

annual REPORT

2012 – 2013 Les Twentyman's

20TH
man
FUND





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chairman's REPORT

In our 29th year of support for youth services in the West of Melbourne, the 20th Man Fund is more robust and actively involved in youth work than ever before.

We have grown to an organisation employing six full time and three part time staff, supporting many youth and homeless needs in the community.

One of the priorities for the year ahead is to consolidate our partnerships, fund-raising and business development. To lead this area we welcome experienced director Wayne Owens. I encourage anyone with ideas of support to make contact with him.

I warmly welcome another full-time member of our team who has joined us in the last year –Richard Tregear, Manager of Youth Support Services.

Jim Markovski and, Adriana Pugliese continue to provide invaluable support to the area's young people. Jim, who also leads our Redskins basketball club in Braybrook, has instituted many outstanding youth leadership programs in addition to providing the guidance to the Redskins, home of around 450 young players. Together with Office Manager, Bronwyn Percival, and Les Twentyman OAM, they form a formidable team.

Other invaluable contributors are Bianca Mancuso, running the homework program, and My Tran tirelessly running the back-to-school program. Together with a number of dedicated volunteers the 20th Man Fund continues to deliver.

During the year, Dr John Sherman and Penelope Vallentine retired from our board. Penelope has been a wonderful secretary over the past four years and I congratulate her on her role as one of the most outspoken advocates for youth affairs and I thank her sincerely for her dedicated assistance.

I wish to thank incoming secretary Jenny McCrabb for taking over the role. To the rest of our dedicated board members, I thank-you for your unwavering commitment.

Congratulations to Les Twentyman, our founder and public face. A real ideas man (and tireless sender of text messages), Les never stops giving back to those in need.

Finally it cannot be overstated that without the valued contributions from our loyal donors, The Department of Human Services, philanthropic partners and supporters who are listed at the end of this report, we would not have come this far and have such an exciting, healthy future.

I would like to particularly thank: LePine Funerals, Brighton Rotary, Paul Wheelton OAM, Chris Byrne of Westpoint Ford, Clive Smith from Deutsche Bank and John Mousaferiadis of Pelican's Landing. Together with our Young Ambassadors and sporting identities these supporters give generously of their time and funds and without their assistance we could not deliver our many services.

Thank you one and all and please take a moment to reflect on the importance of the work done by The 20th Man Fund. We need every bit of financial help we can get to keep making a difference in lives of young people who need it. They are our future and society will judge us by how well we care for them.



Dr David Young

MIX rising youth unemployment and homelessness with growing gang violence and a deadly drug called ICE, and you have a lethal cocktail.

A disturbing surge in substance abuse by teenagers, and increasing school suspensions are among the challenges faced by our small, but dedicated team in 2013. Truancy is still rife in the West and many other suburbs, with a rise in crimes committed by school-age kids during school hours.

Of major concern is the spike in the use of Crystal Methamphetamine (ICE) by youths living in our suburbs and regional cities. Unlike some other drugs, ICE makes users extremely violent and aggressive, so we are witnessing increasing mayhem on our streets and a big leap in ambulance call-outs that takes its toll on paramedics and over-worked hospital staff. This makes our job even harder.

Truancy, suspensions and school-age crime prompted us to run a Forum on Youth Crime (at the Caroline Springs Regional Catholic College) earlier this year. Speakers included Bob Falconer, former Police Commissioner and a 20th Man fund board member, Supt. Pat Boyle of the Crime Department, Carlton footballer Heath Scotland and Abselom Nega from IEmpower and the African community.

Recent speaking engagements have taken me to Echuca, Rochester, Bendigo and Maryborough, where communities are also experiencing huge problems with the lethal drug ICE. One Bendigo mum got up and said her two eldest boys had “got into” the drug. The eldest consequently developed severe mental health issues and her five younger kids live in fear of their older brothers.

When I spoke to 60 young prisoners at the Ravenhall Remand Centre and asked how many were kicked out of school, the answer was “all of them”. How many of them had been into drugs? All of them! And they have gangs in jail too.

Turning young lives around

This is why we are doing our best, with limited resources, to help turn some of these young lives around. Our Back to School program supports disadvantaged families with textbooks and travel cards for kids at risk. Our Redskins Basketball and Youth Leadership program helps develop positive role models and turn some of our at-risk youths into leaders. The Saturday School we support has been embraced by young African refugees keen to improve their education and career opportunities.

About 300 disadvantaged kids received help with school books and travel expenses via our Back to School program earlier this year thanks to generous funding received by The Gandel Charitable Trust, Brighton Rotary and The Marian & EH Flack Trust. Of these 300, 55 indigenous kids and others under the Refugee Minors Program were referred to us by the Department of Human Services and their social workers. Books and travel cards were picked up from our centre in Hopkins St, Footscray.

The Saturday School for African kids at Flemington Secondary College was made possible by a grant from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. It's for youths who want to do extra study. It's been going for three years and we've been involved for the past 12 months. It runs from 9am to 1pm, and we've taken many of the kids to the football. We go there and engage with the kids.

