COUNTRY LIFE FOR CITY FOLK

WORK

Only 5km from the centre of Melbourne and nestled on a bend of the Yarra River lies seven hectares of paddocks, gardens, orchards, rustic buildings and shady trees. Established in 1979 the Collingwood Children's Farm is a not-for-profit community resource providing country experiences for city people. Institutional care underwent major reforms in the 1960s and 1970s with needy children being placed in foster care homes in the wider community. In 1974 the Convent closed down. The Victorian Government purchased the property for use by a tertiary education institution. Market gardeners leased the farmland and grew vegetables and carnations. The cost of refurbishing the Convent complex resulted in its sale to private developers in 1997. Community concern has led to the preservation of the Convent and the land.

BRINGING 'LOST SHEEP' BACK TO THE FOLD

BACKGROUND

Between 1863 and 1865, the nuns of the Order of the Good Shepherd purchased the St Heliers and Abbotsford House properties. The work of the French order was to bring "lost sheep back to the fold - women and girls in need of rescue and reformation". The nuns selected an isolated place that could house and feed many people. By 1865 seventy penitents lived in the reformatory and worked in the vegetable gardens, pastures and orchards. Over the years a convent, chapel, asylum, industrial school, reformatory and day school were built to accommodate the nuns, novices, penitents and children.

The huge Convent provided shelter for orphans, the infirm and the sick. At one time there were as many as a thousand inhabitants within its walls, most of whom dined on produce grown on the properties. The penitents operated a commercial laundry, which provided income for Convent purchases.
WHAT IS FARE SHARE?

BACKGROUND

Every year, 2 million Australians will experience hunger. But, over the same period, we’ll also waste 200kg of food for every man, woman and child in the nation.

This doesn’t make any sense. But Melbourne food charity FareShare is doing something about it by rescuing surplus quality food from supermarkets, farmers and other businesses. With the help of 700 regular volunteers, FareShare cooks this food into 25,000 free nutritious meals for Victorian charities – such as soup vans, homeless shelters, food banks and school breakfast programs – each week. We do this in Australia’s largest charity kitchen, based in Abbotsford.

SCHOOLS IN THE KITCHEN

PROGRAMS

The FareShare Schools in the Kitchen program provides a unique opportunity for students to learn about the reality of hunger in our community and begin their own response to the issue through action. Students will also learn about food waste and rescue. They may even pick up some cooking skills — all of this while making a tangible difference in the community.

CONTACT US

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Email: info@fareshare.net.au
Address: 1-7 South Audley Street, Abbotsford VIC 3067
THE INSPIRATION BACKGROUND

Human Seeds was inspired by the ancient belief that one day Earth will be in the hands of those who would truly respect her, love her and care for her.

According with that belief, those special human beings would be able to have a comfortable, sustainable and happy life in total harmony with nature and all its creatures.

In Human Seeds we know that we all have the potential to be the new seeds that need to be planted around the globe, in order to ensure a better future for all forms of life, including ours.

THE PRINCIPLES VALUES

This organisation has been created on the principle that all beings are interconnected, interdependent and interrelated. Therefore, values such as tolerance, compassion, selfless service and appreciation for all, are encouraged.

THE GOALS OBJECTIVES

Environmental Education is a wonderful tool to promote awareness, change and wellbeing at many levels. It helps us learn new things about us and our surroundings; it persuades us to make our best effort; it guides us to make conscious decisions; it motivates us to be good members of our communities; it inspires us to contribute to the preservation of present and future generations of all species of life.

Through education, Human Seeds wants to reach all sectors of society in order to share a constructive message about different topics such as ecology, conservation, biodiversity, wildlife, environmentally friendly ways of life, habitat restoration, healthy living and more...

CONTACT US

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Phone: 0416 056 897 OR 03 9722 2908
Website: www.humanseeds.com.au
BACKGROUND HISTORY

For over 20 years Urban Seed has been gathering around food, recreation and creative art to foster a sense of home – especially for those of us experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental illness and isolation. This gathering is the foundation of our unique community development approach, where we seek to draw out the gifts, skills and potential of all involved.

Urban Seed was birthed in the early 1990s, when church-goers at Collins Street Baptist Church were literally stepping over people sleeping rough. Three young people moved into the Church and met people living on the streets, creating belonging by sharing meals. Today, this commitment to creating homes for those who have none is the basis of our community development work.

