

MAZDA FOUNDATION

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2002



mazda

INTRODUCTION

The work of the Mazda Foundation began in 1990 when it was formed to provide assistance to a broad cross section of individuals and important causes throughout Australia.

It was seen as an ideal way for Mazda Australia, one of the country's major motor vehicle importers, to develop an equitable and broad community involvement apart from its commercial operations.

The Foundation was established through generous donations from Mazda Motor Corporation in Japan and Mazda Australia.

Since then it has been supported by contributions from Mazda Australia through the sale of Mazda vehicles, Mazda dealers, public donations and the proceeds of special fund raising functions held in various states.

Since inception the Foundation has provided more than \$2 million to various projects and activities throughout Australia.

The pages that follow outline the broad and diverse spread of community support provided by the Foundation during 2001.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



I am proud once again to present this report on the provision of grants by the Mazda Foundation to groups and organisations which serve the Australian Community.

As you will see the grants cover a wide range of projects selected from proposals submitted by community bodies throughout Australia. Each submission has been subjected to scrutiny by the Honorary Directors of the Foundation in order to ensure that the projects are well founded and meet the aims and objectives of the Foundation. In some cases the Directors sought additional information to facilitate an honest and fair judgement.

I am indebted to the Honorary Directors and members of the Mazda staff who volunteer their time and expertise in examining and processing the hundreds of submissions received each year.

I would like to also express my gratitude and that of the Directors to all those who in so many ways assist in the fundraising efforts of the Foundation. Without your help and support we could not provide the assistance to so many deserving bodies. Our sincere thanks and best wishes go to all those who contribute so much.

We look forward to continuing the work of the Foundation and with your assistance do our small part in providing help to a broad cross section of community services.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Malcolm Gough'.

Malcolm Gough
Managing Director, Mazda Australia Pty Limited

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MACHASEH HOUSE VICTORIA

\$5,000

The Mazda Foundation is pleased to be able to assist Machaseh House which is a service of the St Kilda Baptist Benevolent Society and provides medium to long term accommodation for homeless secondary school students. The warm friendly, stable and supportive atmosphere enables these young people "at risk" to complete their education and prepare themselves for adult life.

Of the five young people who participated in the program in 2001:

- one successfully completed VCE and is currently studying Law at Monash University
- one successfully completed VCE and is currently studying Arts at La Trobe University
- one successfully completed VCE and is currently undertaking an apprenticeship
- one moved back into a family environment after family mediation and now is attending Monash University
- one student successfully completed year 10 achieving a top student award and is now in year 11 at a metropolitan school.



HEAR AND SAY CENTRE QUEENSLAND

\$14,293

This grant from the Mazda Foundation has helped provide a new service for deaf Queensland children with cochlear implants.

Last year the Queensland charity, the Hear and Say Centre for Deaf Children, advised the Mazda Foundation that it wished to extend its implant audiological services to those children who lived on the Gold Coast and regional areas.

The appropriate audiological expertise and implant programming systems were not available outside Brisbane, either privately or in the public hospital system.

The Centre said the disruption of travel to Brisbane affected the children's ability to provide reliable

and optimum responses to the programming.

The Mazda Foundation was pleased to make a grant of \$14,293 to allow the Centre to expand its implant audiological services outside Brisbane.

Since then, because of the Mazda Foundation grant, the Hear and Say Centre has expanded its cochlear programming service to its Centres at Benowa on the Gold Coast, in Cairns in Far North Queensland as well as its Outreach program to other areas.

Clinical manager, Emma Rushbrooke, is in charge of the program. Emma is an audiologist who has specialised in cochlear programming.

