents in central Melbourne and in country areas of Victoria	(Over three years) \$108,900
HANOVER Towards emergency relief - People who are homeless and at risk of homelessness	(Over three years) \$108,900
HOTHAM MISSION – ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT Towards emergency relief - Refugees and asylum seekers in Victoria	(Over three years) \$72,600
MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES Towards emergency relief - Western Melbourne metropolitan growth corridor areas	(Over three years) \$127,050
MORNINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT & INFORMATION CENTRE Towards emergency relief - Mornington Peninsula	(Over three years) \$100,000
THE QUEEN'S FUND Towards emergency relief - Disadvantaged women and children needing financial assistance	(Over three years) \$75,900
ST MARKS COMMUNITY CENTRE Towards emergency relief - People in Fitzroy	(Over three years) \$36,300
SOUTHERN PENINSULA COMMUNITY SUPPORT & INFORMATION CENTRE INC Towards emergency relief - Mornington Peninsula	(Over three years) \$120,000
TRAVELLER'S AID SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Towards emergency relief - People needing to travel who are in severe financial difficulties	(Over three years) \$45,000
VICRELIEF FOODBANK Towards emergency relief - Purchase and provision of emergency relief and material aid goods and food for supplying to relief-providing organisations in Victoria	(Over three years) \$36,300
HASTINGS COMMUNITY INFORMATION & SUPPORT Towards emergency relief - People living in the Westerport area of the Mornington Peninsula	(Over three years) \$100,000
ASYLUM SEEKERS RESOURCE CENTRE Towards emergency relief - for asylum seekers and refugees	(Over three years) \$72,600
<b>EDUCATION COSTS</b>	
BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE Towards educational packs to be distributed in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria	(Over three years) \$60,000
PORT PHILLIP COMMUNITY GROUP Towards education supplies, school uniforms and school excursions/camps	(Over three years) \$18,000
LODDON MALLEE ACCOMMODATION NETWORK (LOMA) Towards education supplies, school uniforms and school excursions/camps	(Over three years) \$120,000
CRANBOURNE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES Towards education supplies, school uniforms and school excursions/camps	(Over three years) \$57,000
<b>TOTAL: EMERGENCY RELIEF AND MATERIAL AID</b>	<b>\$1,400,550</b>

### Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program

[www.frrr.org.au](http://www.frrr.org.au)

*With the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal*

**\$300,000 approved in 2008, and to be paid over three years**

In 2002, The R E Ross Trust decided to join with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal ([www.frrr.org.au](http://www.frrr.org.au)) and three other donors to establish the Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program. The purpose of this Program is to make small grants more accessible to communities in rural and remote Australia. It is designed not only to improve access to charitable grants for rural and regional communities but also to provide them with a simpler application process, to make better, targeted use of charitable funds and to enhance efficiency and effectiveness for philanthropic trusts and foundations who wish to support small communities.

Since 2002 the program has grown to include 14 donors, which has allowed the program to make grants that reach more communities across Australia.

In 2008, the Trustees of the Ross Trust renewed its commitment to the program for another three years and increased the contribution to the Small Grants program to \$100,000 each year until 2011.

Organisations are able to apply on two occasions each year to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal for grants for projects and activities which offer clear public benefit for small rural communities in remote locations in Australia, and which contribute to their development in social and community welfare,

economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas. Applications from communities with a population of 10,000 or less receive priority and small grants of up to \$5,000 are made.

For more information on the Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program please contact:

Sylvia Admans

Chief Executive Officer

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal

Grant Enquiries: 1800 170 020

[info@frrr.org.au](mailto:info@frrr.org.au)

[www.frrr.org.au](http://www.frrr.org.au)



*W Tree Promotion and Progress Association which brought together many people of all ages and experience to create a rich array of creative pottery pieces. Photo courtesy and copyright of The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.*

In 2007-2008, 24 grants were made using funds from the Ross Trust contribution. Some examples of the grants made are:

<b>MURRAY HUMAN SERVICES INC</b>	\$5,000
Towards the construction of a shade structure over the vehicle cleaning area and floor covering in the kitchen and laundry. The Service provides employment and support to people in Kerang with disabilities through many activities including washing vehicles for local businesses.	
<b>W TREE PROMOTION AND PROGRESS ASSOCIATION</b>	\$1,524
Towards minor repairs of the kiln and the purchase of kiln accessories, clay tools and tables. The Association was donated a pottery wheel and kiln and required some assistance to set up its Skill Share Pottery Group. The pottery classes brought many people of all ages and experience together in a supportive learning environment which resulted in a rich array of creative pottery pieces	
<b>TOORA PLAYGROUP</b>	\$3,162
Towards the purchase of play equipment and training books. The community of Toora recognises the value of the Toora Playgroup. Speech, occupational therapy and other specialists are available to the playgroup which provides early identification of issues for families. The equipment is vital to the program and parent training is also offered.	

