

A DECADE OF GROWTH

1996-97

- Establishment of Melbourne Community Foundation as the first independent community foundation in Australia.
- Founding Patron, Sir James Gobbo AC, Governor of Victoria appointed.
- Hayden Raysmith appointed as inaugural Chair.
- ANZ Trustees provides three year start-up grant.

1997-98

- First major initiative launch - Inclusive Communities Project: integrating people with disability into community life.
- First part time Executive Officer appointed.
- First sub fund - The Misha Merkel Fund - established



1998-99

- Funds under management grow from \$300,000 to over \$6 million.
- Social Investment and Community Enterprise Conference held at Melbourne Town Hall.
- Launch of Advancement of Children Theme Fund.
- Community organisation site visit program initiated.

1999-2000

- Over \$1 million in grants distributed since 1997.
- MCF guest speakers at President Luncheon of the Law Institute of Victoria.

2000-01

- MCF moves into its own offices in Flinders Lane.
- First MCF donor survey undertaken.

2001-02

- MCF creates a part time donor support position.
- Carnbrea & Co appointed as investment advisers.

2002-03

- Over a third of the 56 grants made in this year are for education related activity.
- First full-time CEO appointed.
- MCF moved to its current premises in Fitzroy.

2003-04

- MCF installs new DIGITS database, developed specifically for community foundations.
- MCF strategic decision to develop an MCF Knowledge Hub.
- Premier Bracks launches Youth at Risk Initiative at Melbourne Town Hall.

2004-05

- MCF introduces Youth Board Membership Policy and first Youth Board Members appointed.
- Eleven MCF Ambassadors appointed.
- Over \$1 million in grants distributed in 12 month period for the first time.
- First of regular independent reviews of the Board and its effectiveness undertaken.

2005-06

- Marion Webster appointed as Chair.
- Dramatic increase in number of sub-funds to 90 (35% increase).
- The MacroMelbourne Initiative: Developing Strategic Responses to Disadvantage in Melbourne, today and towards 2030 discussion paper released.

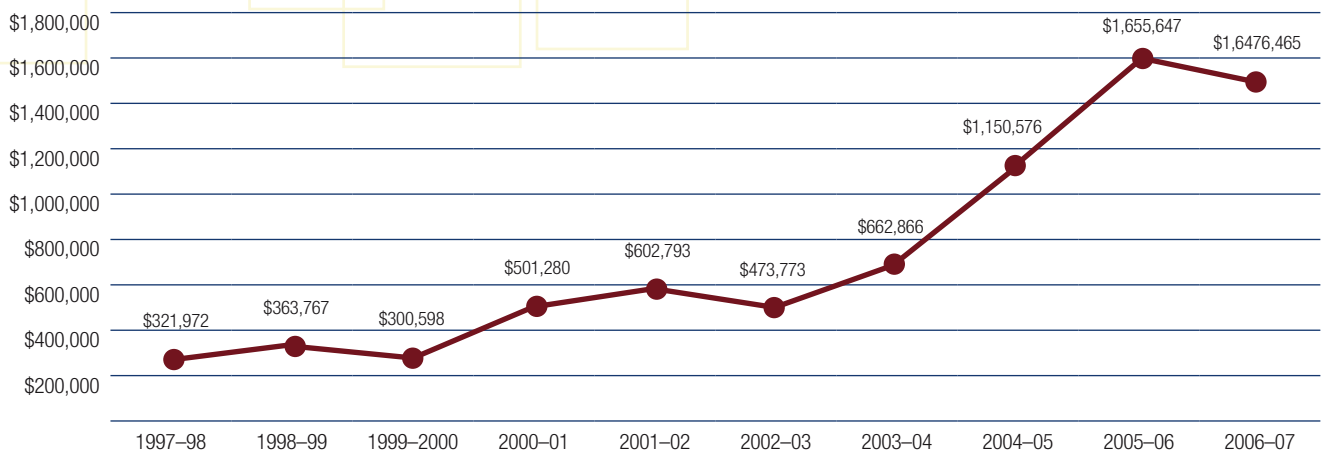
2006-07

- Celebrated 10 years of MCF with 'A Night at Abbotsford Convent'.
- Peter Hero (USA) attended MCF Board Retreat and subsequently joined the Board.
- New Scholarship Fund established for donors.
- Over 100 sub-funds and over \$30 million in funds under management.