None of these positive outcomes would happen without the support of the State Government and Department of Human Services who fund two of our three fulltime youth workers in the western suburbs. Our thanks also to former Premiers John Brumby, Ted Baillieu and Local Member Marsha Thomson for their early support.

The 20th Man Fund, its dedicated staff and successful programs could not exist without our generous sponsors and experienced board of directors so capably led by our Chairman, Melbourne orthopaedic surgeon and philanthropist, Dr David Young.

Our dedicated team

THE 20th Man fund Inc. is fortunate enough to have some of the most experienced youth workers in Australia working at the coal face to lift esteem and provide support for some of our most at-risk youths.

RICHARD TREGEAR has about 40 years experience as a youth worker, primarily in Melbourne's West. Richard manages our Youth Support Service, runs our Back to School program and does Outreach work.

Richard was Australia's first CYSS (Commonwealth Youth Support Scheme) worker back in the early 1970s, making him one of the most experienced youth workers in the country.

Richard oversees the work of 20th Man colleagues Jim Markovski and Adriana Pugliese as well as attending regular regional meetings called by the Department of Human Services.

JIM MARKOVSKI has worked with Richard and me at Open Family and is one of the most respected youth workers in Victoria. He has spent the past 25 years working with youth in the western suburbs.

Jim runs our successful Redskins Basketball and Youth Leadership program in Braybrook, where we support and mentor at least 480 kids from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Like Richard, he is constantly on call to help families at risk.

ADRIANA PUGLIESE joined us two years ago and works with young people aged 10 to 17 referred to us by Police Victoria. Adriana helped to set-up a homework program for youths at risk and attends all our fundraisers. She also provided beautiful home-made cakes at the Lions' Trivia Night in Yarraville that raised money for our work. Adriana also assists young people on work experience who are wanting to become youth workers.

WAYNE OWENS joined us this year as Community Engagement Manager. Wayne has brought fresh energy and vitality to our organisation. He works well with everybody and organised our recent Charity Golf Day. Wayne has also made video clips for YouTube to raise awareness of our organisation and attract more funds. Wayne has been working hard on our partnerships and business growth as well as adding value to existing and future events & activities. He is very keen to increase our database and network of sponsors and supporters.

BRONWYN PERCIVAL is the first point of contact for most people contacting me or the 20th Man Fund. Apart from that, Bronwyn organises my busy diary, is a member of our Gala sub-committee and does much of the work setting up rooms and venues for our events and fundraisers. Bronwyn is constantly answering calls to the 20th Man Fund offices and we always get good feedback about the work Bronwyn does. She also worked at Open Family with Richard, Jim and I.

GUM MAMUR is another one of our success stories. A Sudanese refugee, he has been mentored and sponsored by Dr David Young and the 20thMan Fund. Now we pay Gum a part-time wage to coach basketball for the Redskins in Braybrook and assist Jim with the Leadership Group.

message from our founder LES TWENTYMAN *OAM*



so many to thank!

WE are blessed to have some generous sponsors who support the crucial work we do to build a better community. Our biggest benefactor to date has been His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who donated a significant amount of money two years ago to help our cause.

We are still using that money to help disadvantaged youths and families.

A big thankyou also to Chris Byrne of Westpoint Ford, who sponsors the car I drive. Chris also sponsored our Learn to Surf Day in Anglesea, donated 80 skateboards as Christmas presents for kids, and sponsored a youth to the U.S. on a basketball scholarship.

Thanks also to John Shore of Ray White Real Estate, who organised the Op Shop Ball that raised \$15,000 for us in May. Dennis Walter was MC and people wore clothes they bought in Op Shops.

Thanks to John Fowler and Le Pine Funerals for their continued support and our CSA on Radio 3AW on knives and cyber bullying, and to Sandringham Football Club who hosted a lunchtime fundraiser for us.

Another big thankyou to David Parkin OAM, Doug Hawkins, Rodney Hogg, Heath Scotland, Rodney Eade, Danny Corcoran and Brad Hardie who spoke at the Sportsmen's Lunches we held at Pelican's Landing restaurant in Williamstown. And our appreciation goes to John Mousaferiadis for making "Pelican's Landing" available.

Brighton Rotary Club raised \$10,000 for us with their Great Australia Day Swim and sports dinner. The Footscray Lions' Trivia Night raised \$5000. Thanks also to Laverton-Point Cook Rotary Club who raised \$5000 from their Sports Night featuring Russell Mark, Russell Gilbert and Anthony Koutafides.

Lazy Moe's in Maribyrnong hosted and sponsored our Kids' Christmas party again. Our thanks to Adam and Josie Fiteni, who provide the venue at no cost.

Ian Mence and Peter Sherman from Brighton Rotary attended.

And the Rotary Club of Point Gellibrand (Ron Coleman's club) sponsored 60 kids to go on a Leadership Camp at Rotary's Camp Getaway, near Bendigo.

Last year's Gala Dinner raised about \$30,000 for our Fund. Thanks to Lucy Gale, Moondance Band, Channel Nine's Alicia Loxley, Angry Anderson, Tabasco Brothers, and speed painter Brad Blaze. Our Woodlands Golf Day, organised by Wayne Owens, raised \$10,000, with attendance by Sam Newman, Doug Hawkins and Rodney Hogg.

