



# Kindred Spirits Foundation

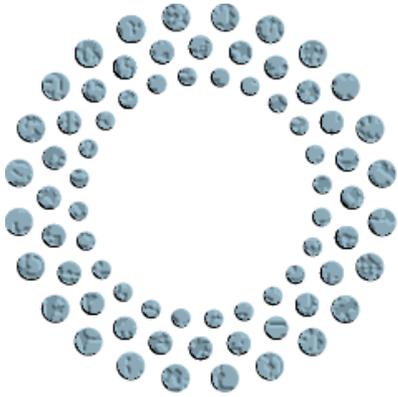
2017 Annual Report

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# Share Review

Collaborate

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## Executive Summary

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The 2016 – 2017 year has provided us with a timely opportunity engage in reflection and consolidation as a stepping stone for moving towards our tenth year of operation.

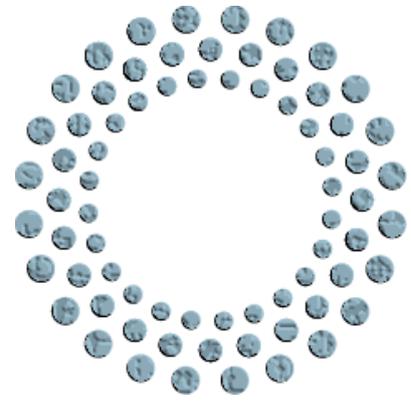
Whilst continuing to encourage and support projects that we believe in and walk along side, we have taken some time to focus on revisiting our mission, values and goals in order to develop solid footings and foundations on which to further develop our strategies for growth and capacity to network and connect with communities.

This organisational evaluation has allowed us to commence the development of a framework for managing structural requirements and change that lead us to understand our strategic capacity to manage effective new business processes, recognise our strengths and weaknesses and develop appropriate guidelines for responses, engagement and contributions as we journey towards the next ten years.

Strategy

Discuss

Evaluate



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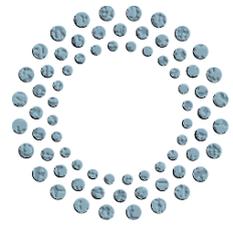
## Who we are

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Kindred Spirits has also been proud to be a “family and friends” based foundation - created to walk with people and communities along their journeys in the hope of supporting and promoting excellence, innovation and discovery.

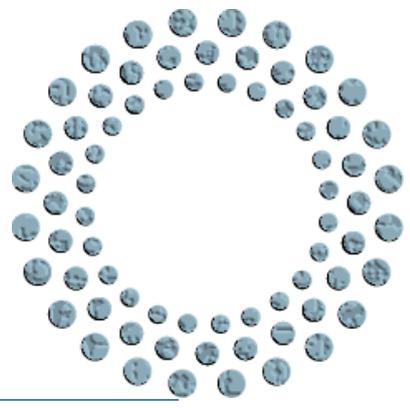
We take the time to get to know each and every one of our partner community groups in order to develop meaningful and lasting relationships that in turn foster growth and change.

To do this, our approach has been to rely on the help and dedication of our family and friends, all of whom have devoted endless energy, ideas, commitment and hours to help us travel paths to assist diverse communities, with unique opportunities and challenges for the people that live within them.



# Grants





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## The Past Year - Reflection

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Throughout the year, Kindred Spirits Foundation Directors realised that as an organisation we needed to grow, understand our road map and comprehend our position as priorities for resources allocation are refined and strategies developed to continue to innovate, contribute and build networks on which to base long term sustainability and ongoing commitment and contribution.

To do that, focus was placed on the solidifying the objectives of the Company Charter, and in turn the development of a Mission, Vision and Purpose to demonstrate the values and goals that drive us and steer us to future innovation.

### *Our Mission*

Through the spirit of kindness, we contribute to a more socially just world

### *Our Vision*

To harness relationships as a vehicle for change

### *Our Purpose*

To partner with communities to clear the way for timely and meaningful action that ignites and facilitates social change

### *Our Values*

- ✿ Kindness – Creating opportunities for local communities to choose and dream
- ✿ Action – Building upon local community experience to connect and grow
- ✿ Respect - Listening, embracing and learning from the diversity of local communities
- ✿ Initiative - Taking small steps to create positive change in local communities

## *Our Goals*

- ✿ To provide for the long term financial stability and human resources of Kindred Spirits Foundation
- ✿ To broaden and strengthen our visibility and increase awareness of our focus.
- ✿ To develop opportunities for partnerships with visionary organisations

A series of workshops and collaborative online tools have allowed us space and time to consider our objectives, communication patterns and decision-making models in order to ensure significant impact is achieved in supporting the communities with which we partner.

