

INNER NORTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Bakers Dozen Social Justice Fund Community Change Exchange 2025/26



BAKERS DOZEN SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Established through the legacy of Dr Christopher Baker and Kerri Hall, the Bakers Dozen Social Justice Fund supports initiatives that advance fairness, resilience, collaboration and community leadership across Melbourne's Inner North. The story of the Fund is one of learning to be generous – providing 13 loaves instead of 12. It has the twin aims of growing community generosity and building a more equitable society. At the heart of the Fund's work is a shared understanding of social justice, defined by the Bakers Dozen Community Advisory Panel as:

"Fairness and opportunities for all to shape and participate in social, economic, civic and cultural life. A socially just society is one of diversity and belonging. It reduces entrenched inequities in the distribution of resources and rights, promotes healing and understanding between people, and recognises the strengths and leadership of those silenced by inequity. Sustainable social justice also recognises the relationship between care for people and care for place."

COMMUNITY CHANGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Community Change Exchange pilot program brought together six organisations working across Melbourne’s inner north to consider what knowledge, stories and lessons should be shared with the community and future generations.

Launched by the Baker's Dozen Social Justice Fund in September 2025, the program provided each organisation with $20,000 to create an artefact through a series of facilitated workshops – resulting in artworks, publications, resources and recordings grounded in social justice and cultural leadership. Together, these artefacts reflect the voices and values that shape Melbourne’s inner north.



COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

The Fund is guided by a Community Advisory Panel of local leaders, practitioners and changemakers who bring deep connections and experience from across Melbourne's inner north. It helps determine how the Fund's resources are invested. Throughout the pilot, the Panel members played an important role in shaping the program and supporting participating organisations.

The 2025 Community Advisory Panel included Gerry Lyons, Jamal Ahmet, Professor Jo Barraket AM, Nick Tsiaris and Rebecca Haider.

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Aborigines Advancement League
Blak Pearl Studio
Bridge Darebin
Clothing The Gaps
Outer Urban Projects
3CR Radio Station
Weenthunga Health Network

ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT LEAGUE

For more than six decades, the Aborigines Advancement League has been a cornerstone of Aboriginal community life in Victoria. The organisation has played an enduring role in creating opportunities for Aboriginal people to come together, strengthen culture, advocate for change and shape their own futures.

Artefact: Treaty Record Book

The Aborigines Advancement League's artefact is a Treaty Record Book documenting the community's involvement in Victoria's Treaty journey since 2016.

Bringing together photographs, stories, reflections and historical records, the publication traces the relationships, conversations and collective efforts that have shaped this work over time.




ENTRY INTO STATEWIDE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS:
WE ARE READY
Declaration of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.
SEPTEMBER 2025
The Statewide Treaty Bill is introduced into Victorian Parliament.



BRIDGE DAREBIN

Bridge Darebin is a neighbourhood house and community organisation that has been part of the fabric of Preston and Thornbury since 1982. Through its programs, services and gathering spaces, it creates opportunities for people from all walks of life to find connection, build confidence and become more involved in their local community.

Artefact: Welcome to the Neighbourhood documentary

Bridge Darebin developed *Welcome to the Neighbourhood*, a short documentary-style film exploring its relationship with the communities of Preston, Thornbury and Melbourne's inner north. Building on an initial vision to capture the organisation's history and community stories, the film reflects on place, belonging and the role local community spaces play in shaping connected and inclusive neighbourhoods.

View the slideshow of the work in progress here.



BLAK PEARL STUDIO

Blak Pearl Studio is a First Nations-led creative practice that uses art and storytelling to work alongside communities whose experiences are often overlooked. Its approach is grounded in the belief that everyone has a story worth telling, and that creativity can create new ways for people to reflect on their experiences, connect with others and be recognised for who they are beyond the challenges they may face. Through long-term relationships and community-led practice, the studio creates opportunities for voices that are not always heard to shape the conversation.



Artefact: North Richmond Community Arts Program

Through the Community Change Exchange, Blak Pearl Studio continued a weekly art program for people accessing the Medically Supervised Injecting Room at North Richmond Community Health. Developed in partnership with the late Aunty Vivian Malo, the program provides a welcoming environment where participants can make art, share their stories and spend time together, with plans to showcase this work through future exhibitions. **View images of the workshops and some of the art here.**

OUTER URBAN PROJECTS

Outer Urban Projects is a community-engaged performing arts organisation that works with emerging artists and communities across Melbourne's north. Through theatre, storytelling and creative collaboration, it creates space for voices that are often overlooked, supporting artists to explore the social, cultural and political issues that shape their lives and communities.



