

powering

community ideas



ANNUAL REPORT

2023–2024

 Local Impact

Local Impact acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the land we work on. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their ongoing connection to land, sea, and community. Their sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present, and emerging. Local Impact promotes culturally safe spaces and inclusive environments for all customers, participants and staff.



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Chair's report



It was my privilege to serve as Chair of Local Impact for another year.

Last year's Annual Report was our first formal report to our community; an opportunity to tell our story and introduce our significant programs:

- **The Westsider** – the only independent printed community newspaper in Melbourne's west
- **Money Mentor** – a financial literacy program
- **The Community Bike Hub**

In this year's report, I am proud to share some more of our story: our motivations and inspirations.

With our common passion to make a positive difference in our community, the people behind Local Impact agreed on four 'pillars' to focus our enthusiasm and commitment:

- Investment
- Community
- Education
- Partnership



Investment, and especially reinvestment, is fundamental to sustainability. We aspire to do good, but we look beyond today and tomorrow – we care about a better future. We believe in long-term and sustainable commitments, and make our community investments accordingly.



Community defines us. We – like you – are a part of our inner west community. Our community thrives when we all contribute. Conversely, we are all diminished without community. Those who guide Local Impact are drawn to ideas and organisations that engage with and strengthen our community.



Education in all its forms is the future. Education and awareness and understanding are inseparable: in no particular order, each is a consequence of the other. We believe that there can be no better investment in the future than education. Every community investment we make has either a direct or an indirect educational impact.



For us, **partnerships** are most meaningful within a respectful and genuinely reciprocal relationship. Every conversation that we have, each commitment that we make, every investment that we consider, proceeds on the basis of a genuine partnership.

Our four pillars – investment, community, education and partnership – are equally significant. They combine to inform every decision we make. We believe that our commitment to these pillars is the reason for our success to date. Our belief leaves us confident in our future, and in the future of our community.

When reflecting on the personal and professional contributions of so many others to Local Impact, I am always humbled. I thank my fellow committee members, all of whom are volunteers, as well as acknowledging the extraordinary dedication of our professional team.

J.J. (Wal) Wiersma
Chair of Management Committee

Committee



Wal Wiersma, Chairman

Local Impact has built a reputation as a rock-solid provider of financial, governance and business support for community programs.



Andy Moutray-Read, CEO

There are many great community groups that need help and support, and my task is to lead the development of programs and structures that will enable these groups to succeed.



Jenny Britt

As a long-term Westie, I am energised by the challenge and promise of providing opportunities for our community to develop and thrive.



Marcus Olive

My personal growth, professional aspirations and community sporting connections provide me with the motivation to help Local Impact create the positive, lasting changes we want to see in the inner-west.



Ashley Coles

A lifetime of living and working in Melbourne's west and raising a young family here, has given me a deep knowledge of the strengths, needs and potential of this community.



Suzanne Saunders

Collaborating with diverse groups and individuals, many of whom are dedicated volunteers, is a privilege that my professional working life and involvement with Local Impact give me.



Jack Fitcher

Driving my involvement with Local Impact is the desire to see our kids thrive in a tight-knit and supportive community, the sort of community I was lucky to have when growing up in a small regional town.



David St John

Local Impact is in the business of supporting our community, and as a Committee Member I am proud of the social investments we have made in programs that are doing exactly that.



Sarah Franklyn

Giving back to the community is a key driver for me. As Committee Member for Local Impact, I have an exciting on-going opportunity to create and support positive social change.



Pamela Sutton-Legaud

The wonderful privilege of working in the not-for-profit sector, as I do, is to be able to contribute to the creation and nurturing of great social enterprise initiatives.



Freddy Lopez

As a member of the Committee, I have a strong desire to see Local Impact continue to effect positive change in the community.

CEO's report



The 2023–2024 Financial Year was a chapter of significant growth, change and refinement at Local Impact and our programs. While there are so many exciting opportunities arising for our organisation, it's also important to recognise the challenges and milestones that have been reached over the past twelve months.

The Community Bike Hub had a very busy year. We were thrilled to be a recipient of a grant from the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund, we have grown our team – including the addition of educator Andrew Johnson (AJ) – and further developed our relationships with our community partners at Reclink and Footscray High School.