As part of our review, the consideration of the structure of Kindred Spirits, including becoming a membership organisation with an enterprise development arm, remains on the agenda for continued discussion. As Kindred Spirits Enterprises establishes roots we look to broaden and strengthen visibility, increase awareness of our focus, develop large scale projects through research and education, and develop opportunities for partnerships with other visionary organisations.

## *Grants*

Part of this annual organisational assessment has seen us evaluate our processes to solidify our grant giving process in line with requirements for PAF, to include: -

**One-off nimble Grants** - Responding to requests to support activities that have the capacity to benefit individuals and/or communities in the immediate future.

**Core Grants** - Responding to requests to support activities that have the capacity to benefit communities in the longer term.

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# The Past Year – A Snapshot

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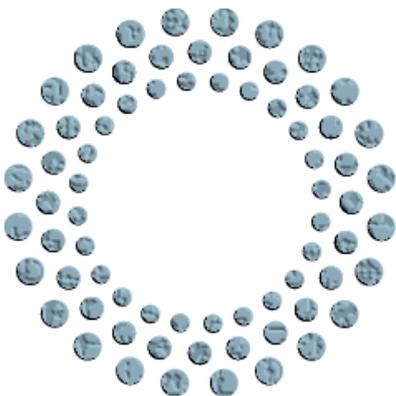
Although 2016 – 2017 has been a year of review and dialogue, our objective to engage with communities and people within communities remains our focus and our strength.

We are excited by the tangible and real one-off nimble grants we have been able to offer individuals, for them to achieve something significant that may not have been possible otherwise. These “nimble” contributions include support for a school trip to China for young indigenous student from Orbost – his mother indicating her absolute gratitude stating it changed his life in so many ways.

Further support was provided to Cystic Fibrosis WA, who contributes to the social, physical and emotional wellbeing of those affected by cystic fibrosis by providing a range of services including advocacy, bereavement support, home care, counselling, life coaching, education, hospital in the home, outreach, sibling support and transplant support.

Similarly, we were able to support Interchange Inner East to install safety barriers in their buses so that drivers are safe and children with complex disability needs utilising the services can be safely transported.

In terms of our core grant program, we continue to provide support for a range of pioneering activities carried out by our long-term partners, including Akeyulerre, Marrma Rom, The Thathangathay Foundation and Dumu Café, Kidney Health Australia and a collection of exciting initiatives within the community of the Latrobe Valley.



Strengthen  
Consultation

Define

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# New Community Partners

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## Val-YOU Reading

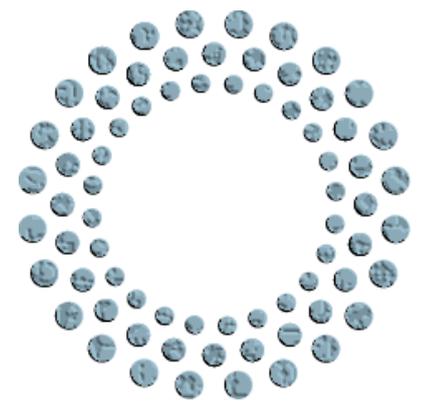
Val-U Reading is an innovative community-driven project designed to improve literacy outcomes in the Latrobe Valley. Kindred Spirits is committed to contributing to improving the lives of everyone who lives in the Valley by establishing a program aimed at boosting literacy skills.

The Val-U Reading program aims to ensure all children who start school are familiar with books and have basic pre-reading and pre-school skills. The Kindred Spirits program plans to start with parents and families by assisting parents, particularly those who are not confident in their reading abilities, to be more competent to use books in their interactions with their children before they reach school age.

## Seed Foundation

Kindred Spirits provides support to the SEED foundation in their endeavour to improve the health and education of our first People by offering opportunities for students to engage with a university, training and employment pathway thereby increasing the Indigenous health workforce and providing students with health literacy that can be taken back to their home communities.

Kindred Spirits supports the vision, mission and aims for the organisation to work towards changing trajectories for young people whilst realising their potential for success. We walk with the SEED Foundation in pursuing the ultimate aim to relieve the poverty and destitution that pervade many remote Indigenous communities.



