

Darvell M. Hutchinson AM

Celebrating his life and legacy

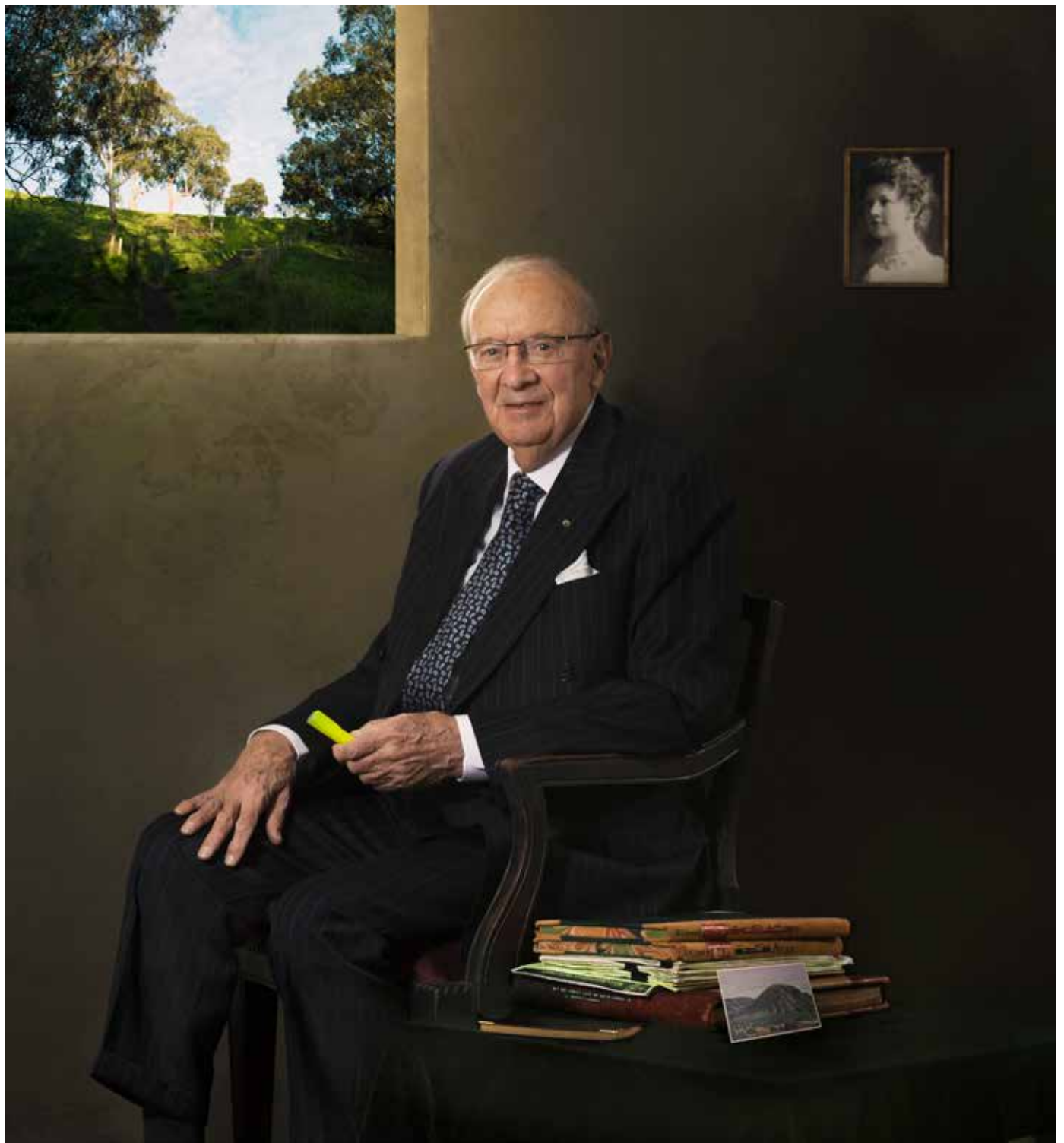
1 July 1930–1 February 2022





Above: Darvell Hutchinson with the unveiling of his portrait by Ponch Hawkes, November 2014. On seeing his portrait for the first time, Darvell delighted in pulling out his legendary yellow highlighter.

Right: *'Darvell M. Hutchinson AM (after Moroni) 2014'* by Ponch Hawkes. Commissioned by Helen Macpherson Smith Trust in honour of Darvell Hutchinson's 50 years of remarkable stewardship.



Darvell M. Hutchinson AM

Life and legacy

Darvell's life falls neatly into four categories: Family, Chartered Accountant, Directorships, and Philanthropy. Each represents a life well lived in the service of others, and each represents an enduring legacy.

Darvell always talked about his three careers: 40 years as a Chartered Accountant, 45 years in Directorship roles, 58 years in the Philanthropic sector, and in Darvell's inimitable way, he documented his extraordinary career serving 42 entities from listed and private companies to charities, trusts and foundations. The full list is recorded in this publication.

Philanthropy was Darvell's longest and strongest passion. It was a sector that welcomed his skills as an accountant, his prowess as an investor and long-term strategist, and his extensive governance experience. And it was a sector that suited three of Darvell's defining attributes, curiosity, empathy, and an innate ability to 'back a winner', whether it was CSL on listing in 1994 or through his 'investment' in good people and good initiatives through his grantmaking.

Darvell's retirement in 2014, as Chairman of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust after 50 years of stewardship, was celebrated at a function at Government House. The following excerpt from his speech on this occasion represents the spirit that defined Darvell Hutchinson's life and legacy.