In June, we received notice to move from our shop location on Moreland Street in Footscray. While this was a challenging time, the team came together – everyone from volunteers to staff and the board – and we found a great new home for our servicing and retail on Barkly Street in West

Footscray. Through a sense of collaboration, creative problem solving and adaptability, we have since moved site, resumed servicing, and are set to commence construction of a remodelled workshop and retail space in late 2024.

My sincere thanks to our mechanics, volunteers, AJ, the students and teachers Footscray High School, Daniel at our Werribee workshop (who has been instrumental in our partnership with Reclink), Dom Zylka who initially developed our education program, and Rodney Johnson, who founded the Community Bike Shed (precursor to the hub) and officially wrapped up as a Committee Member earlier this year. A special thanks also to Amy McArthur, Operations Manager at Local Impact, who has taken on a hands-on management role at the Bike Hub with passion and dedication, alongside her work across the entire Local Impact network.

The Westsider, under the leadership of Editor, Barbara Heggen, and Founder, Kelly Kane, has continued to produce a high-quality and essential publication for local communities in the west. Through 2023–2024, The Westsider launched its new website, which has increased accessibility and reach to new

audiences, collaborated on fundraising campaign with the Local & Independent News Association (LINA), co-presented events at Willy Lit Fest, and continued to provide a platform for local writers to share their stories and diverse life experiences. A major challenge has been the deprioritising of news content on social media platforms, which has only underscored the importance of independent, hyperlocal news that's delivered straight to readers – whether in print, via the website, or e-news.

Thanks to Kelly, Barbara, operations manager Lena, and graphic designer Jean, for their ongoing passion and commitment to deliver The Westsider each month, and of course to the dozens of volunteer writers and partner organisations who are at the heart of this community resource.

The Money Mentor program delivered financial literacy content to more than 2200 students at 9 schools throughout 2023–2024, with great feedback from teachers and learning outcomes from students. While Angela Martin, Program Manager, and her Money Mentor co-facilitators revisited some schools, including Mount Alexander College and Academy of Mary Immaculate, the scope broadened to also



include community groups, new schools connected with via the Community Bank network, and initiatives such as the Western Bulldogs Foundation's Daughters of the West program.

The increasing reach of the Money Mentor program shows the appetite for stronger financial skills as communities in the western suburbs continue to navigate the cost-of-living crisis. The next question is how do we efficiently roll out this vital information to an even bigger audience.

In addition to our three existing programs, we collaborated on the TO-LEAP program with Two Square Pegs and partners at City of Melbourne and the Department of Family Fairness and Housing (DFFH), on the delivery of grants to community initiatives in the Flemington and North Melbourne public housing flats. It was wonderful to see such a diverse mix of projects

come to life – the outcome of grassroots passion. Thank you to all the participants, partners and to Trang Du, founder of Two Square Pegs, for her passionate work in the community.

The new financial year brings a raft of exciting opportunities, including the refurbishment of the new Community Bike Hub shop on Barkly Street, the launch of our new program at the Brimbank Traffic School, the development of a new internet radio station for The Westsider, and the launch of our 'Powered Services' – a suite of wrap-around support services available to our community organisations. We have already commenced this by providing grant writing and bookkeeping services to some of our community organisations.

Finally, thank you wholeheartedly to the team

at Local Impact. Thank you to Deirdre O'Donnell, our long-term Executive Officer at Local Impact, who finished in June 2024 after eight years of outstanding work spanning administration, bookkeeping and events. Thanks also to our Operations Manager, Amy McArthur, our Accounts team of Geneine McFarlane and Julia Kitanovski, Grants Writer India Grigg, Marketing Coordinator Max Hayward, and Strategic Marketing Manager Jean Anselmi. I'd also like to welcome Stacey Gentilcore, who has recently joined the team as Executive Assistant.

Financial Year 2024–2025 promises to be an exciting, eventful year of growth for Local Impact and our programs. 

Andy Moutray-Read
CEO



Our pillars

Local Impact powers community ideas through partnership, support and connection to create socially sustainable outcomes within the local Inner West Melbourne community.

INVESTMENT

We invest in the right resources required for the best community outcome — be it money, expertise, skills, experience, governance or accountability.

COMMUNITY

Our sense of place creates a feeling of pride — in ourselves, in our neighbourhoods and in our community connections.

