

Prospectus  
2017

Take the next  
step with  
the Bridge



the Bridge

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# Strengthening our community through education, children's services, social activities, and community development programs

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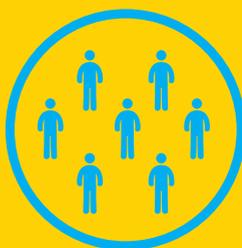
## Why?

A high level of unemployment and a sense of social exclusion exists within the Darebin community\*. This has led to significant cohorts of marginalised and disengaged residents. In addition, Darebin is also home to many people from a

culturally and linguistically diverse background. The Bridge is uniquely placed to provide opportunities for our local community, building their skills and confidence and effectively turning people's lives around.



Strengthen the individual



Build a stronger community

## **We connect with over 2100 people every week**

### **Education, to Pave the Way**

Our friendly and highly skilled tutors deliver a variety of education programs to get new and experienced learners back on track. Our programs include English Language courses for new migrants, preparation for employment, computer device classes, art, ceramics and exercise. We encourage a focus on positive ageing and meaningful inclusion of people with a disability.

**Over 160 courses per year**

### **Look After the Children**

Parents keen to get back to work, or who simply need a break, can take advantage of occasional childcare and kinder programs at both our centres in Preston and Thornbury. We have unique and secure outdoor spaces, books, dress-ups, arts, crafts and toys galore

to help foster each child's sense of individuality through a learning philosophy based on play.

**Over 284 children cared for every week for 40 weeks**

### **The Whole Community Matters**

Community development underpins the entire philosophy of the Bridge. We work to gently break down barriers for marginalised community members, providing them with opportunities and a range of activities that enable a meaningful, positive, non-threatening, interaction for each individual.

**Over 120 people access our grassroots activities every week**

### **Venue Hire**

Our numerous spaces are available for meetings, functions, birthday parties, gatherings and workshops. We have fully-equipped computer labs, large airy halls, a commercial kitchen, children's party room with outdoor play areas and practical and cosy meeting spaces. We cater to groups of 2-100 and hire our rooms and buildings by the hour or as ongoing bookings.

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**We've spent 30 years designing grassroots programs that specifically support and connect the most disadvantaged people in our community**

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## Our Customers

We take great pride in our inclusive, open and culturally diverse approach

73000+ People walk through our doors per year

200+ Families who's children we care for

875 Enrolments by 450 adults in 2016

## Our Teachers, Trainers and Service Providers

Passionate and dedicated team provide knowledge, skills and support

110 Dedicated tutors, staff and volunteers

63 Community partnerships

## Communications

We actively communicate with every person who connects with the Bridge

40+ Activities and programs run at our venues every week

160+ Education programs in 2016

27 Community events

520 Monthly newsletter subscribers

2 Active social media profiles

## Events

During the year we host or support numerous community events: these include Art Exhibitions for indigenous and disabled groups, Seniors Week, Harmony Day and Volunteers Week. We present the Mayer Park Twilight Cinema, attracting 2000 people to six summer screenings and produce a quarterly Makers Market in Thornbury.

## Our Partners and Supporters

We work with Government departments, foundations and businesses to ensure we can help anyone who comes into contact with the Bridge, regardless of age, gender or culture, to take their next step forward.



– Computers for Beginners, 2017

**“One of my greatest achievements has been to see students who were isolated develop a social network”**

– Tara, Tai Chi Tutor

**“Joining the Bridge was a period of rediscovery, self-evaluation, reawakening and a major boost to my confidence.”**

– Anne; Student, Volunteer turned Staff member

**“We love coming and we don't want to leave”**

– English Students



# How you can help

Together, we can tailor education and community development solutions that make a difference.

From rigorous pre employment programs, to iPad classes for indigenous groups and basic IT courses for TAFE students, we can develop activities that create positive social impact.

**Get in touch and let's discuss how you can best get involved**

## Sponsor a Program

We've spent thirty years designing grassroots programs that specifically support and connect the people in our community. You can focus on a program that creates life-changing opportunities or sponsor a specific venue or event, while sharing your involvement with your supporters and audience.

## Become a Supporter

Our local business and corporate supporters create lasting change through workplace giving, donating a percentage of sales and regular giving programs.

## Volunteering & Pro Bono Work

We provide opportunities for individuals and teams. From strategy planning, grant writing and project management to garden maintenance, preparing a healthy meal or teaching your own course; we have a variety of programs that volunteers and professionals can contribute to.

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**We can help structure and leverage your community support so that it best suits your business, your team and your brand**

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## In Good Company – Our Supporters

State Government – Department of Education and Training  
State Government – Department of Health and Human Services  
Darebin Council  
Inner North Community Foundation  
Victorian Women's Trust  
Preston Rotary  
Preston Connected Community  
Lord Mayor's Charity Foundation – Feed Melbourne  
McGrath Northcote  
FareShare  
Liquorland Store Managers  
Bunnings Northland  
Thornbury Bakehouse  
Christmas Elves – A Million Lights For Charity

## Contact

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