HUNTER ORTHOPAEDIC SCHOOL NSW \$1,916

This grant provided communication equipment used in conjunction with a computer for a young student who suffers from severe athetoid cerebral palsy. This disorder causes spontaneous and uncontrolled movement of the limbs and other skeletal problems. Because of these handicaps this young student is unable to use any form of writing instrument in order to do his schoolwork. The communication equipment allows him to "communicate" with a computer and produce written work by the use of a switch and scanning "arrays". His schoolwork can now be done independently both at school and at home and has given him a wonderful sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

POINT LOOKOUT SURF LIFESAVING CLUB QUEENSLAND

\$16,500

The Point Lookout Surf Lifesaving Club is a non-profit community organisation and is based on North Stradbroke Island off the coast of

Brisbane. Stradbroke Island is only accessible by barge and parents and children are transported from the mainland each Saturday to participate in "Nippers".

The Nipper program concentrates on the education and training of children aged 7-14 years with focus on Surf Rescue, First Aid and Surf Awareness.

With a membership of 180 children, an enormous amount of equipment is required for the program.

With the help of the Mazda Foundation the Club has been able to purchase essential fibreglass and foam training boards, rescue tubes and equipment to help in our endeavour to provide the skills needed for future lifesavers. This year the children have achieved greater levels of skill which is reflected in their results from competing in Branch and State Carnivals and medals earned in Champion Lifesaver competitions.



Montrose Access is the operating name for The Queensland Society for Crippled Children. The organisation was established in 1933 in response to the polio epidemic, and originally provided institutionalised care for children affected by that disease.

Today Montrose Access is a community-based organisation, which provides support services to children with a wide range of physical disabilities and their families. The aim is to assist these children to achieve their maximum individual potential for participation in the community.

Montrose Access' largest diagnostic group is people with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is the most prevalent and disabling of the inherited neuromuscular disorders, with an incidence rate of one in 3,500 live male births.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy generally affects boys except for a few rare exceptions. To date there is no cure although researchers worldwide are endeavouring to lessen the impact of this devastating condition.

The condition is characterised by progressive loss of muscle power and function. Boys lose the ability to walk at about ten years of age and are totally dependant on others for all activities of daily living by their teens. Over time the muscles of respiration and the heart muscles also fail reducing life expectancy to the second or early in the third decade.

In the later stage of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, weakness of chest muscles prevents deep breathing, and weakness of the abdominal muscles makes coughing difficult. This inability to breathe deeply and to cough up secretions results in many chest infections and

hospitalisation. Such infections are the most frequent cause of death in children and young adults with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

In 2001, the Mazda Foundation donated funds for Montrose Access to purchase an Emerson Cough Assist Machine and a Home Pulse Oximeter.

The Emerson Cough Assist is designed to assist the clearing of chest secretions in people with weak breathing muscles. It works by pushing a preset volume of air into the lungs and then extracting that same volume of air with the retained mucous secretions. Research shows the cough assist is far more effective than traditional chest physiotherapy techniques.

The home pulse oximeter is used to monitor the levels of oxygen circulating through the blood stream, and is a useful diagnostic tool for assessing when respiration is failing. It also helps to identify people at risk of forming mucous plugging, leading to lower levels of oxygen and infection. It is used alongside the cough assist machine.

This equipment is used widely internationally but is relatively new to Australia. As well as augmenting traditional chest physiotherapy the cough assist drastically reduces the need for hospitalisation due to infection. Montrose Access physiotherapists are trained in the use of the 'cough assist' and are excited at the prospect of being able to offer a more effective, easily applied and comfortable form of treatment for clients who are significantly debilitated.

Montrose Access physiotherapists put the Emerson Cough Assist machine through its paces at an early training session.



BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE VICTORIA

\$4,400

Through the grant from the Mazda Foundation this year the HIPPY program has increased the number of current participating families to almost 100. HIPPY Fitzroy works with the Vietnamese and Australian families in Fitzroy and the Somali community in inner West Melbourne. The majority of families live in highrise flats. Additional parents have been employed and trained as Home Tutors, enabling more families to participate on HIPPY. HIPPY Fitzroy is one of four HIPPY programs in Australia and there are many requests from a range of diverse communities to have HIPPY established in their community.