Artefact: Poetry and Community Storytelling Project

Outer Urban Projects supported the creation of a collection of original poems centred on resistance and community storytelling in Melbourne's north. Drawing on personal histories, experiences of migration and encounters with systems of power, the works capture stories that are often absent from the public record, offering a powerful reflection on belonging, identity and everyday life in contemporary Melbourne.

Read two of the poems here:
The Good Citizens of Melbourne
Crossing Over to Myth

3CR RADIO STATION

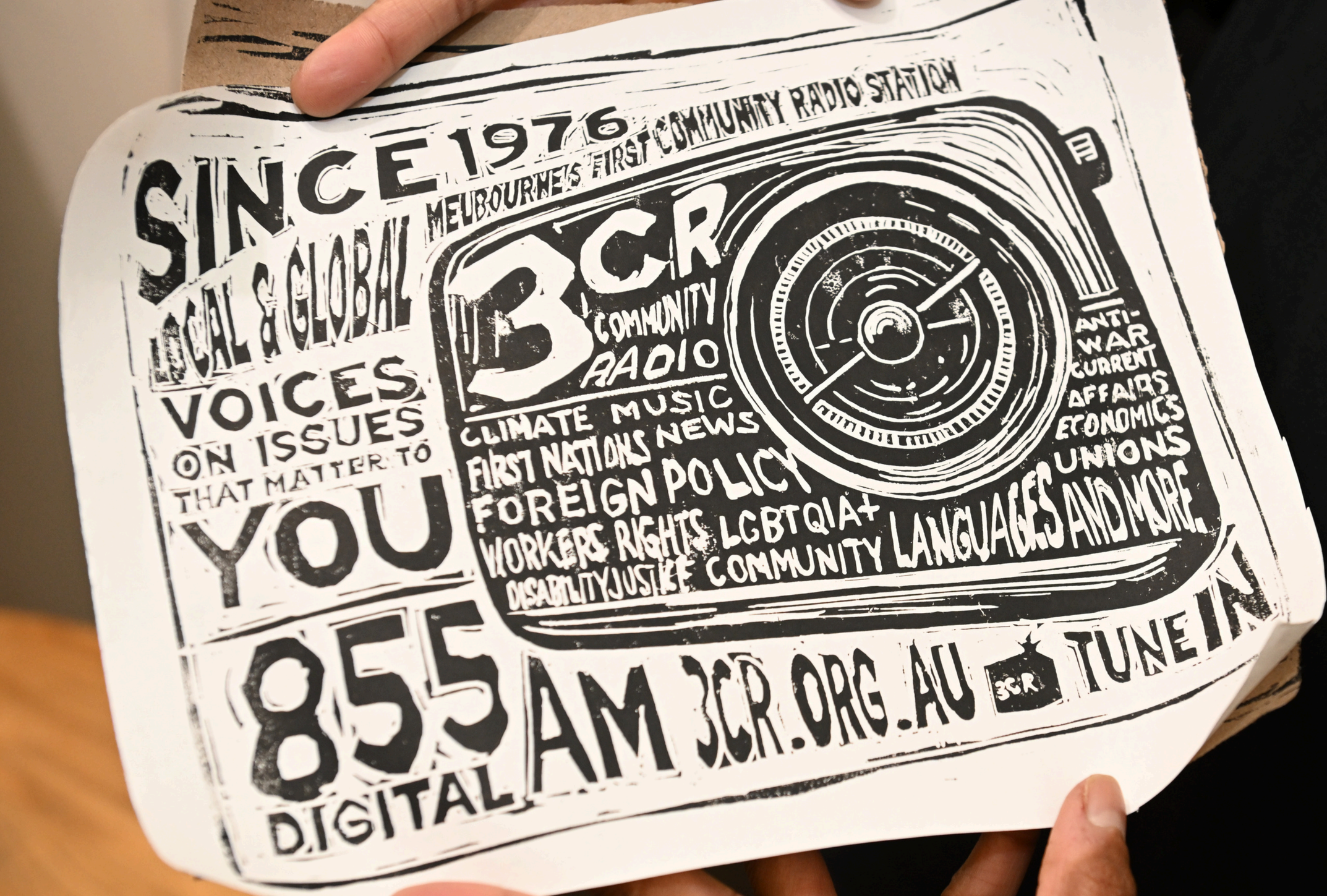
Founded in Fitzroy in 1976, 3CR Community Radio is an independent community broadcaster with deep roots in Melbourne's inner north. For five decades, the station has amplified grassroots voices, social justice movements and community perspectives, providing a platform for people and issues that are often overlooked by mainstream media.