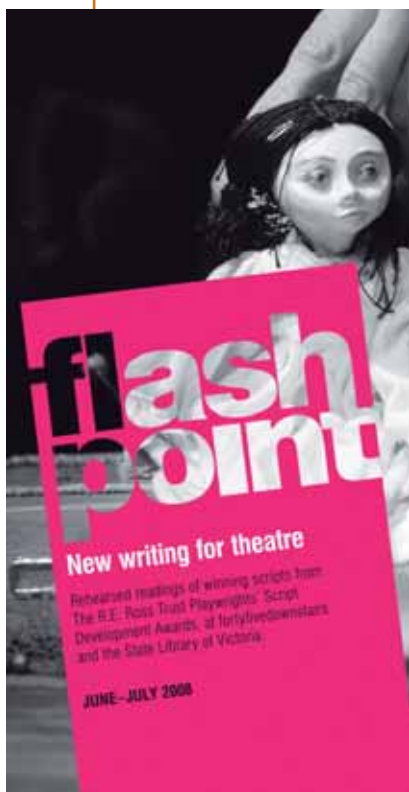
## Programs

### The R E Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Development Awards Program

[www.slv.vic.gov.au/programs/literary/ross/](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/programs/literary/ross/)

*With the State Library of Victoria and fortyfive downstairs*

**\$78,142 paid in 2007-2008**



The R.E Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Developments Awards Program, with its annual program of awards and mini-festival of play readings and performances was established six years ago to foster Victoria's theatre industry by supporting Victorian-based playwrights.

The annual awards, administered by the State Library of Victoria, offer up to \$30,000 in prize money to Victorian-based playwrights for the development of play scripts that have not been previously produced.

The aim is to support the development of plays as works-in-progress.

The prize money is available to fund workshops or support further work with a director, dramaturg, script editor and/or actor(s). Almost 40 play scripts were submitted to the 2008 RE Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Development Awards, of which four were selected by the judges to be further developed.

The 2008 winners were announced by the Chairman of The RE Ross Trust, Eda Ritchie, at the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards dinner in September 2008. The winning plays were:

- *Return to Earth* by Lally Katz
- *Whiteley's Incredible Blue* by Barry Dickins
- *Shots* by Carly Nugent
- *The Orphanage Opera* by Angela Betzien.

This year, the awards featured an additional prize, an invitation to feature their work at PlayWriting Australia's National Play Festival 2009 in Tasmania. The winner's script will be performed as a polished stage reading by some of the country's finest actors and presented to an audience of leading producers and theatre companies. Lally Katz, won this award and will be presenting her work, *Return to Earth* in 2009.

The Ross Trust provided funds for a mini-festival of play readings and performances through its continued support of the "Flashpoint" series in 2008. The Flashpoint series featured rehearsed readings of winning scripts from previous years of the Playwrights' Script Development awards performed at fortyfivedownstairs and the State Library of Victoria in June and July of 2008.

The 2008 Awards were judged by Tom Healey (Convenor), Patricia Cornelius and Allison Croggon. The judges' report and details of the winning works are available on the State Library of Victoria website at [www.slv.vic.gov.au/ross](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/ross).

For more information on The R E Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Development Awards Program please contact:

Wendy Lasica  
 Project Officer – Ross Trust Awards  
 Events and Exhibitions  
 State Library of Victoria  
 03 8664 7523  
[rosstrustawards@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:rosstrustawards@slv.vic.gov.au)  
[www.slv.vic.gov.au/programs/literary/ross/](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/programs/literary/ross/)

Grants made towards The R E Ross Trust Playwrights Awards during the 2007-2008 financial year:

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA	\$63,717
Towards the Playwright Script Development Awards and the Flashpoint series	
FORTYFIVE DOWNSTAIRS	\$15,125
Towards rehearsed play readings as part of the Ross Trust Playwrights Awards	
<b>TOTAL: THE ROSS TRUST PLAYWRIGHTS SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT AWARDS</b>	<b>\$78,842</b>

### The R E Ross Trust Regional Fellowship Program

[www.rch.org.au/cich/](http://www.rch.org.au/cich/)

*With the Centre for International Child Health*

**\$424,850 approved since 2005, and to be paid over five years**

#### Paediatrics and child health leadership in Papua New Guinea

Children make up forty percent of Papua New Guinea's (PNG) 5 million population and in 2005 there were only 20 paediatricians for approximately 2 million children, who are dying at a rate 10-15 times higher than in Australia. In 2000 the mortality rate for children under five years was 94 per 1,000 live births, a rate that increases for children living in rural areas.