One HIPPY mother, Khadra, who was employed as a Home Tutor last year had difficulties with her son, Abdi, who “could never sit still, was very excitable and had little concentration”, according to his preschool teacher. After doing HIPPY last year, he was eager to commence school and “learn lots more things”. His mother says:

“I can’t believe it...he has made so many changes...now he brings home his reader and wants me to sit down and read with him all the time.

His concentration has improved when we do HIPPY activities and he is so much happier generally...it’s a privilege to work with other parents and teach them this wonderful program.”

Thu, a Vietnamese mother who also became a Home Tutor last year has written:

“My heart is warm when I do HIPPY with my daughter and when I teach other mothers...it has changed my life”.



Thu has decided she wants to study childcare after she has completed her two years as a Home Tutor, gaining a variety of skills and knowledge. For most Home Tutors, becoming a Home Tutor is the first time they have experienced paid employment outside the home. HIPPY Home Tutors develop administration, training and public speaking skills as well as gaining knowledge about child development and education.

Interim research results show positive changes in children and parents including:

- a growing eagerness in children to learn new concepts
- children’s skills and level of confidence in themselves have developed
- their children were beginning to apply the concepts learnt from the HIPPY activities to other experiences in everyday life
- greater sense of self confidence and an improved level of self esteem in parents as a result of being involved in their children’s learning
- communication and interaction with their child has improved

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE VICTORIA

\$22,606

Michael Fletcher has been conducting fieldwork in the remote wilderness of western Tasmania. His main objective has been to recover cores from lakes and swamps which will be analysed to aid interpretation of climate changes in southeastern Australia and the extent to which Aboriginal land use patterns have effected plant community compositions and distributions over tens of thousands of years. He is particularly interested in the relationship between rainforest and open plant communities. Rainforests are seen as a barrier to human occupation due to their dark and inhospitable nature. People favoured open grasslands and the increased faunal reserves supported these areas. Michael aims to ascertain to what extent Aboriginal burning maintained open conditions in the face of climatic change that favoured the expansion of the rainforest.

Over the past five months Michael has identified a large number of suitable sites and commenced a core-drilling program to recover sediments. It is hoped that the

microscopic particles contained within lake and swamp sediments will enable the reconstruction of the environment in which the sediments were deposited. Pollen, a very resilient plant product, and charcoal (direct evidence for fire) are both airborne particles that are deposited on the surface of the Earth. Areas where this airborne material has been able to accumulate, unchanged, for thousands of years are an integral part of Michael’s study. Coring equipment purchased with the assistance of the Mazda Foundation has greatly accelerated the rate at which these cores can be recovered. Significant samples have already been analysed from the very remote Hardwood River valley, deep in the Southwest Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Preliminary analyses suggest that the present open vegetation has been extinct for the last 10,000 years (The Holocene). This is contrary to the majority of literature that depicts the region as one covered in rainforest and devoid of human impact. In addition to the open conditions, evidence for the

continual burning of the local area has been detected. In an area that is considered too wet for lightning induced fires, this is further evidence to the continual influence of Aboriginal man in these areas. More sites have been identified that will add to this argument. In addition sites are being investigated that may answer the problem where lowland rainforest communities were able to survive during the Last Ice Age. This was a time when the lower limit of alpine plants was at the present day sea level. Distribution of modern rainforests species must have been greatly restricted and susceptible to environmental stress (e.g. burning). Michael is attempting to ascertain where these species survived and what influence Aboriginal patterns of land use had on these areas.

Dating of the sediments will clarify the rate of environmental change displayed in the cores. The next phase of Michael’s research will involve the recovery and dating of a number of deep lake cores using highly specialised techniques and equipment funded by the Mazda Foundation.

BENDIGO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL VICTORIA

\$11,318

The Mazda Foundation grant enabled the purchase of three extremely important items of equipment for use by severely handicapped young people. The items were a standing frame, a tilt chair and a "BAMBACH" saddle seat.