Artefact: Community Media Archive Preservation Project

3CR Community Radio digitised and preserved historically significant community media archives to ensure their long-term accessibility. By safeguarding recordings that document decades of activism, community organising and social change, the project helps protect an important community resource while making these stories available to future generations.

View the digitised station magazines, which date back to 1977, here.




SINCE 1976
MELBOURNE'S FIRST COMMUNITY RADIO STATION
LOCAL & GLOBAL
VOICES
ON ISSUES
THAT MATTER TO
YOU
3CR
COMMUNITY
RADIO
CLIMATE MUSIC
FIRST NATIONS NEWS
FOREIGN POLICY
WORKERS RIGHTS LGBTQIA+
DISABILITY JUSTICE COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AND MORE
ANTI-
WAR
CURRENT
AFFAIRS
ECONOMICS
UNIONS
855
AM
DIGITAL
3CR.ORG.AU
3CR
TUNE IN



CLOTHING THE GAPS

Clothing The Gaps is an Aboriginal-led social enterprise that combines fashion, advocacy and storytelling to spark conversations about social justice and First Nations rights. Founded in Naarm, the organisation is known for campaigns that encourage people to engage more deeply with First Nations issues.

Artefact: Change the Date Podcast Series

Clothing The Gaps produced a podcast series and accompanying campaign materials exploring the history and significance of the Change the Date movement. Through conversations with campaigners, community leaders and advocates, the series examines how the movement has evolved over time while creating space for deeper understanding of the issues and experiences that continue to shape it.

Check out the podcast series here.



WEETHUNGA HEALTH NETWORK

Weenthunga Health Network is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation working to advance health sovereignty and health justice for First Nations people. With a membership of more than 300 First Nations health, wellbeing and healing professionals across Victoria, the organisation strengthens and connects the workforce while championing Indigenous-led approaches to care.

Artefact: Little Sis Retreat video

As part of the Community Change Exchange, Weenthunga Health Network developed a Little Sis Retreat video showcasing a culturally grounded wellbeing program for young First Nations girls and gender-diverse young people. The resource highlights the importance of spaces where young people can connect with culture and strengthen their sense of identity, while helping communicate the value of Indigenous-led approaches to health and wellbeing.

Watch a first iteration of the video here.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND LEARNINGS

Community connection and learning
Participants valued the opportunity to come together outside a traditional funding relationship and connect as peers. The program created space to share experiences, learn from one another and build a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing different communities.

Self-determination in practice
Participating First Nations organisations reflected that the program felt genuinely grounded in self-determination. The flexibility of the funding was particularly valued, enabling organisations to progress work that was important to their communities but not always supported through conventional funding streams.

Community leadership and guidance
Participants highlighted the importance of recognising lived experience, cultural knowledge and community leadership through the Community Advisory Panel. Feedback also emphasised the value of paid Aboriginalal leadership roles and opportunities for past participants to contribute to future iterations of the program.



Balancing openness and structure

Participants valued the program's openness and flexibility, particularly the space it created for relationship-building and collaboration. At the same time, there was recognition that greater clarity around roles, expectations and decision-making could strengthen future iterations.



Documenting and sharing the work

A key theme emerging from the program was the importance of documenting and sharing the work developed through the Exchange. Participants expressed strong support for showcasing stories, learnings and community impact in ways that remain accessible beyond the life of the pilot.



Resourcing and sustainability

Participants noted that increased funding could create greater opportunities and strengthen project outcomes while recognising that the current level of support provided a strong foundation. There was also recognition of the Foundation's role in connecting organisations with other funding and philanthropic partners.



Relationships

The program strengthened relationships between participating organisations and deepened connections with the Foundation. Participants reflected on increased trust, a greater understanding of each other's work, and new relationships that may continue beyond the program.

WHAT'S NEXT?

As this year's program comes to a close, participants will have the opportunity to nominate others who they believe could benefit from being involved next year. If you'd like to learn more about donating to the Fund or have a question about the program, please get in touch with Bianca or Ben from the Inner North Community Foundation.

INNER NORTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Inner North Community Foundation works for a better inner north community – starting with those not getting their fair share.

It does this by stewarding funds, making grants and bringing people together. The Foundation believes people in the inner north have the knowledge, skills and experience to lead change on their own terms. When people and groups contribute their time, talent, treasure and ties in ways that deepen relationships, impact grows.

The Foundation has been part of the community for 19 years and plans to be here for decades to come.

Want to know more?

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