



INNER NORTH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

GRANTS SNAPSHOT- MYFUNDS 2024 - 2025





ABOUT THE INNER NORTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Founded in 2007, the Inner North Community Foundation is a local organisation that works for a better inner north community, starting with those who are not getting their fair share.

Fueled by community generosity—through one-time gifts, bequests, workplace giving, or family funds—every contribution matters. We take pride in our diverse community supporting local causes.

This report outlines one of our grant streams, the MyFund Grants from 2024-2025. Our approach is based on trust, and provides support to groups who understand their neighborhoods, have local credibility, and can respond swiftly.

We manage funds, connect people and ideas, and support local efforts to create a stronger, fairer community. Since inception, we've awarded over \$6.5 million to 300+ local projects while building long-term resources for future generations.



MYFUNDS

There are many ways to give and strengthen community in the inner north. This FY24 Snapshot provides an overview of community organisations creating value in many ways, supported by donors passionate about the places and causes of Melbourne's inner north.

There are currently over 30 MyFunds, and (generally) the Foundation manages donations so that their value grows over time and the interest earned is reinvested into the community. Annually, each MyFund allocates 4% of its total funds for distribution, ensuring the principal amount increases steadily to continuously support community needs.

This sustainable approach helps local organisations and charities thrive, contributing to a prosperous and vibrant inner north.



UPDATE

HOW IT WORKS

Inner North Community Foundation provides a simple and cost-effective way to support local, practical and community-based action toward positive change.

MyFunds can be flowthrough or endowed:

- Gifts of all sizes are pooled and invested
- Funds are managed ethically, and often with a view to preserve and grow the capital base
- An annual grant is then made to support community impact – year after year

There are multiple ways MyFunds are established and run. Some are

- Created by individuals and groups to respond to local needs at a particular time.
- Local groups such as The Social Studio and CERES Community Environment Park create agency funds that help the operational expenses of running a local charity now and in perpetuity.
- Some are thematic, giving either through a community grants round, or to one organisation the donor has a relationship with.

IN FY24, MYFUNDS DISTRIBUTED **\$94,497** ACROSS **28 PROJECTS** IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF DAREBIN, MERRI-BEK AND YARRA.

THANKS TO THE **GENEROSITY** OF LOCAL PEOPLE, THE PURPOSE AND IMPACT OF EACH MYFUND CAN LAST LIFETIMES.

THE INNER NORTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION EXISTS BECAUSE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY **TRUST** US TO STEWARD COMMUNITY GENEROSITY— TO DO IT WELL, AND FOR THE LONG HAUL.

PLEASE SEE A SNAPSHOT OF HOW LOCAL GROUPS TURNED GRANTS INTO **COMMUNITY VALUE** IN 2023/2024

ABORIGINES ADVANCEMENT LEAGUE & SAY THEIR NAME MYFUND

The Aborigines Advancement League (AAL) oversees programs which work to improve the social, economic, and cultural advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the inner north, including the Empowering Young Women program which strengthens cultural connections, particularly with young Aboriginal women.

The Say Their Name MyFund provides small annual grants to First Nations women and girls who live, work or study in Melbourne's inner northern suburbs so they can develop leadership skills and experience and strengthen their future employment and leadership prospects.



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<https://aal.org.au>

ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA & TERRY BRIAN KENNY MYFUND

Arts Project Australia is a creative social enterprise that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promotes their work and advocates for their inclusion in contemporary art practice.

Support from the Terry Brian Kenny MyFund contributes to Arts Project Australia empowering people with disabilities to present work in a professional manner so that these artists are accorded the same dignity and respect as their non-disabled peers.



<https://www.artsproject.org.au>

BANKSIA GARDENS & THE ROTARY CLUB OF PRESTON MYFUND

The Rotary Club of Preston works to promote peace, recognise diversity and provide educational and material aid for those in need. Banksia Gardens Community Services has provided over 40 years of service to communities in our area.

In 2024, the Rotary Club of Preston MyFund allocated funds to assist Banksia Gardens to deliver programs focusing on early childhood, education and training, gender equity, young people, environmental sustainability and community participation and advocacy.



<https://banksiagardens.org.au/>



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CARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE (CNLC) & H.O.P.E MYFUND

The Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC) delivers a broad range of programs and services which provide personal and social support to people in the local area who are experiencing poverty, financial stress, family violence and homelessness.

The H.O.P.E MyFund provided funding in 2024 to the CNLC's Open Door - a friendly community centre at the Carlton public housing estate that helps local migrants and refugees. This centre delivers social work and employment services and community development activities such as sewing classes, free food relief and English conversation groups.



<https://cnlc.org.au/open-door/>

CERES & CERES MYFUND

CERES is an environmental education centre, community garden, urban farm and social enterprise hub across four locations in Brunswick, Coburg and Preston, linked by the Merri and Darebin Creeks.