A DECADE OF GRANTMAKING - CUTTING THE PIE

Since MCF was established 10 years ago it has distributed over \$7.5 million to a range of community organisations and activities. As the graph below shows, this has grown steadily as the number of sub-funds and level of funds under management have grown. Annual distributions have averaged \$1.5 million over the past two financial years.

Funds Distributed 1997–2007



We look back over the past decade with a great deal of pride and feel that we are well on the way towards achieving our mission of ‘generating and distributing philanthropic resources to address emerging social issues within the community’.

1997-2003

We refer to the period 1997-2003 as MCF’s establishment phase. The focus was very much on building the number of sub-funds and the size of the corpus. Over this six year period we grew to 62 sub-funds and \$13 million under management. \$2.6 million was distributed in the areas of arts and culture, education and employment, community services, community development and advocacy, health and medical research, disability and the environment.

2004-07

At its annual retreat in February 2004, the Board agreed that as MCF was continuing to grow strongly it was well positioned to implement a more proactive and strategic approach to building social capital and supporting efforts to tackle serious social issues. This confidence that MCF would continue to develop as a viable organisation meant that it could turn its attention to playing more of a leadership role within the philanthropic community.

At the retreat, the Board identified three priorities:

To double the funds under management by our tenth birthday. This has been exceeded, with \$33 million under management at June 2007.

To develop MCF as a knowledge hub in relation to community organisations and emerging social need.

To undertake a number of strategic initiatives in the area of youth at risk, positive ageing, educational innovation at the primary level and the big picture for Melbourne – or what became MacroMelbourne.

Since then, our grantmaking has had two major prongs. It continues to be largely driven by our donors making recommendations about the organisations and projects they wish to support.

However, an increasingly important focus of our grantmaking work has been on the implementation of the Youth at Risk and MacroMelbourne initiatives – bringing together relevant stakeholders and commissioning research to identify need and possible interventions, informing and involving our donors and other funders and directing support to the organisations and activities which can make a difference in these areas.

Ten years of grantmaking – cutting the pie



- Medical Research/Health 35%
- Arts & Culture 14%
- Community Development Advocacy 8%
- Community Services/Welfare 12%
- Disability 2%
- Education/Training/Employment 28%
- Environment 1%

A snapshot of grants over the past decade

In excess of 650 separate grants have been made since MCF was first established. Below is a brief outline of grants made in two of the major areas of interest of our donors – education and medical research.

Reducing the impact of breast cancer

New Idea magazine dedicated 1998 to increasing awareness and funding of breast cancer. As part of this, a fund was established with MCF and over the past nine years \$1.3 million has been raised and distributed for research and community assistance programs for women and their families affected by breast cancer.



At the time of establishing the fund, New Idea's then Publisher, Virginia Hodgson, said 'New Idea is committed to the challenge of fighting the disease through reducing the incidence and raising awareness of breast cancer. It's time we ended this epidemic'.

Scholarships and awards

MCF has funded a wide variety of scholarships and awards over its life. These have been directed to around 25 different organisations, including primary and secondary schools, tertiary institutions, community and music organisations. Overwhelmingly these scholarships and awards are directed to encourage and assist young people to continue their studies or develop their talent – many of whom would struggle to do this without the financial support provided.

Many of these scholarship programs have been supported more than once, with eight of them provided annually on an ongoing basis.

With the introduction of our new Scholarship Fund, MCF will now be able to more easily direct tax deductible donations to support scholarships based at primary and secondary schools or directed to specific individuals (see page 23 - for more details).

The next 10 years – building the knowledge hub

As MCF moves into its second decade we are more systematically collecting information about the organisations and activities we support, developing greater in-depth knowledge about the social policy areas in which we are undertaking our initiatives and identifying what works and what has lasting benefit. This will increase the effectiveness of our grantmaking and assist us in developing MCF's role as a 'knowledge hub' for its donors and the broader philanthropic community.

Through our strategic initiatives we have been encouraging our donors and others to fund collaboratively by building a pool of funds which can be directed to identified activities in the focus areas. In the coming year we will be exploring another exciting approach – to work with a group of not-for-profit organisations in a particular area (such as youth or the arts) to build an endowment fund, with grants provided by philanthropic organisations and individuals interested in contributing to the long-term sustainability of the organisations and their work.



Two of the recipient students of bursaries from the Towards a Just Society Sub-fund.



Money raised from the Tour de Cure was for research undertaken by the National Breast Cancer Foundation supported through the New Idea Breast Cancer Fund.