A nine year old boy with Spastic Quadriplegia Cerebral Palsy, confined to a wheelchair uses the standing frame. This frame is exceptional in the fact that it allows him to stand upright and weight bear, which is important for bone strengthening and bladder and bowel functions. He is very comfortable in this upright position and plays happily with sensory items on the tray. He uses this standing frame for most of his therapy sessions.

The design of the frame makes it extremely easy for staff to use in a safe and functional manner.

The tilt chair was originally requested for a 17 year old girl with severe Spastic Quadriplegia Cerebral Palsy. She has scoliosis, hip dislocation and limited use of many joints causing

her to become very uncomfortable sitting in her regular wheelchair. This chair allows her to sit or rest in extreme comfort, as it is air and foam padded. It has a range of positions and is very easy to manipulate in the classroom and outdoors in the fresh air. As this was such a positive move for her it was decided to allow the rest of the class to trial the chair. The chair is now in constant use as all students appreciate the comfort of this wonderful piece of furniture. This special "BAMBACH" saddle seat chair with a saddle shaped seat enables a young boy with Cerebral Palsy to independently sit upright with good posture and balance at the "cut-out" table.



ROYAL GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

\$37,960



In December 2001, the Mazda Foundation sponsored the Royal Guide Dog Association of Tasmania through the provision of a 4x4 Mazda Bravo Dual Cab Utility. And since then the vehicle has traversed most of the state.

The new Bravo, utilised by the Association's Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, is kept particularly busy. With nearly 20 puppies on the Puppy Development Program, there is a constant stream of deliveries of food and equipment required, plus the collection and delivery of pups to and from the Association's kennel facility

in the north of the state, and volunteer puppy caring families located primarily in Hobart and Launceston.

Then there are four guide dogs currently undertaking training. The dogs are transported all over the state, depending on the travels of the instructor, to undertake approximately six months of intensive training to ensure they are ready for placement with blind and vision impaired Tasmanians. These dogs are well catered for with the custom caging included with the delivery of the new Bravo.

The Bravo is also used for delivery of services to the 25 guide dog handlers in all corners of the state who receive training and support throughout the entire time they share their life with a guide dog. With clients living throughout Tasmania, from cities like Hobart and Launceston, through to remote country areas, the vehicle gets to see a great deal of the state, which also means it has been seen by countless people throughout the state.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND SOUTH AUSTRALIA

\$3,850

The grant from the Mazda Foundation was for the purchase of a VoiceNote QT Notetaker.

The VoiceNote QT machine which is one of a family of Notetakers produced for the vision impaired and has a qwerty keyboard rather than Braille keys is located in the RSB's Adaptive Technology Centre (ATC) in the heart of Adelaide.

Since its introduction to the ATC, the RSB's clients have been assisted in a number of ways:

- through demonstration of the VoiceNote QT and its many features to clients of varying ages and, their family and for students, their teachers;
- by the provision of the VoiceNote QT on short term loan to clients for home or work trial to enable them to assess the equipment in their own environment prior to making a decision on whether to purchase a VoiceNote QT or alternative

equipment. The RSB has found that its short term loan scheme has assisted clients of all ages to determine the appropriateness of the various types of adaptive technology available for use by blind and vision impaired persons;

- the provision of technical and training support to clients who already have a unit. This was made possible by the training of staff on the VoiceNote QT and development of training procedures. AT Specialists are now able to solve problems that clients may have, often over the telephone alleviating much anxiety and frustration for clients. This is particularly beneficial when clients find it difficult to attend the ATC or they have a time commitment for study.

The VoiceNote QT has in its short time in the Adaptive Technology Centre has proven its value and has become an important piece of equipment.

BLUE CARE BRISBANE CENTRAL REGION QUEENSLAND

\$34,481

Blue Care is a registered charity of the Uniting Church in Queensland which provides health and allied services to less fortunate, needy and handicapped people in the community. Services include a home nursing service, respite care, care of young adults with disabilities and many specialist treatment areas.