Urban Seed prioritises dynamic projects run for and by locals in the Melbourne CBD, Norlane (Geelong) and Flemington.

Through our Schools, Faith and Corporate engagement programs, we engage with others in the community to respond to the needs and strengths in their own contexts.

Currently, Urban Seed is an exciting organisation that combines 20 years of hospitality and community development experience with continual energy and fresh ideas. We are proud of the dynamic energy at the core of who we are, which often spins forth new initiatives and projects. The initiatives often grow to a point where they can be released or 'seeded', to grow into new plants of their own.

CONTACT US

Level 3, 174 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000
Phone: 03 9650 4023
SCOPE INDUSTRIES WORK

As an Australian Disability Enterprise, Scope provides employment opportunities for more than 200 people with a disability.

We offer a range of employment opportunities at our packaging and assembly sites.

Employees can gain experience in the following areas:

- Food packaging
- Mail-outs
- Shrink wrapping
- Bar-coding
- Labeling
- Production and assembly work

BACKGROUND HISTORY

At Scope, we are committed to providing meaningful and challenging work to people with a disability in Victoria. Working with us can open the door to lots of exciting opportunities.

CONTACT US

Highpoint Industries
14-16 Williamson Road Maribyrnong 3032
Phone: 9318 6366
ABOUT BACKGROUND

**STREAT** is a social enterprise that tackles youth disadvantage and homelessness by providing the life-skills, support networks, work experience and training young people require to kickstart their lives and a career in hospitality. Our five Melbourne based cafes, catering and coffee roasting businesses are the main training venues (and income generators) needed to support these amazing young people – and to support STREAT. To be sustainable, STREAT also has to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars each year through grants and donations.

Rebecca Scott, co-founder and CEO of STREAT, believes every mouthful of our food and coffee should bring about the most social change possible. As she says, 'We'll all devour over 80,000 meals in our lifetime and hardly remember any of them. Few, if any, will be life-changing for someone else. That's something we can change together.'

WHY STREAT EXISTS? THE PROBLEM

- Every night in Australia over 105,000 people are homeless.
- 26,000 are young people aged 12-24.

The impact on these young people is traumatic, with:

- The majority leaving school before Year 10 with no formal education
- Almost 60% being destined for long-term unemployment
- Their average life expectancy crashing to 47 years (normally 85 years)
- The current cost of a young person remaining homeless across their life is over $700,000.

VISION WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

To stop youth homelessness and disadvantage, one mouthful at a time.
ACTION WHAT WE DO

We run social enterprises to create employment for people who are unable to access mainstream jobs. These enterprises operate much like traditional businesses, except all revenue is put back into the enterprises for the benefit of the individuals involved and broader community.

Our social enterprises include The Big Issue magazine, the Women’s Subscription Enterprise and The Big Issue Classroom. We also run the Community Street Soccer Program and this year launched The Big Idea national competition for university students.

Our social enterprises not only provide opportunities for people to earn an income, but importantly, to build confidence and their capacity to help themselves. The people we help come from a range of backgrounds including mental illness, homelessness, long-term unemployment, intellectual and physical disability and drug and alcohol dependency.

BACKGROUND HISTORY

The Big Issue magazine concept came to Australia in 1993 when a group of prominent Australians came together to explore solutions to help address Australia’s increasing homeless population. They proposed a model based on the UK’s successful Big Issue street magazine model. The first magazine was launched in Australia on the steps of Melbourne’s Flinders Street Station on June 16, 1996.

CONTACT US
227 Collins Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000
Phone: (03) 9663 4533
Riding for the Disabled Association Australia (RDAA) is a voluntary, non-profit organisation which provides opportunities for anyone with a disability to enjoy safe, healthy stimulating, therapeutic, horse-related activities in Australia.

The first Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Centre opened in Brisbane in 1964. Riding for the Disabled Association Australia is now a registered charity and limited company. Operating successfully for over 40 years, RDA encourages active participation by its members, at all levels, regardless of their disability, at recreational and competitive equestrian events.