The CERES MyFund enables CERES to continue to collectively teach and build healthy ecosystems, resilient communities, regenerative food systems and local well-being economies for a sustainable future.



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<https://ceres.org.au/>

COMMUNITY BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA & NORTHSIDE MEDIA FUND MYFUND

Brunswick Voice is a volunteer-run, independent news outlet dedicated to publishing high-quality, public-interest journalism about news, events and people in Brunswick.

The Northside Media Fund was set up to ensure a future for local news in the inner north. Without access to local and independent news outlets, important local developments and issues go unreported and shared understandings of what is happening in our community disappears.

In 2024, the MyFund provided financial support to Brunswick Voice's expansion into Coburg, with support from the Breen Family Fund and other local donors.



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Brunswick Voice

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Second hockey club pitch to be located in Coburg

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Neighbours furious over cracks in their homes

MARK PHILLIPS

RESIDENTS living next to the new Harvest Square social housing development in Brunswick West are demanding compensation for permanent structural damage to their houses they claim was caused during construction.

But they say the state government and private developer AVJennings have both ignored their concerns.

At least three houses in Peacock Street all developed major cracking during the construction which residents blamed on stormwater flooding caused by the project coinciding with heavy ground works. The houses share a common stormwater pipe that flowed into a blocked pit on the Harvest Square site.

One resident, Richard Agar, claimed AVJennings, which was contracted by government agency Homes Victoria to deliver the new housing, has reneged on a promise to repair any damage.

AVJennings denies its construction works caused any damage as alleged, which it attributes to the impact of tree roots on the ageing postwar houses.

Agar's home is riddled with cracks inside and outside, including some which are wide and deep enough to fit all of his fingers inside.

He has estimated that repairing the damage would cost in excess of \$200,000 and force him and his partner to find alternative accommodation for months.

"It's been tragic, exhausting, depressing and disheartening," Agar said of his long battle to get AVJennings to pay for the repairs.

Similar cracks have appeared in other houses in the street.

A flagship project of the government agency Homes Victoria, Harvest Square is an \$86 million redevelopment of the Gronn Place public housing estate which has seen 82 dwellings replaced with 119 social homes and 50 apartments for the private market.

The first stage was completed in the middle of last year.

Agar and his partner Maree Meoli say their problems began in early-2020 with the demolition of Gronn Place.

Continued page 8 ►

Kamilaroi artist Reko Rennie was commissioned by Merri-bek Council to design a huge mural titled 'Always' at the new Balam Balam Place precinct.

Spectacular entrance to new arts and community hub in Brunswick

THE first thing most visitors to Brunswick's new \$30 million arts and community precinct will see is a huge colourful mural designed by renowned Kamilaroi artist Reko Rennie.

The mural, featuring the colours of the Aboriginal flag in a series of diamond shapes, was commissioned by Merri-bek Council for Balam Balam Place on the corner of Phoenix and Saxon streets, which has now opened for business.

Rennie said he wanted to convey a proud message of First Nations identity through the work and for it to act as a beacon for the community while paying homage to south-eastern Victorian Indigenous art.

The 10.6 m by 10m artwork wraps around the eastern wall of what is now known as The Steps at the entrance to Balam Balam Place facing in the direction of Sydney Road.

"[The mural] looks amazing," Rennie said. "It's a real honour to have something in the local community here."

Full report page 6 ►

IF YOU WANT CHANGE, VOTE FOR IT

- Cap rent increases & regulate the banks to lower mortgages
- Dental & mental health into Medicare, see the GP for free
- Make supermarket price gouging illegal
- No new coal & gas: real climate action
- Free Palestine, end the occupation

VOTE 1

SAMANTHA RATNAM

FOR WILLS

Authorised by M. Shield, The Greens, 50 Queen St Melbourne VIC 3000.

<https://brunswickvoice.com.au/>

DJIRRA & THE CRITICAL STEPS MYFUND

Djirra provides practical support to Aboriginal women, particularly those who have or are experiencing family violence. The work of this Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation is predominantly designed by and for Aboriginal women.

In 2024, the Critical Steps MyFund supported Koori Women's Place, a unique cultural program in Abbotsford which welcomes Aboriginal women to join in cultural, wellbeing and social activities, access practical support and connect with Djirra services provided by lawyers, case workers and counsellors.



FITZROY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB GIRLS PROGRAM & THE WOMEN IN NORTH RICHMOND (WINR) MYFUND

The Fitzroy Junior Football Club celebrated 10 years of girls footy in 2024, having started with just three teams in 2014. The Club has worked hard to successfully increase the number of girls having the opportunity to play footy.

The Women in North Richmond MyFund provided assistance to the continued development of the girls footy program.



<https://fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au/>



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INNER NORTHERN LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK (INLLEN) & JOBS FOR YOUTH MYFUND

The Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN) is an independent community organisation which builds partnerships and strategies to improve education, training, and employment outcomes for young people across Darebin, Merri-bek and Yarra.