The Mazda Foundation granted their request for the provision of a vehicle to be used for transporting their clients for a variety of purposes.

The Mazda van has been accessed constantly by Blue Care's Unicare centre-based clients since being donated in July of 2001. The van allows Unicare staff to transport clients, including those in wheelchairs, to community activities any day of the week. The van is used on Saturdays to transport a young man (in a wheelchair) and his support worker to community activities

including visiting the home games of his favourite football team. It is also used to transport clients from the centre to their homes on a Friday afternoon.

Overall, the van has been a fantastic asset to the service, enabling more clients to access the community at any one time than has been previously possible.

Thanks to their new Mazda van, more Unicare clients, including those in wheelchairs, are now able to access and participate in community activities



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOC. VICTORIA \$22,000

The Mazda Foundation was happy to support the "National Dementia Awareness Week 2001" organised by the Alzheimer's Association.

National Dementia Awareness Week (DAW) ran from Sunday 16 to Saturday 22 September 2001 and delivered a nationally integrated communications strategy comprising an advertising/promotions campaign, a media/PR campaign and an events strategy.

Important exposure was received through the new link with Amcal pharmacies displaying the Dementia Awareness Week poster and distributing the two new information pamphlets.

Other pro-bono and financial support from sponsors also facilitated the Association meeting its objectives which were:

- promote general awareness of Alzheimer's disease and dementia
- promote awareness of Alzheimer's disease and dementia as a national health priority
- promote the Association as the leader in the field of dementia information, knowledge, education, support and advocacy and in fostering research
- promote the Association and its services to individuals and families who are living with dementia
- develop opportunities for greater financial support for the Association

Nationally there were 33 events/activities attended by health professionals. In addition, four of the events/activities were open to the general public. The result of the week's activities showed significant increases in contacts to the Dementia Helpline were reported in Victoria, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Tasmania and South Australia.

Contacts in Northern Territory were 300% higher than an average week, New South Wales experienced 160% increase, Victoria 133%, South Australia had a 54% increase and Tasmania had a 50% increase. Only Western Australia indicated no significant increase.

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THE SMITH FAMILY
VICTORIA \$15,400

The Smith Family conducts an educational support program entitled "LEARNING FOR LIFE" which addresses the problem of students considered to be at risk from dropping out of school through a variety of circumstances including family financial difficulty through poverty. LEARNING FOR LIFE provides confidential scholarships and counselling for students in Years 7-10 and their families.

By receiving a full education the young people will have enhanced prospects of securing employment and by doing so put themselves in a position to escape the poverty into which they were born.

The Mazda Foundation grant has enabled twenty young people to be assisted through this program.

ENCOUNTER CENTRE
INC. S.A. \$6,600

The Encounter Centre Inc. in Victor Harbour, South Australia caters for disadvantaged people and families with disabled children, providing respite care and social interaction in a community group setting.

A new program at the Centre involves the planting and maintaining of a native plant nursery, collection of local seeds and preparing them for sale.

This environmental project will encourage re-establishment of the fragile natural environment on the South Australian coast.

The Mazda Foundation grant enabled the provision of natural rainwater tanks and associated plumbing to facilitate the irrigation of the nursery.

MAZDA FOUNDATION

Established in 1990 as a public benefit trust, the Mazda Foundation is administered through an independent body and provides endowments as appropriate each year. The aims and objectives of the Foundation include:

- assistance to young people through education and employment skills development.
- assistance in the advancement of education and achievement of excellence at all levels in the community.
- assistance in the development of technology to help improve Australia's international competitiveness.
- assistance towards the maintenance and improvement of the natural environment.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contributions to the Mazda Foundation are tax deductible and are sought from individuals and organisations sharing the philosophy of the Mazda Foundation. Further information about the work of the Mazda Foundation and grant application guidelines can be obtained from the Foundation's website. Communications and donations should be directed to:

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