EDUCATION

Through education, we grow together intellectually, economically and socially.

PARTNERSHIP

We combine professional partnership resources with community hearts to evolve and grow outcomes. 

Powering community ideas

OUR PURPOSE

To power community ideas through partnership, support and connection.

OUR VISION

To create local impact within our communities through investment, education, employment, support, partnership and connections.

OUR MISSION

To create resilient and progressive partnerships, structured resources and a professional mindset to evolve community programs and social enterprises. 

COMMUNITY. CONNECTION. PARTNERING. SUPPORT.

Our values are the heart, soul and centre of Local Impact.

These values signify the essence of our shared purpose. We grow community ideas through partnership, support and connection. 



Powered services

Our powered services support local community programs and initiatives.

HUMAN RESOURCES



IT SOLUTIONS



FINANCIAL



ADMINISTRATION



GOVERNANCE



MARKETING



GRANTS



STRATEGY



BOOKKEEPING AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES



Local Impact staff and partners have supported local community organisations and sporting clubs for many years.

During this time we have been exposed to the challenges that some clubs face when recruiting volunteer committee members.

The recruitment of the treasurer can be challenging when players or parents move on from the organisation. Often there is no handover and processes adopted by one treasurer are often lost or ignored by the next.

What if the bookkeeping role was already in place and treasurers simply had the task of managing the finances and making strategic decisions



rather than spending hours inputting data? Local Impact provides bookkeeping and accounting services to its programs and local community organisations.

As an example, in 2024 we worked with Footscray Park Bowls Club.

Their current operational systems required updating to a more seamless, integrated system to manage the bookkeeping functions and most importantly reducing the hours dedicated by the current Treasurer to maintain accurate reporting to the club committee.

Local Impact worked with the management committee, in

particular the Treasurer, to implement a new integrated accounting system including training and support. The delivery included designing a chart of accounts that represented the reports required by the committee, staff roster systems, stock control, and cash handling.

Geneine McFarlane
Management Accountant

Julia Kitanovski
Trainee Bookkeeper



SECURING COMMUNITY GRANTS



Local Impact enjoys an impressive track record securing grant money to build progressive community-based programs, partnerships, and enterprises.

Grant writing has been instrumental in securing substantial funding for our community. The organisations the funding supports then circulate that money throughout our community. Since its inception, Local Impact and its predecessor, the Inner West Community Foundation, have collectively received over \$1,000,000 in grants from federal, state, and local governments, as well as philanthropic trusts and corporations.

Real money delivering real programs connecting people, resources and ideas to meet social needs. Some of the programs these funds have been invested into include:

- Community Bike Hub
- The Westsider Newspaper
- Money Mentor
- TO-LEAP

Looking ahead, the Local Impact team will develop more opportunities around grant writing, such as workshops to develop and mentor community

grant writers, reviewing grants or writing grants on behalf of our community groups and organisations.

By increasing the volume of grants received and invested into our community we can begin to deliver self-sufficient social enterprises, and with it a sustainable and resilient community.

India Grigg
Grants Writer



Community ideas in action

TO-LEAP program

The To-LEAP program is the brainchild of Trang Du from Two Square Pegs and provides education and mentoring to residents of social housing who have a business or community idea they would like to develop.

With funding awarded in 2022 through Paving the Way Forward (DFFH) and City of Melbourne the TO-LEAP Program was delivered as a partnership between Two Square Pegs and Local Impact. Whilst Two Square Pegs would deliver the training and education, Local Impact could manage and deliver the grants attached to the program,

whilst mentoring in the program delivery.

The program has proven to be a transformative force within the North Melbourne and Flemington social housing communities. By providing early-stage enterprises with access to seed funding, workshops, mentoring and networking opportunities, TO-LEAP has empowered individuals to develop the skills and confidence necessary to launch and grow their businesses.

A resounding success, TO-LEAP has yielded impressive results.

100% of surveyed participants reported a significant boost in confidence, while 93% successfully established enterprises. Moreover, over 85% of these businesses are now actively trading and generating revenue.

The program's impact has extended beyond its direct participants. The positive word-of-mouth generated by the 2023 cohort fuelled significant interest in the 2024 program, with over 80 expressions of interest received to join the second round.