Merv Hughes, Rodney Hogg, Kieran Atkins, Greg Davies from Police Association, Geoff Bannister, McDonalds Footscray, Ken Stone, Footscray Edgewater Cricket Club, Heath Scotland, Carlton Football Club and Fare Share supported our Kids vs Cops Cricket Day in Footscray. And Sophie Trpcevski from the Goal Spot for Women, trainer Tony Vasil and 3AW's Caroline Ferguson gave their time at our Oaks Day Breakfast in Footscray, which raised about \$5000. Horse racing mogul Lloyd Williams gave us a donation after Green Moon won the Melbourne Cup.

Thanks to Peter and Michelle Anderson of LMA for lending office space for our Leadership nights. And to all the commercial TV channels for running our 20th Man ads. Randal Killip has been a great help writing press releases and monitoring media.

And Wayne Dyson of Bridgeworks sponsored our Off the Streets and Into Life program for street kids and those at risk.

Thanks to Horace Wansbrough, Paul Bird and the staff at YSAS. Thank you also to Prue Blackmore from DHS.

Sam Newman came to Footscray to help us hand-out hampers at Christmas.

Our thanks also to lawyers Dennis Galimberti, Rob Stary, Stuart Gibson, Dennis Tomaras and David Galbally QC for their support.

-- Les Twentyman OAM

meet our BOARD

20th Man Fund is
fortunate
to have a
committed
team of local
board members

Chairman

Dr. David Young

Vice Chairman

Ron Coleman, former owner Western Times newspaper

Treasurer

Craig Trusler, Accountant/CPA

Secretary

Penelope Vallentine, Dept of Treasury & Finance - Outgoing
Jennifer McCrabb, - Incoming

Committee Members

Bob Falconer APM, former Police Commissioner,
Chairman STOPline Pty Ltd.

Michael Good, Director, Blue Ant Communications

Carol Zammit

Julia Quixley



Left to right : Craig Trusler, Julie Quixley, David Young, Les Twentyman, Ron Coleman, Bob Falconer, Jennifer McCrabb, Michael Good / "Absent" - Penelope Vallentine, Carol Zammit.



our Mission

Every child, young person and family has the right to a safe environment to live, as well as a positive future free of the constant threat of poverty, abuse, neglect and discrimination.

20th Man Fund's main aim is to make this possible for the more disadvantaged younger members of our community, offering assisted access to education, training and employment opportunities.

It is our aim to reconnect young people who have suffered greatly due to financial hardship, discrimination, and exposure to drugs and violence within their local communities, be it through the assistance needed to stay in school, or in helping them find employment.

Our programs assist in helping young people to develop a sense of self worth, confidence in their abilities, belief in themselves that they are good enough and deserve a chance at a better future, as well as teaching them necessary skills to help them grow into well adjusted adults.

Through a variety of programs made possible by the financial support of our sponsors, 20th Man Fund Inc. works hard to connect disadvantaged young people to opportunities that provide skills, which help them to create a brighter future. In many cases, teaching them how to break the cycle of poverty, abuse, drugs and violence is the key to helping them learn that anything is possible with support, and if they are committed to wanting to improve their lives.

What we do?

Since the early 1980s 20th Man Fund Inc. has been lending support to the youth of Victoria, predominantly in Melbourne's western suburbs.

For over thirty years 20th Man Fund Inc. has served the community, providing educational, sporting and counseling programs and services to some of the most disadvantaged members of our society... our young people.

This has been successful significantly in part to our founder, Les Twentyman OAM, who has spent his life dedicated to helping young people achieve a better chance at life.

Through our community connections and networks, as well as the continued generosity of our sponsors, we help link young people to education, training and employment opportunities.

We enjoy a high level of local, community, corporate, philanthropic and individual support to keep ongoing programs like Back To School, Redskins Basketball Club and the Children's Christmas party running effectively, as well as providing new initiatives such as the H2Go Homework program and the Saturday School program in Flemington.

Our Community sponsors help us provide greater variety in the different experiences we are able to offer young people, with organisations such as Westpoint Ford who fund four day outings per year, as well as our annual Go Ride A Wave day. Motor One continues to sponsor our very popular and successful Young Leadership Program camps.

We act as advocates on behalf of these members of society, giving them a voice, with the goal to reconnect young people with family, community and society.

We provide safe environments and mentors to help young people learn, grow and develop important life skills, which empower them, constantly demonstrating that despite all odds anything is possible if you know how.

Our organisation serves the community in a variety of ways, playing a crucial role in the successive waves of new migration, contributing to the successful integration of these communities into mainstream Australian culture.



L-R Vedran Drakulic from Gandel Philanthropy, Les Twentyman, author Alice Pung, Carlton's Heath Scotland, Sunshine College Student Welfare Coordinator Alan Dalton and lawyer Robert Stary launch the 2013 Back to School Program



OUR programs



BACK to school

It has been another successful year for our Back to School Program despite the slow start on the first morning of 21st January this year, with participant numbers quickly growing. The Programs volunteers were kept busy until the funds ran out in March.