CONTACT US
332 Banyule Road Viewbank
Rebecca: 0419502334
ACTION WHAT WE DO

St Kilda Gatehouse is a not for profit organisation which works alongside those involved in street sex work, who are often marginalised and have life controlling addictions. It is a place where individuals feel valued and important. For many who come from a background of abuse and poverty it is a source of dignity and hope – where they can find the support and care needed as they attempt to build a life off the streets and beyond drug addiction.

BACKGROUND HISTORY

St Kilda Gatehouse was established and incorporated in 1992. It is endorsed as an Income Tax Exempt Charitable Entity and a Deductible Gift Recipient. Our Drop-In Centre and head office are located in St Kilda. We are setting up a Centre for young women and girls in Dandenong.
OUR WORK
In a typical week across Australia we provide:
   100,000 meals for the hungry
   2,000 beds for the homeless
   5,000 to 8,000 food vouchers
   1,000 people with assistance in finding employment
   Refuge to 500 victims of abuse
   Assistance to 500 people addicted to drugs, alcohol or gambling
   Several thousand people with counselling
   3,000 elderly people with aged care services
   1000 people in the court system with chaplaincy services
   Family tracing services which locate 40 missing family members

ABOUT BACKGROUND
We believe in the power of community. People loving other people, and people helping other people.

Those who ‘have’ sharing generously – sacrificially – with those who don’t. People finding acceptance, encouragement, healing and support without discrimination. We believe no-one should have to ‘go it alone’.

Our goal is to be community builders, not just service providers. We don’t give up on people – not only responding to immediate needs but journeying with people for the long haul, helping them to find freedom and stay free as well.
ABOUT THE BROTHERHOOD

The Brotherhood of St Laurence began during the Great Depression, as the vision and creation of Father Gerard Tucker, a man who combined his Christian faith with a fierce determination to end social injustice.

Based in Melbourne, but with a national profile, the Brotherhood continues to work for an Australia free of poverty.

We undertake research, develop and deliver services, and engage in advocacy. Our aim is to address unmet needs in innovative ways and translate our learning from research and services into new policies, new programs and practices which can be implemented by government and others.

OUR VISION

We work with others to create an Australia free of poverty for this and future generations: a fair, compassionate and just society where all can fully participate in social and economic life, create and share prosperity and treat each other with dignity and respect. In working for an Australia free of poverty, we recognise the Indigenous custodians of this country.

WHAT WE DO

The Brotherhood works not just to alleviate poverty but to prevent it. We focus on people who are at risk at four critical stages (transitions) in their lives:

- children and families in the early years, both at home and in school
- young people in the years through school to work and further education
- adults seeking work and learning opportunities
- older people facing the challenges of retirement and ageing.

CONTACT US

67 Brunswick Street
Fitzroy Vic. 3065
Phone: (03) 9483 1183
Email: info@bsl.org.au
ABOUT BACKGROUND

For many years Emerald Hill Mission has served the needy communities within the Cities of Melbourne and Port Phillip, including the Central Business District and Southbank.

Our goal is to see alienated youth change their lifestyle and lead more productive lives, to bring some hope to the poor in our area and to offer the lonely someone to talk talk with and additional support as required.

The Mission is comprised of Members who meet regularly to provide the necessary advice and moral support to those working at the "coal face". A Committee of Management represents a cross-section of local community leaders. Working Groups develop day-to-day program activities and we seek to raise the funds to support the Mission.

OUR WORK

Open House: A team of volunteers based in South Melbourne provide food parcels, food vouchers and counselling to various disadvantaged individuals and families between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday to Friday.

The funding provided to Open House allows for various activities targeted particularly at disadvantaged families and older single people, e.g. weekly barbecues, overnight emergency accommodation, family mediation, counselling for drug and alcohol problems, assistance with job seeking and the like.
ABOUT US

Anglicare Victoria provides support to 80,000 children, young people and families every year.

Through a range of services, we work towards strengthening families and communities so they can protect and nurture the children within them.

We alleviate immediate hardship through services like emergency food and crisis accommodation, and build capacity for sustainable living through programs like foster care, financial counselling, parent education and group work.

We change lives.

CONTACT US
122 Napier St.
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Ian: 0458 250 032

GETTING INVOLVED

Anglicare Victoria relies on the generosity of volunteers and supporters who contribute to our work in many different ways.

By volunteering your skills regularly, helping out at an event or by raising funds for Anglicare Victoria, you will be providing new opportunities to vulnerable children, young people and families across the State.