GRADUATES IN THE 2023 PROGRAM WERE:

- Conscious fashion brand Zibo
- North Melbourne Public Housing Residents Association (NMPHRA)
- The Rest of Us creative youth workshops
- Najwa Hope Services supporting disability access
- Som Chapati catering business
- Muslim children's books
- Coffee catchup community gatherings
- Healing Minds Through Music dance group

THE REST OF US: CREATIVITY EMPOWERING AT-RISK YOUTH

Launched by TO-LEAP participant and grant recipient Konker Malual, The Rest of Us (TROU) is a dynamic creative collective empowering at-risk youth (12-18 years old). Through workshops in music, poetry, and art, TROU provides a safe space for disadvantaged youth, particularly boys, to express

themselves, build confidence, and find their voices.

With the support of grant funding, TROU has successfully executed a series of creative initiatives, including artist development workshops, poetry nights, DJ sets, fundraising events, and music showcases.

These programs have not only provided valuable artistic training but have also fostered a sense of community and belonging among participants. TROU's inclusive approach has empowered underrepresented artists and CALD communities to share their unique stories and perspectives.

ZIBO: A FASHION REVOLUTION

With TO-LEAP's support, Aziza, a passionate advocate for underrepresented women, launched her fashion brand, Zibo. Through the program's grant funding, Aziza was able to bring her vision to life by creating design samples, developing a website, sourcing

ethical fabrics and partnering with a local manufacturer.

Zibo's debut collection was showcased at a community fashion event in July 2024, a celebration of local talent and empowerment. Surrounded by her TO-LEAP community, Aziza

proudly presented her designs, offering a unique perspective on fashion that had previously been overlooked. The event fostered wider community engagement, strengthened local connections, and provided valuable networking opportunities.

Community Bike Hub



The 2024–2025 financial year brings a game-changing opportunity in the form of the Brimbank Traffic School – a bicycle education facility that adds to our holistic offering, from learning to ride, to recycling and refurbishing bikes. This Brimbank Traffic School complements our repair workshop and our volunteer hub.

It was an exciting and challenging year for the Community Bike Hub, in which we tested new ideas, welcomed new team-members, and moved our service and retail shop from Moreland Street in Footscray to Barkly Street in West Footscray.

We continue to build on our highly successful education program partnership with Footscray High School, offering practical bike repair and recycling skills for middle years students.

We're also expanding our community impact through initiatives including the Spot & Cycle park ride and Empower Her Ride education program in collaboration with the City of Maribyrnong.

Watch this space for an even bigger 2024–2025! 🚲

Amy McArthur
Operations Manager
Community Bike Hub

The staff here are so lovely and patient. I came back 2 to 3 times in a week to look at a bike before settling on one. The staff were really welcoming and even attached a bell! They also helped my partner with his bike.

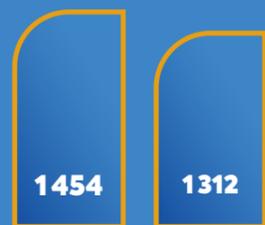
Excerpt from a Google review



Year 9 students Sage and Scarlett, winners of a Community Bike Hub design collaboration with Footscray High School. Mugs and tote bags with their designs were made available for sale at the Community Bike Hub shop.



1312
Bikes collected



2022–23 2023–24



755
Bikes recycled



2022–23 2023–24



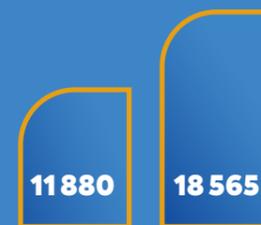
587
Bikes donated



2022–23 2023–24



18 565
Weight of materials saved from landfill



2022–23 2023–24



Powered by
Local Impact

The Westsider Newspaper

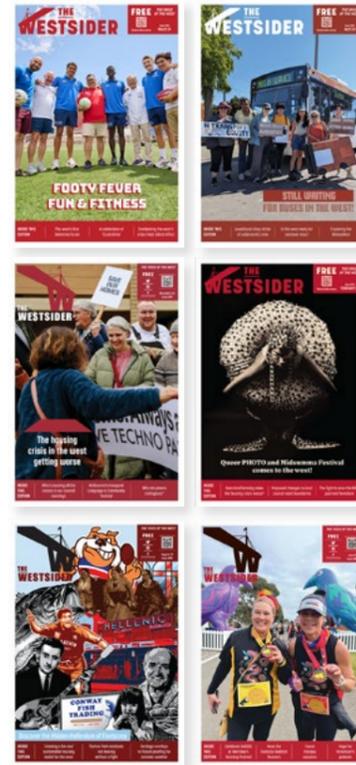


for Radio National, creating Westsider FM after receiving a grant, and introducing our new website. We also ran our first donation campaign through the Local Independent News Association.