In the first week alone, 80 students had participated in the program, \$14,000 worth of book vouchers were given out, in addition to approximately \$10,000 worth of second hand books from the Back to School library.

The official launch of the program took place on 5th February, at which special guests spoke of the importance of the program within the local communities. Author Alice Pung recalled how so many of her school friends growing up in Braybrook were helped by Les, and spoke of the importance of books and reading. Alan Dalton, Student Welfare Coordinator at Sunshine College said that the Back to School Program had often been the "tipping point" in kids remaining in school who were on the verge of dropping out due to the lack of funds for textbooks. Lawyer Robert Stary pointed out that the best way of keeping young people out of the Juvenile Justice system is to keep them in school.

Since it's inception in 1989 the Back To School Program has helped 11,000 young people in financial difficulty stay in school, and a further 250 students through to the completion of University education.

This year the program has assisted 233 students from 70 schools across Melbourne, coming from 31 different cultural backgrounds.

Over the years, 20th Man Fund has witnessed a shift in the cultural groups who have sought our help. Initially, Vietnamese students were the most predominate group seeking our help, followed by Somalias, Eritrean, Ethiopian, and Sudanese. This year for the first time the largest single cultural group accessing the program were indigenous students.

We would like to thank the generous support of the major sponsors of our Back to School Program Gandel Philanthropy, The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust, Brighton Rotary and CFMEU members. It's because of the generous support of our sponsors that we were able to run this program so successfully, and help as many students as we do.

We acknowledge the kindness of David Strange and Jim Hoy, who are currently sponsoring students through Yrs. 11 and 12, which is significantly easing the financial pressure on the families of these students.

The Edgewater Community Association has kindly donated \$500 towards MYKI travel for students, Hockey Australia donated nine computers, and Penguin books supported the Program with a donation of books from the VCE textbook list.

To all our sponsors and volunteers, we thank you very for your much needed support and generosity.

Also, we acknowledge and thank the work of 20th Man Fund Outreach Worker Richard Tregear, May Do and the team of volunteers at 131b Hopkins Street, Footscray. Their dedication and commitment to helping young people keeps the program alive and flourishing.



Built upon the solid foundations laid from its inception in 1996, The Redskins Basketball Club is still running successfully today. The Club facilitates individual personal growth, building of self-confidence, and the development of teamwork skills. The program volunteers provide valuable support to all players on and off the court.

The 2012/2013 summer season was a very successful one for our Redskins Basketball Club, winning 11 championships and 10 runners up trophies. In the junior competition, the Club won 9 out of the 20 championships - under 10 mixed, under 12, 14, 16 and 18 A and B grade girls' trophies, and in the boys the under 10, 12 and 16 Championship trophies respectively. Twenty junior teams participated in the 15 finals series with 9 teams successfully winning championships along with 11 runners up. In the senior competition both our women's teams won a further 2 Championships.

The Redskins Basketball Club would like to sincerely thank the following benefactors and supporters over the past year: -

- Mr. Clive Smith - International Advisor Deutsche Bank AG
- William Buckland Foundation
- MotorOne
- The Trustees - Estate of the Late Edward Wilson
- The Twentieth Man Fund Inc.,
- Dr. David Young
- Rotary Club of Point Gellibrand
- Williamstown Charters
- Go ride a Wave and Lazy Moe's restaurant

The continued support of our benefactors makes it possible for the 20th Man Fund Inc. to help many children participate in physical, challenging and recreational activities in a safe environment. Providing opportunities that would otherwise not have been accessible to these members of our communities.

redskins Basketball club

Built upon the solid foundations laid from its inception in 1996, The Redskins Basketball Club is still running successfully today. The Club facilitates individual personal growth, building of self-confidence, and the development of teamwork skills. The program volunteers provide valuable support to all players on and off the court. The 2012/2013 summer season was a very successful one for our Redskins Basketball Club, winning 11 championships and 10 runners up trophies.



Children's christmas party

Once again, Adam and Jodie Fiteni of Lazy Moes in Gordon St, Maribyrnong, hosted our annual Children's Christmas party for Western suburbs families.

Support from our local community continues to make this Christmas Party the fun day it is for all who attend.

The Christmas party, now in its 17th year, started from humble beginnings when Les Twentyman and Ron Coleman identified a number of children from the local community hanging around the streets during Christmas school holidays. When Les and Ron approached the kids, they discovered they had nowhere else to go, and had no plans for how they would spend Christmas day.

For many who attend, this is the only Christmas celebration they take part in, and it gives us such joy to see the happiness it brings them. It's a rare chance for the young people to have fun and forget about the harsh realities of their lives. It's an opportunity for them to be exactly who they are... young people who have suffered more than some experience in a lifetime.

Our supporters generously provide food and drinks, as well as a Christmas gift for all 60+ children in attendance.