Since 2005, the Ross Trust has been working with the Centre for International Child Health to establish a Fellowship program to develop much needed leadership skills in qualified and experienced medical practitioners and nurses working in child health in PNG.

The program involves Fellows coming to the Centre in Melbourne for short periods of study or working on projects in their places of work in PNG. The topics chosen for study are among the Papua New Guinea Government's nationally endorsed Child Health priority areas and are contributing substantially to knowledge on important health issues affecting children and mothers.

In its first year, the Papua New Guinea Fellowship Program provided support to three PNG child health projects; a further project was added later in 2007, and in 2008 support was extended to the Solomon Islands, a neighbouring country with similar problems in child health.

Some of the key elements to success have been: the high priorities of the projects chosen; their relevance to daily child health problems; and the local ownership of the projects. Also important has been the co-contribution in terms of intellectual capacity and technical and financial support from the Paediatric Society of Papua New Guinea, the Child Health Department of the University of Papua New Guinea and the Centre for International Child Health in Melbourne.

In 2008 an important survey was published showing, for the first time in 25 years, a major improvement in child survival. The mortality rate for children aged under five years had fallen to 74 per 1,000 live births. This improvement is partly due to a coordinated and people-focused approach to improving capacity in child health over many years by all the partners involved.

Following a review in 2007-2008 the Trustees made a commitment to continue the program till 2012.

The people and projects supported by the Fellowships include:

**Dr William Lagani**, a community paediatrician who has established a nation-wide surveillance system to evaluate the introduction of Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine in PNG.

**Dr Jonah Karubi**, a trainee paediatrician who is doing his Master of Medicine project on the efficacy of the six month dose of measles vaccine.

**Sens Matai**, a biomedical engineer involved in a project to introduce systems for providing oxygen to children in rural hospitals. In PNG lack of oxygen is a common cause for death in children with pneumonia and other serious illnesses. An evaluation of the project showed a 35% reduction in deaths from pneumonia in the hospitals where this system was introduced.

**Dr Gwenda Anga and Dr Roland Barnabas** are trainee paediatricians, whose Master of Medicine project is investigating the causes of coma and fever. Fever, convulsions and unconsciousness are major causes of death and long-term severe physical and intellectual disability in children in PNG. Because of the lack of laboratory tests the causes are rarely found, and this problem has never been studied in a systematic way.

**Dr Titus Nasi**, a senior paediatrician from the Solomon Islands, developing a course in child health for nurses, and a system of surveillance for common childhood diseases.

For more information on The RE Ross Trust Regional Fellowship Program please contact:

Trevor Duke  
Centre for International  
Child Health  
03 9345 4986  
[www.rch.org.au/cich/](http://www.rch.org.au/cich/)

*In PNG the use of pulse oximetry to monitor sick children is reducing the death rate from pneumonia. Photo copyright and courtesy of Dr Trevor Duke, Centre for International Child Health.*



### The R E Ross Trust Travelling Scholarship Program

[www.racp.edu.au](http://www.racp.edu.au)

*With the Royal Australasian College of Physicians*

**\$36,000 approved in 2007, and to be paid over three years**

#### The R E Ross Trust Travelling Scholarship

In 1992 and 2000 the Ross Trust provided grants that allowed the establishment of a corpus for the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to support a Travelling Scholarship each year targeting postgraduate medical students or medical practitioners from countries in Australia's Pacific region. The College manages all aspects of the Scholarships which assists the selected student or practitioner to undertake research or advanced study at a hospital or University in Victoria. The study period is normally between one and three months. The first Scholarship recipient came to Victoria in 1996 and since its inception 12 medical practitioners have been awarded Scholarships. In 2006, the amount of the scholarship was increased to \$7,000.

In 2008, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians awarded the Travelling Scholarship to Dr Veisia Matoto of the Fiji School of Medicine. Dr Matoto travelled to Victoria for a three month clinical placement at the Royal Melbourne Hospital at the Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology to further her training in the area of diabetes.



