

Philanthropy

Thank you Trust

from Natasha
aged 9



trust
foundation

The Trust Foundation was established in 1985 to house donations from individuals and organisations. Currently valued at over \$25 million, the Foundation consists of 42 management accounts.

Cerebral Palsy Foundation / Thank you poster

Trust's expertise in managing charitable trusts is unparalleled; we have been in business since 1897. Our oldest charitable trust has been operating for over 100 years. It was established to provide an annual gift to help eradicate tuberculosis.

Over the last year nothing touched Australians more than the Victorian bushfires, the country's greatest bushfire disaster, where 173 lives were lost and more than 3000 properties destroyed.

Trust Foundation, which was set up in 1985 to help the Australian community, contributed \$50,000 to support the Victoria Bushfire Appeal Fund. Trust staff, together with company directors and shareholders raised a further \$50,000.

Donors can give via several avenues, including directly to the Trust Foundation itself, or they may choose to establish a named management account within the Foundation.

Some of our trusts are distributed all through Australia on a wide variety of causes, including the **environment**. Under the umbrella of Trust Foundation, for several years Trust has been supporting the Lizard Island Research Station (LIRS) through the Elizabeth Gabler, Fred P Archer and W V Scott charitable trusts.

Studies show that coral reefs worldwide are under threat. Recent estimates indicate that 10% of reefs are already damaged beyond repair and another 70% are under threat.

The Lizard Island Research Station was set up in 1973 by the Australian Museum on the Great Barrier Reef, 270 km north of Cairns. The station provides facilities for research groups and students from all over the world to explore the reef's unique ecosystem and make important marine discoveries.

Whilst operating costs of the facility are mainly paid by station users and researchers, funding for capital expenditure is entirely reliant upon charitable donations. Lyle Vail, one of the directors and curators of the Research Station comments, "It is hard to imagine how the Station could continue to exist without the donors' support since researchers do not have adequate funding to pay the fees to cover the Station's true running costs."

"Over the years our charitable trusts have funded a research vessel and power generating equipment. The fleet of thirteen research boats is the work horse of the Station, used to transport researchers to their study sites. Without them, it would be impossible to conduct most of the 100 research projects conducted at LIRS annually."

Medical research is still a major focus for Trust Company, and our charitable trusts support both The Spastic Centre NSW and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, with more than \$200,000 distributed from our trusts over the past three years. The Trust Innovative Research Grant funds the research of Dr Catherine Gibson at the University of Adelaide, who is researching possible pre-natal triggers that cause Cerebral Palsy.

In the past twelve months the Trust Foundation has supported many charities, including Cancer Council of Australia, the Salvation Army, Prince of Wales Medical Research, Vision Australian, Médecins Sans Frontières, Care Flight and Bush Heritage Australia and the Opera Foundation of Australia Trust Fund.

Arts, culture and education are also key areas for our philanthropic endeavours, with scholarships and awards, as part of our work.

Antoinette Gibson was granted a \$10,000 scholarship to assist in the completion of the first year of a Master of Business (Philanthropy and Social Investment) at Swinburne University. The scholarship covered the course fees for 2009 and part of 2010.

Antoinette is currently working part time at Plan International, an overseas aid and development organisation assisting children and families in the developing world.

The scholarship has made an enormous difference.

"The scholarship allows me to focus on the course and has given me an additional boost of confidence with my work in the sector."

"The work being done by students in the course will increase knowledge and foster quality within the philanthropic sector. Hopefully the course will also allow us to seek and boost funds and, overtime, increase philanthropic work building social capital as well as helping more beneficiaries in need," she said.