Christmas Day in Maddern Square was again another successful event within our Christmas program. A willing group of volunteers cooked brunch or delivered food hampers provided by Crown Casino to many families, before heading off to enjoy the rest of their Christmas Day celebrations.



young Leadership program

This year's program was aimed at younger people aged 11 to 14 years of age showing the potential to become young leaders not only in the Redskins but also in their local community.

The main emphasis of this year's program is to offer life changing, extreme and challenging experiences resulting in personal growth and confidence. It will endeavour to see all the participants gain an increase in self worth and confidence within themselves in public speaking and have the self-belief to achieve positive results within their lives. The program targets 30 young people from various backgrounds who lack self-esteem and self worth within mainstream society due to their personal, social, financial and ethnic circumstances. Eligibility into the program involves participants undertaking a formal application process followed by an interview process.

Program structure

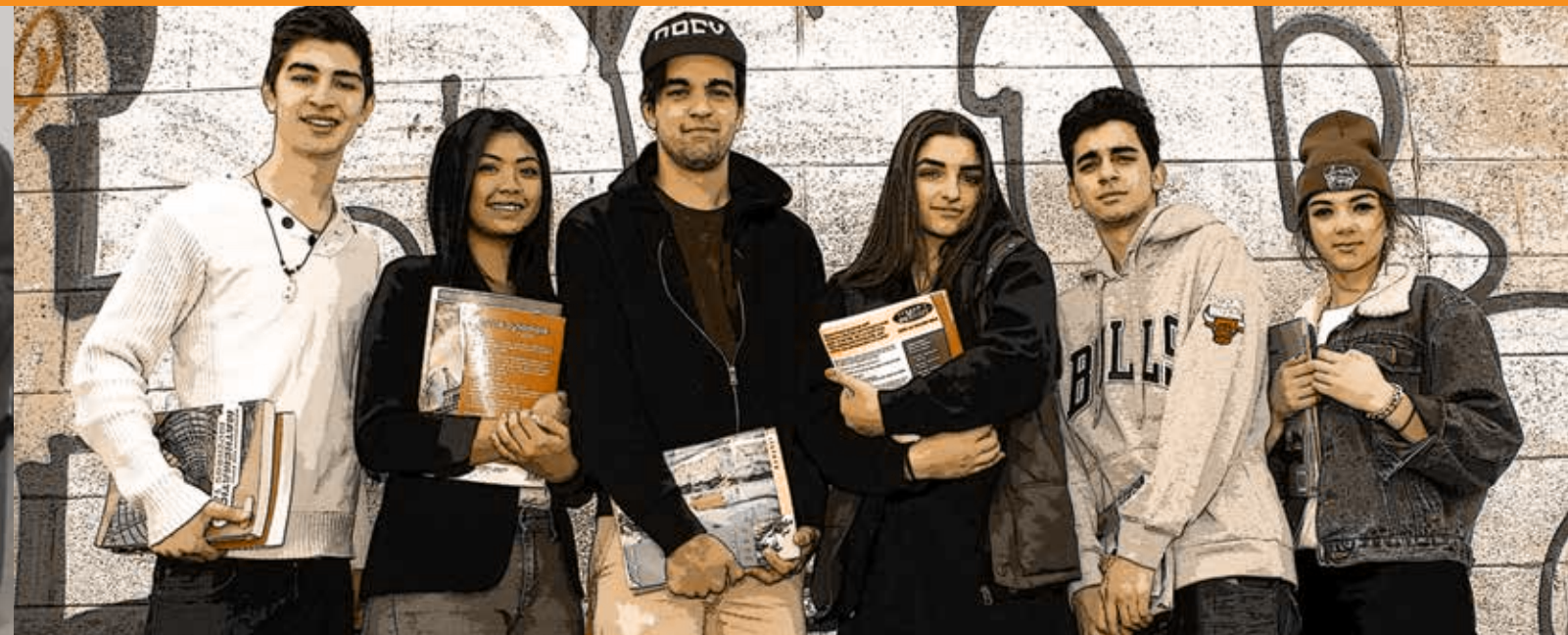
Upon arrival at all workshops participants share a meal together, which is always a great way to break the ice, putting everyone at ease. The meal is followed by participation in various activities. Between 3 to 4 participants share with the group their "my life" story. For some it is the first time they are able to openly speak about their own personal backgrounds and circumstances.

A guest speaker then presents to the group allowing for question and answer time. Evaluations of the workshops are conducted at the close of the night, helping us to continuously improve and update the program to ensure the needs of young people are always at the forefront of the program's objectives.

At the conclusion of the year, the participants themselves organise an end of year graduation evening where they present a pictorial summary of their experience of the program to their peers and invited guests.

The presentation bears testimony to how far they have come in the space of a year.

Some of the young participants of the program, who were initially too shy to speak in front of an audience, have now put themselves out there, applying for overseas exchange programs and scholarships.



Saturday school

Flemington Primary Tutorial Hub Project Progress Report

In October 2012, the 20th Man Fund received a grant of \$20,000 from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

The aim of the grant is to allow those children on the waiting list to access the Saturday School program, providing additional places to families who want to, but cannot afford to send all of their children to the program, to provide more resources in the form of text books, stationery, computers and storage units as well as access to the internet at Flemington Primary School

So far in 2013, eleven new students from our waiting lists have been able to access the program each Saturday, with six families being able to send additional children along to school with the subsidy we offer.