Thanks to the operational, finance, and marketing support from Local Impact, our core team – Jean, Lena, and Barbara – has been able to focus on the paper’s development. However, like many businesses, rising costs have affected us, and challenges with social media reach mean we are focusing on growing paid subscribers, newsletter lists, and expanding into video and podcast content. 

Kelly Kayne
Founder
The Westsider

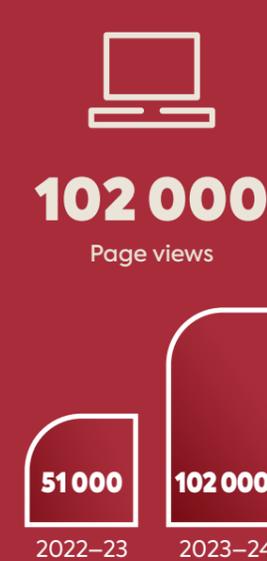
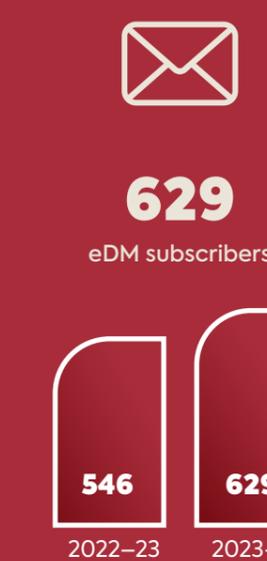
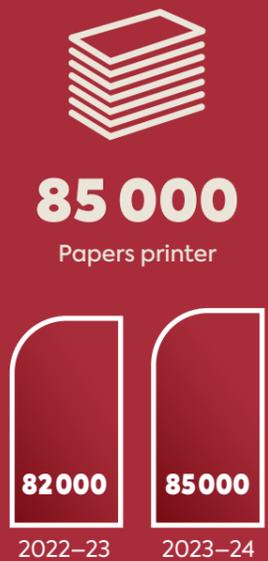
The Westsider has had a remarkable year, finally overcoming the challenges of lockdown. Under our ‘new’ Editor, Barbara Heggen, we’ve expanded our networks, welcomed new writers, and enriched our content. With professional journalists volunteering and interns from the University of Melbourne and RMIT, we’ve grown significantly. Highlights of the year include recording our WillyLitFest panel



While journalism communalises real dramatic events, storytelling has the power to communalise drama. Either way, they unite us and forge deeper connections by calling attention to our shared humanity.

Here at The Westsider we try to do a little of both. Tapping into our local educational institutions (Victoria University, RMIT and the University of Melbourne) we provide rare opportunities for emerging journalists to hone their craft. And by working with local organisations like 100 Story Building we encourage young writers to share their creative voices with a wider audience.

Barbara Heggen
Editor
The Westsider



Powered by


The Money Mentor program



The 2023–2024 Financial Year was a year of growth for the Money Mentor program, with the addition of a website, an increase in the number of students and schools engaging with the program, and rebranding of the program’s presentations.

In recent months, the Money Mentor program has developed a collaborative relationship with Western Bulldogs Community Foundation and its ‘Daughters of the West’ program, to reach women from diverse backgrounds as they navigate the world of money. The ongoing cost-of-living pressures and housing insecurity many face around Australia (and the world) underlines how important financial literacy is for people at all ages.

Angela Martin
Program Manager
The Money Mentor program

Angela and the team at Local Impact have tailored the program to the needs and the availability of the students and their class sizes and the delivery is engaging and interactive.

Since introducing the program we have made some really positive inroads to supporting our local youth in this space.

Claire Sutherland
Community Bank
Bacchus Marsh



the
MONEY MENTOR
program

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9

schools



2283

students



100

classes



3

community groups





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Business for good



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