INTRODUCING THE YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS......

For the last few months, seven students from Years 9 and 10 have been lucky enough to be a part of a group of students who have seen what it is like to be directly involved in making a difference to our community.

The 7 students are:
Liberty Minogue
Abdi Nur
Lili Clifford
Mimi Le
Daniel Le
Feyrusa Bakri
Vy Le

They have had an amazing experience being involved in a pilot program called the ‘Young Change Makers.’

This program has been initiated by The Inner North Community Foundation, a local community foundation that funds practical programs which strengthen and enrich the communities of Melbourne’s inner north.

They partner with local businesses to support community projects like this one.

For The Young Change Makers project, the Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank* Branch of Bendigo Bank is the proud partner of this initiative. How gratifying it is to have a Bank like this providing funds from their profits back into the community. We are so proud to be working with these two entities, who prioritise and assist their surrounding community.

Collingwood College and Northcote High School have been the only schools in Victoria to experience this great opportunity.

The objectives of this program are:
• To introduce participants to community based philanthropy,
• To develop participants’ understanding of philanthropy
• Develop participants’ research, presentation and communication skills.

The students have been given the opportunity to distribute $15,000.00 as community grants to three selected charitable organisations. A simple task? Not at all... They started off with a list of forty-four charities that have applied for grants, mostly unknown to the students, so of course one of the hardest tasks was to get to know each and every one of these charities. They had to research them to familiarise themselves with the different organisations that
create impact in areas such as homelessness, youth, unemployment, refugees and asylum seekers, mental health, disability, the Arts and the environment.

And thus the students have become immersed in the world of Philanthropy.

This positive concept about putting in an effort to improve the well-being of others, to try and help solve problems, to help make the world a fairer, better place and to encourage everyone young and old to share a ‘Love of Humanity’

I am so proud of the way these seven students have conducted themselves. Many hours of research have been spent on this project, lots of discussions in the Library, Conference rooms and Boardrooms at the Northcote Town Hall, all with the constant focus on making the right decisions for the benefit of the Community.

These students have now determined which projects they want to assist. Soon they will visit these organisations and then decide who will be the recipients of a generous amount of money.

It has been a great experience for the Young Change Makers and one which has certainly been eye opening, informative and very positive.

We thank our mentor Kevin Breen, the Inner North Community Foundation and the Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank* Branch of Bendigo Bank for providing these students with such an opportunity. Thank you, Liria Stratus