With the continuing popularity of the Saturday School program, came the need for more space, so the committee of management began the search for alternative premises. A new location was secured at a slightly reduced rental price, providing access to bigger rooms allowing for an increase in the number of places we can offer, as well as internet and computer access.

We thank the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation sincerely for this generous grant, which has already benefited so many children who require assistance with their education. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the selfless team of voluntary tutors. Led by Dr Bruce Collier, our volunteers give so generously of their time to help these students get the most out of their education.

H2Go program



The H2Go (Homework 2 Go) program is a joint initiative of the 20th Man Fund, Brighton Rotary and the West Footscray Library.

The pilot program commenced in August 2011, and provides homework support to secondary school students living or studying in the Maribyrnong local government area. The aim is to assist young people, particularly those from CALD backgrounds, to remain engaged with their education, and to provide students with an environment conducive to study where they can access immediate support with their schoolwork.

Secondary schools, libraries and youth services in the region were given information and promotional material about the program and students were encouraged to register their interest. We offered a rolling intake throughout Term 3, and at present there are approximately nine students who regularly attend.

Students are supported by a dedicated group of volunteer tutors, who generously spend an afternoon each week tutoring students in Maths, English, History, Legal Studies, Psychology and Science. Most tutors are currently completing their studies in teaching, or have plans to move into teaching in the future.

H2Go provides students with the opportunity to meet young people living in their local area and to share ideas and knowledge with each other.



changing lives

Lucy* is 17 years old and was living with her mother and two brothers when 20th Man Fund first met her. At the time,

Lucy was experiencing significant family breakdown and had an often strained relationship with her mother, leading to domestic disputes often requiring police attendance. Both Lucy and her mother have an intellectual disability, and Lucy had been in contact with child protection most of her childhood. She was removed from her father's care and placed with her mother when she was aged 14 due to her father's mental health issues.

Due to her difficult family life, Lucy struggled to commit to mainstream education and attended an alternative education program instead, which offered greater flexibility. Lucy also frequently turned to drugs and alcohol to cope with her feelings and had a history of self-harm and suicide ideation. Since connecting with her 20th Man Fund case manager, Lucy has thrived. She was assisted with accessing public housing and has moved into a youth refuge, she was also linked in to financial support and has learnt valuable independent living skills. Lucy has reported feeling much happier and settled and there have been no further incidences of self-harm. She has been assisted in gaining her learner driver permit, something she had hoped

to achieve for some time. Lucy continues to attend her education program and staff have given positive feedback on her progress, labelling her 'the star of the school'. Lucy has obtained casual employment in office administration, has reduced her use of drugs and alcohol and is working towards her goal of living independently in future and providing for herself. She has a much more positive outlook on life and knows that with the continued support of her case manager, she can move beyond the setbacks of the past and look forward to the possibilities that await.

Message from Shane, a student who has been the recipient of a sponsorship from Mr. Jim Hoy

"I am writing to thank you for your generous donation. I am very appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. I am a Year 11 high school student who is trying to prepare for his future but I have numerous financial and family problems. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal. You have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the important aspects of life. Your generosity has inspired me to become a better person and be more motivated in life." Shane

youth Support service

The Youth Support Service (YSS), now in its third year, maintains three specialist Youth Support Workers: - Jim Markovski , Richard Tregear & Adriana Pugliese.

Funded by the Department of Human Services, Victoria Police directly refer young people aged 10-17 into the program within the Cities of Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley and Hobson's Bay. Working closely with local primary and secondary colleges, police and youth service providers, the YSS team engages with young people and assists them to reconnect with their families and local community. The Youth Support Service continues to be the flagship of our work, as our

dedicated team works intensively supporting many young people who regularly frequent the streets, having either been disconnected from education, employment, their families or their community. The YSS focus is on offering support to young people through either generalist counselling or connecting them into our wellbeing programs; such as Homework Club, Redskins Basketball Club or Leadership programs, as well as other community-based programs and services. YSS workers sit on various local committees and engage in public speaking through professional, educational and community groups. Each YSS worker has up to 13 intensive clients they are supporting at any one time. In excess of 125 young people have been supported by the YSS since its inception. Lack of education support is of huge concern to the YSS team as young people tend to congregate in public spaces if not engaged in any formal training or employment. The team have

noted that the longer young people are not linked into support services, the more they risk coming to the attention of the police. Of equal concern are the rates of domestic violence within the community, including young people themselves being the perpetrators of violence within the home. There have been many success stories to come out of the YSS Program, including one young person who was successful at gaining employment at a local supermarket after being unemployed and out of school for eight months. Another young person was supported through a scholarship offered by a 20th Man Fund supporter, which covered the costs associated with his schooling for the year, as well as a gym membership to address his health and wellbeing.

For further information about the Youth Support Service or to request an information brochure, please call Bronwyn Percival on (03) 9689 4800, Mobile 0406 535 373 or email bronwyn@20thman.com.au



Sera's story

My name is Sera & I am pleased to share with you my life's journey to date.