Realisation  
Friends

Knowledge

## Refugee Migrant Children's Centre

Kindred Spirits Foundation supports the Refugee Migrant Children's Centre in their mission to provide direct tailored services that empower, build knowledge and develop confidence in refugee and migrant children.

RMCC's programs have a focus on educational and social development, as well as health and well-being, taking a holistic approach so that a sense of agency, value and identity can be developed within the broader Australian community.

Current focus, on refugee and migrant children and youth in the western suburbs of Melbourne, facilitates programs and relationships between schools, community and families in a manner that takes a holistic view of the welfare of the child.



## THE Kakadu Plum

Kindred Spirits continues to work with Indigenous groups, researchers and scientists on the development of the Kakadu Plum supply chain, from harvesting to sales and marketing, along with plans to collaborate on the development of an extensive native plant industry in Aboriginal communities.

This year has provided us with the opportunity for establish working portfolio groups to review requirements and procedures, and through a range of conferences, symposiums and meetings, we have been able to develop a clear framework for the future, that is most benefit to the Indigenous communities.

Kindred Spirits is partnering with universities, like-minded organisations and aboriginal groups to best steer and drive the required research, investment and development so communities can achieve their identified change through social ventures.

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# Strategic Highlights

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During the year a number of Kindred Spirits 'family and friends' team were nominated for awards recognise valuable and outstanding contributions in their fields of expertise and we are thrilled to note the following: -

- ✿ Yasmina and her team at UQ - B/HERT awards - Highly Commended in the Best Community Engagement 2016
- ✿ Karen Sheldon - Telstra Business Woman awards - won the Entrepreneur category for NT
- ✿ Kathy Havers - Financial Planning Association of Australia's 2016 Future2 community service award
- ✿ Mamabulanjin Aboriginal Corporation – Nominated for Indago Solutions Agricultural Innovation Award & LandCorp Sustainability Award

In 2016, Rhonda Renwick, founder and director of Kindred Spirits Foundation, continues to spread her goodwill and skill base, becoming Board members for Kidney Health Australia and the SEED Foundation. It is Rhonda's love of community development, philanthropy and social justice that sees her take up these fulfilling and important roles - committing her energies and expertise to assist in providing the best possible solutions for these likeminded organisations.

The 2016 – 2017 year also sees Kindred Spirits Foundation continue the steadfast partnership with Latrobe Valley Bus Lines, to link groups and communities to build on their strengths and through skills and training, reach their dreams. Current ongoing initiatives include The Big Red Kidney Bus (In conjunction with Kidney Health Australia), ReActivate Latrobe and their Getsunflowered project, Latrobe Women in Business, the United Muslim Sisters of the Latrobe Valley and the beginnings of our new social impact venture to be rolled out across the region and beyond - Val-YOU Reading.

Engagement

Concepts

Results

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# Family and Friends – *An Expose*

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.... Let me introduce MK Turner  
A wonderful, wise women.  
A wealth of knowledge.  
A well of kindness.  
And the dearest of friends to many.

Mid 1990's I was working as a psychologist in the Alice Springs Hospital Psychiatric ward. MK was my mentor in Indigenous mental health. She taught me about her people, their culture, their land, their history and shared their sacred foods, delicious and sustaining gifts from her land. In 1997, with the Arrente people we supported the genesis of Akeyulerre Apmere, a meeting place in Alice Springs for celebrating culture, healing and keeping alive the traditional wisdom, knowledge and practice. Most valuably I leaned from MK, and hundreds of Aboriginal people I have had the pleasure to meet, THAT IF YOUR SPIRIT IS STRONG-YOU ARE STRONG.

MK Turner generously shares her world view in her book so that two cultures can hold each other's and listen deeply to each other's world view. MK Turner, "Iwenhe Tyerrtye-what it means to be an Aboriginal person. Copies can be obtained from [sales@iad.edu.au](mailto:sales@iad.edu.au)  
I am privileged to share a deep friendship with MK. ...

Rhonda Renwick



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# Board of Directors

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Rhonda Renwick – Founder and Director

Kathy Havers – Responsible Officer and Director

Ann Shanley – Executive Officer and Director

Rebecca Crawley – Director

Karissa O’Halloran – Director

Gregor Renwick - Director

Purpose  
Initiatives

Impact