**The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians**

#### The R E Ross Trust Travelling Scholarship in Paediatrics and Child Health

In 2005, the Ross Trust asked the Royal Australasian College of Physicians if it would be willing to establish a second Travelling Scholarship aimed at improving paediatrics and child health in the Pacific region and Timor Leste. The College agreed and eligible countries include Fiji, Kiribati, Noumea, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Cook Islands, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The Scholarship is designed to enable medical and health professionals to gain additional knowledge and experience relevant to issues of strategic and vital importance to child health services in the recipient's home country. Each Scholarship holder's program provides the opportunity for short term study visits of one to three months in health institutions in Victoria. Programs of study include such topics as the management or evaluation of vaccine programs and the application of evidence-based medicine.

In 2007, after a review of the Travelling Scholarship program, the Trustees approved the extension of the Ross Trust Paediatric and Child Health Travelling Scholarship for a further three years 2008-2009 to 2010-2011. The grant was also increased from \$7,000 to \$12,000 each year. This represented an increase in the scholarship from \$7,000 to \$10,000 as well as \$2,000 to assist with the administration costs associated with the program.

The third recipient of the Paediatrics and Child Health Travelling Scholarship is Dr Titus Nasi from the Solomon Islands. Dr Nasi will complete the project, Basic Clinical Medical Research Methodology and Mortality auditing while training in research methods and epidemiology at The University of Melbourne.

For selection criteria and application forms, please contact:

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians  
Research and Education Foundation

02 9256 9639

02 9252 3310

[foundation@racp.edu.au](mailto:foundation@racp.edu.au)

[www.racp.edu.au](http://www.racp.edu.au)

## The R E Ross Trust Prospectus Development Small Grants Program

www.rosstrust.org.au

*Supporting not-for-profits to better communicate with prospective donors and investors*

In 2008 The R E Ross Trust trialed a new small grants program to assist not-for-profit organisations build their organisational capacity, specifically by improving their ability to source larger sums of revenue from an increased number of sources.

The term “not-for-profit” as a description of the organisations that the Ross Trust makes grants to, fails to recognise the need for each for these organisations to generate a financial surplus each year to remain in operation and ignores the significant social capital they build each year from their work.

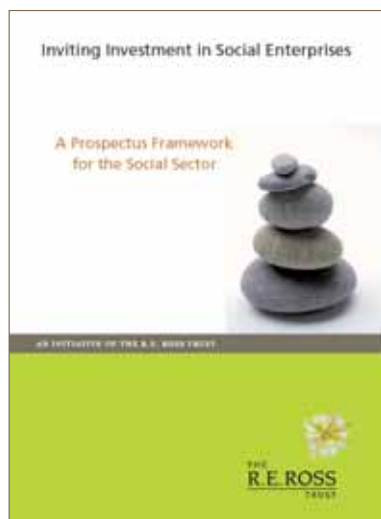
For many organisations, their ability to deliver positive change is hampered by their inability to raise enough funds to be able to respond effectively to the community's needs. Community organisations' reliance on often inflexible and insecure funding from a diverse range of sources such as: government and philanthropic grants, commercial business sponsorships and donations from corporations and individuals also affects their ability to deliver outcomes.

Early in 2008, the Ross Trust published *Inviting Investment in Social Enterprises; A Prospectus Framework for the Social Sector*, developed by Ross Trust CEO, Sylvia Geddes and Rosemary Addis. The resource was developed with the aim of improving the skills of community sector organisations to better communicate with current and prospective donors and investors.

The Ross Trust takes very seriously its mission to affect positive change and wish to impact areas of high community need. Unfortunately the amount of income available for the Trust to make as grants for this purpose will never meet the growing need. The Prospectus Program and *Inviting Investment* were developed as tools to increase community sector organisations' capacity to respond to the increasing needs in the community. The Trust is hoping that by providing the tools and resources for community organisations to broaden their income sources and increase their revenue, these organisations will be better resourced to have a positive impact on the community.

In 2007 -2008, organisations were able to apply to the Ross Trust for a small grant, of up to \$10,000, to assist with the development of a prospectus which would set out the positive impact of financing their vital work.

For more information on The RE Ross Prospectus Development Grants Program please contact the Ross Trust on 03 9690 6255 or [information@rosstrust.org.au](mailto:information@rosstrust.org.au)



In the 2007- 2008 financial year, the Ross Trust approved \$10,000 to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre for the purpose of developing a prospectus, which will be published in 2009.

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE	\$10,000
Towards the prospectus development for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	
<b>TOTAL: Prospectus Development Small Grants Program</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>