I thought my life would be different growing up without my dad, as my parents divorced when I was 2 years old. Jim Markovski and Richard Tregear from the 20th Man Fund had been my family's social / youth worker's since I was 6 years old. However, my life completely changed when my mum passed away in 2002 from cancer when I was 12 years old. Richard, Jim and the 20th Man Fund staff become more prominent in my life with ongoing and continued support ensuring we didn't go without. My oldest brother, Kha become my legal guardian but eventually abandoned me about 2 years later. Kha had a fight with my 2nd oldest brother Nasa, who kicked him out of the house leaving me alone for 2 weeks without any contact and support. As Kha was away, I called Nasa informing him that Kha has not

been home and I have been alone. When Nasa came home, we eventually found out that we were up for eviction due to Kha not paying the rent for the past month. Who else but Les Twentyman got in contact with the media? From there we had an article featured in the Herald Sun and we received numerous donation offers from the public. The housing commission cleared the rent and allowed Nasa to be the tenant as well as becoming my legal Guardian. While my brothers were basically not at home, I kept on focusing on my education and going to school. I'm glad to say that I would not have been able to attend school without the help of the "Back to School Program" which is funded by the 20th Man Fund. Also, by appearing in the Herald Sun, I met a wonderful person, Betty McLauren in which she contacted the "Back to School Program" in order to privately fund me throughout my education. I also received ongoing support from Jim Markovski who helped me connect with "MotorOne" as they annually granted me a scholarship for education & personal use, such as utility bills and living expenses. And yes, I did play basketball for the Redskins Basketball Club. Throughout this journey I was actually self-caring and living independently because both my brothers were heavy drug users. Even though I grew up in an environment of drug abuse, I steered

clear and focused on what was best for me and kept going to school and playing basketball with redskins to relax and stay focused, I aimed for a brighter future for myself. The main reason why I attended school and played basketball was to be away from home, where I knew my brother's were taking drugs with their friends in the room right next to mine. I could not have done my whole education without the generous financial help of the 20th Man Fund, MotorOne and private grants. My education, living expenses and basketball were totally funded throughout my schooling even up until my university graduation day. I could not be more thankful and grateful to everyone who has helped me reach a better future for myself. I am happy to say that I have graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing and I could not have done this without the support of everybody. It just goes to show what can be done if you intervene in a person's life early enough and give them unconditional support wherever and whenever. The 20th Man Staff did this; they were always available to meet all our needs ensuring we were supported. Once again, with the greatest gratitude from my heart, thank you to Richard, Jim, Les and the 20th Man Fund. Along with Betty and MotorOne.

Fundraising events

2012 Oaks Day Breakfast

Our first Oaks Day breakfast was held at Maribyrnong Reception Centre, across the river from Flemington racecourse. Sophie Trpceviski, CEO of The Goal Spot For Women was our guest speaker for the breakfast and also came on board to help organise this event raising \$4,000 for the Fund thanks to the kind donations of raffle items from the following companies:

- Crown Promenade Hotel – One night's accommodation Crown Promenade Hotel including breakfast for 2 at Mesh Restaurant and valet parking - \$500 value
- Sue Sensi - Sterling Silver Bracelet valued \$210
- Cozmeticlab - Mineral Makeup pack Valued \$300
- Arborne Skincare – a voucher for Pamper Delight for 2 Facial and Makeover

- Pelicans Landing Restaurant Bar & Function Centre - \$150 Voucher
- Priceline Williamstown hamper - \$200 value
- Bayside Body & Spa Therapy – Luxury Aveda facial - \$100 value
- Helen Bye Flowers \$80 floral arrangement voucher

Caroline Ferguson was our popular MC for the morning, with Tony Vasil sharing some hot race day tips.

2012 Gala Dinner

The third annual gala dinner was held on Friday 18th October at Peninsula Central Pie, Docklands. A variety style line up of talent featured MCs Alicia Loxley from Channel 9, Angry Anderson, the Moondance Band with Lucy Gale, Liam Burrows as well as one of our own young leadership girls, Sera Nguyen.

The purpose of the evening could not have been more succinctly outlined than in the speech given by Sera who has overcome incredible obstacles in her personal life to graduate as a nurse.

2013 Golf Day

This years Golf Day saw 18 teams tee off at the picturesque Woodlands Golf Club. Made possible by BlueAnt the weather provided a sensational day's golf and the following lunch, MC'd by the ever-professional John Shore, delivered plenty of laughs.

We humbly thank John "Sam" Newman, Doug Hawkins, Rodney Hogg and comedian Lindsay Cox for their contributions. The day raised close to \$10,000 for 20th Man Fund programs. A special thank you goes to Drummond Golf for a wonderful show of support. Thanks also to Coca-Cola Amatil, Le Pine Funerals, Bay City Holden, Fiat Chrysler Group, AGW Construction, Dominion Group, Bridgeworks, McDonalds and Scottish Debtor Finance. See you next year. FOUR!