The Jobs for Youth MyFund supported INLLEN's work in such areas as mentoring, job interview preparedness and structured workplace learning.



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FAWKNER NETBALL CLUB, NORTHCOTE JETS SPITFIRES, THE DAREBIN NETBALL ASSOCIATION & THE GETTING INTO SPORT MYFUND

The Getting into Sport MyFund was established in 2022 by a local resident, Jenny Vaughan, with the aim to increase the participation of women, girls, gender diverse and non-binary people in sporting activity in the inner north.

In 2023, the Fawkner Netball Club, Northcote Jets Spitfires and the Darebin Netball Association were supported with a grant of \$3,000 each year for two years.



KIDS' OWN PUBLISHING & THE WOMEN IN NORTH RICHMOND (WINR) MYFUND

Established in 2005 and working from the Abbotsford Convent, Kids' Own Publishing publishes books by kids, for kids in collaboration with local artists. The organisation's work seeks to promote literacy, creativity, confidence and connection through the strengths of children and their communities.

In 2024, the Women in North Richmond MyFund supported the publishing of stories by children in north Richmond.



MERRI OUTREACH SOCIAL SERVICES (MOSS) & THE FINDSTAFF MYFUND

The Merri Outreach Support Service (MOSS) began in 1988 when Darebin community members got together to support the end of homelessness in the local area.

One of the organisation's key programs is the Bright Futures - Homeless Children's Specialist Support Service which provides holistic case management and group work support to improve the social, emotional, educational and physical wellbeing of children and young people who have experienced homelessness and family violence.

The Findstaff MyFund provided the Bright Futures program with support in 2024.



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OPEN TABLE & SMALL STEPS, BIG IDEAS MYFUND

Making free fresh food available to people who need it across the inner north, Open Table brings people together while also reducing food waste and food insecurity.

In 2024, the small steps BIG IDEAS MyFund contributed to Open Table upgrading necessary infrastructure such as trolleys, van dash cams and pickling/preserve jars.



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<https://www.open-table.org/>

RICHMOND CHURCHES FOOD CENTRE EMERGENCY RELIEF & THE BROWN FAMILY BEQUEST MYFUND

For some 30 years, the Richmond Churches Food Centre – an ecumenical, grass roots initiative supported by the area's churches – has been providing food security for hundreds of people every week. The Food Centre is supported by FareShare, Second Bite, Food Bank, the City of Yarra, local food donations and dedicated volunteers.

The Brown Family Bequest MyFund provided financial support for the Centre's emergency relief at a time of growing demand.



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<https://richmond.unitingchurch.org.au/programs/richmond-hill-churches-food-centre/>

THE SOCIAL STUDIO & THE SOCIAL STUDIO MYFUND

The Social Studio is a not-for-profit social enterprise which uses fashion and creativity to create work and learning opportunities for Melbourne's refugee and new migrant communities.

The Social Studio MyFund generates annual grants for operational support. This model allows The Social Studio to continue making a difference in the lives of local people now and into the future.



<https://thesocialstudio.org/>

YOUTH PROJECTS LTD & THE NORM ANDERSON MYFUND

Working across the inner north, Youth Projects addresses the complex needs of many disadvantaged people, with services relating to employment, education, training, healthcare, mental health and harm reduction.

The Norm Anderson MyFund supported the organisation's Youth Northern Outreach Team (YNOT) carry out its harm minimisation work with young people dealing with addiction and other drug related concerns.



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<https://www.youthprojects.org.au/>

WEENTHUNGA & THE CRITICAL STEPS MYFUND

Weenthunga Health Network is a First Nations led network working to transform health practices and workforces by putting First Nations knowledge and two-way collaboration at the centre.

In 2024, the Critical Steps MyFund provided support to the network's Nyarrn-gakgo mangkie: Little Sis program which backs years 10-12 First Nations young women aspiring for health, wellbeing and healing careers. This MyFund was established to provide support which can significantly impact young First Nations people's journeys into adulthood.



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<https://weenthunga.com.au/home/>

EMERGENCY RELIEF VOUCHERS NORTHSIDE RELIEF MYFUND

This MyFund raises additional funds for local emergency relief and material aid providers in the inner north. The Melbourne Magistrates Court provides base funding, which is supplemented by local donations. Funds raised are allocated quarterly through a non-competitive granting process. Once registered, local organisations are selected at random for grants of between \$1000 and \$1500.

In 2024, the MyFund provided grants to Big Group Hug, The Community Grocer, CIS Merri-bek, Juno, St Vincent's de Paul Fawkner, Jika Jika Community Centre, Nourishing Neighbours, Carringbush Adult Education and the Aborigines Advancement League.



Want to know more?

Connect and get involved here -
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