Lunches with the Legends

The regular sportsmen's lunches continued throughout the year with featured legends of Australian sports.

We thank David Parkin OAM, Rodney Eade, Leigh Matthews and Rodney Hogg for donating their time to speak at the lunches this year. A big thank you to Kevin Hillier whose knowledge of Australian sports contributes so much to the engaging MC role he plays at these lunches, and to our guest auctioneer Greg Hocking. The lunches raised an average of \$10,000 each.



Third Party Fundraising events

We have been fortunate during the year to have the support of a number of organisations and individuals fundraising on our behalf, beginning with the Commentators Club who held their annual luncheon at Zinc in Fed Square on the day of the Grand Final parade through Melbourne. A generous audience helped to raise an amazing \$15,000 for 20th Man Fund.

Community engagement

20th Man appreciates the commitment of corporate sponsors, community groups, schools and individuals to support the work of the Fund.

Les Twentyman is sought after as a public speaker and during the past year he has travelled far and wide, engaging with schools, clubs and community groups to spread the word about drugs, alcohol and violence related problems being experienced throughout the nation.

As part of our community engagement program we open our doors to school groups participating in a Social Awareness Week and this year students from Xavier joined Operations Manager Youth Services, Jim Markovski, for a week of community service. The value of this experience can clearly be seen from the letter of thanks Jim received from the students.

Dear Jim,

On behalf of the group of us from Xavier College, I would like to thank you for the amazing journey and experience you gave us on the time of our placement during Social Awareness Week. Thank you for sharing with us your knowledge and experiences in working in social work and enlightening us on the harsh realities of life in the area of the Western Suburbs. You have taught us so much and opened our eyes to the issues that these people face and have given us a truly unforgettable experience, which we do appreciate a lot. As a token of our thanks and support to the 20th Man fund, Xavier College has decided to make a donation to further the great works of your organization. The experience that you gave us with the 20th Man will remain with us for the rest of our lives and we shall be sure to continue in our support of this amazing organization.

Kind regards,

Nick Archer (on behalf of all of the students who went to 20th Man for SAW)

Melbourne Op Shop Ball

Local comedian Andrew Brown ran the Best of the West Comedy festival this year and chose to support 20th Man Fund.

In May the Melbourne Op Shop Ball organised by John Shore, director of Ray White Chelsea and a long time supporter of 20th Man Fund with Sue Shepherd of Shepherdworks was held at the Grand Hyatt on Collins Street. John and Sue nominated the profits from the night to be shared between 20th Man Fund and the Childrens Nutrition Research Centre which resulted in both charities receiving \$15,000 each.

Footscray Lions Club

Once again, Footscray Lions Club Trivia night donated the proceeds of the night to 20th Man Fund. Peter and Michelle Anderson are the drivers of this night, which we all look forward to participating in what is always a fun night.

Bendigo Bank Victoria University Challenge

once again gave students the chance to contribute to a charity of their choice, two groups raising \$3,000 for the fund by organising a variety of fundraising events from film nights to a stall at the Trash and Treasure market.

20th Man Fund is registered as a deductible gift recipient and donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible. Further information regarding fundraising can be found on our website www.20thman.com.au Financials

Financials

A copy of our latest financial report can be requested by emailing Bronwyn@20thman.com.au
How you can help

- \$60 can provide a Christmas gift for a child at our annual Christmas party
- \$250 sponsors a young person's participation in the Redskins Basketball Club, providing full uniform
- \$400 is the average amount per young person to provide school text books through our Back To School Program
- \$1,500 sponsor a year 11 or 12 student through a year of VCE including MYKI travel card
- Ongoing commitment to a monthly credit card donation of your choice for material aid

Volunteering

There are a few ways to volunteer your time and expertise to 20th Man Fund. Some of these include assistance with tutoring at our weekly Homework Program or Saturday School, volunteering to help with events or donating some time at Christmas to wrap gifts and deliver hampers.

The best way to help out is to have your own fundraiser for 20th Man Fund, some of our fundraising revenue this year has come from individuals opting to have donations in lieu of gifts at birthdays and donations in lieu of flowers at the funeral of a family member who had been passionate about 20th Man Fund during their lifetime.

Please email Bronwyn@20thman.com.au for further details.

Acknowledgements (back cover)

www.20thman.com.au

Les Twentyman's



acknowledgements

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Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
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Melbourne Storm
Merv Hughes
Mike Good, BlueAnt Wireless
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Sab's Autos
Sally Kaptein
Sam Newman
Sandringham Football Club
Simon Weatherill, Melb. Sports &
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The Age newspaper
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The Big Umbrella group
The Hollywood Ramada – Mr Alan
Johnson
The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust
The Trustees – Estate of the Late
Edward Wilson
The Westies
Third Voice Architects
Tim Whitmore – Web 4.0
Upfront Events – Bettina Spivakovsky
Variety – The Childrens Charity
Vic Health and Go ride a Wave
Victoria Police
Victoria University students Charity
Challenge program
VicTrack
Vince Loccisano
Viola Roth
Wayne Dyson – Bridgeworks
Western General Bodyworks
Western Region Football League
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