“In addition to my 50 years as a trustee of Helen’s Trust, most of it as Chairman, my involvement in the philanthropic sector has embraced being a trustee or director of various charities on both sides of the table.

The philanthropic sector in Australia, both in spirit and in structure, has grown considerably since my early involvements. Yet, there still remains a great need to advance the knowledge of philanthropy, and the dedication to Giving Back to society.

Philanthropy is very much a people-to-people process which involves dedication to some form of Giving. Giving not only in cash or in-kind, but also Giving of our time and special skills. Simply put – it is the Giving of Ourselves, of what we are.”

Darvell M Hutchinson AM
Government House, November 2014

Philanthropy pioneer: passion, vision, good sense

By Nick Richardson

Published in The Age, 24 May 2022



One of Australian philanthropy's most passionate advocates, Darvell Hutchinson AM, has passed away in Melbourne after a lifetime of supporting and promoting the power of giving. He was 91.

Darvell Martin Hutchinson, AM
July 1, 1930–February 1, 2022

Although Darvell's longest association was his remarkable 50 years as chair of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust in Melbourne, he was also a founding chair of The John Villiers Trust in Queensland. He was also a former president of the Australian Association of Philanthropy Association (the forerunner of peak body Philanthropy Australia) and was honoured with Philanthropy Australia life membership in 2014.

Darvell, whose grandparents migrated from Ireland to Melbourne in 1892, was born at home, in Ross Street, Toorak, on July 1, 1930, the youngest of four children. The midwife attending the birth told Darvell's mother Elsie immediately after the delivery: "This boy was in a great hurry to get into the world, and that's a good sign." It turned out to be prophetic – Darvell grew into a man who was keen to get tasks organised and outcomes delivered, usually with a sense of urgency. These traits were evident in his philanthropy too, which was distinguished by a boldness, a willingness to trust his intuition and to identify successful investments that grew the organisations he supported.

But his drive to help others was perhaps fashioned from the hardships of his early years – the family was not well off. Darvell's arrival at the time of the Great Depression, and then the scourge of Polio that afflicted many children, added to the family's burden. Darvell was sent to his aunt's home in NSW when polio swept through Victoria. Defying stringent border restrictions in place, Darvell was smuggled back under the seat of a car on way to Mildura train station for the return home after the polio threat eased in Melbourne.

Darvell was educated at Gardenvale Primary School and finished his schooling at Melbourne High, securing a scholarship to the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants that led to his first job, with accounting firm Wilson, Bishop and Henderson. It was there he met his future wife, Barbara, who was working as a stenographer. Darvell worked in London and Barbara joined him before they returned to Melbourne to marry in April 1958. It was the first of the two enduring partnerships of his life. The second began when Darvell was appointed trustee of what was then the Helen M. Schutt Trust.

He was only 33 and for the next 50 years, Darvell would apply his dedication and vision to make the legacy of Helen M. Schutt (nee Smith) a feature of the Australian philanthropic landscape.

Today, the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust has contributed \$135 million to Victorian charitable causes and has total assets of more than \$140 million.

Darvell never met the woman behind the Trust – Helen died in France, in 1951. He was, at the time, a partner with a firm of chartered accountants whose professional predecessors had acted for her family.

One of Darvell's ideas was to make the HMS Trust an independent identity with its own office. In 1987, he retired from the accounting firm and devoted himself to establishing the trust's first autonomous public office, making the Trust an independent entity and helping establish its profile as a benefactor. On the Trust's 50th anniversary in 2001, Darvell announced a name change, to the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust to reflect the source of benefaction in Helen's own name.

While Darvell's accounting background was integral to helping to grow the financial resources of organisations he worked with, it was his embrace of strategic philanthropy that was a hallmark of his approach to giving and service to a long list of organisations.

Darvell had been trustee and treasurer of the National Gallery of Victoria, vice-president of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund, director of the Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation Ltd (now Youthrive Victoria) and the National Institute of Circus Arts, and a member of the Patrons' Council of Royal District Nursing Service. He was also a trustee of the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund and most recently a founding director of the Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation.

He held a range of public company directorships, from the Bank of Melbourne, RESI-Statewide Building Society and JC Williamson Ltd across the years, but it was his association with the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust that underpins his philanthropic career. In 2014, the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust established the Hutchinson Indigenous Fellowship, a perpetual

gift supporting 12-month residences for Victorian Indigenous artists at the University of Melbourne.

There was always a refreshing – and often inspiring – candour about Darvell's approach to philanthropy. "I think we have come to a level in philanthropy where there just has to be far more collaboration and partnership, because our individual purses will never be able to aspire to achieve the significant social impacts that can be leveraged out of working together," he said some years ago.

He was honoured for his service to the community as a Member of the Order of Australia in 1994, while Monash University conferred a doctor of laws honoris causa on him and the Central Queensland University Council followed in 2016 with an honorary degree of doctor of the university.

On Darvell's retirement from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, one of the nation's finest historians Geoffrey Blainey AC summed up his legacy: "All honour to Darvell Hutchinson. I can think of no other Australian who has given so many years to guiding a philanthropic trust and guiding it so effectively.

He possesses a special quality, sheer good sense. How you will miss him!" It is a fitting epitaph for a man who entered the world in a hurry.

Darvell is survived by his wife Barbara, his three children and extended family.

Nick Richardson is a writer at Philanthropy Australia.

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Family Tributes

"So many lovely memories after 65 years of marriage. From our early years together working in London and travelling the continent. To the joy of our greatest achievement: our three wonderful children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild. I will miss Darvell, the organiser, so much – his company and as head of the family." **Barbara Hutchinson**



Darvell and Barbara Wedding Day, 1958

"My wonderful Dad taught me, by example, the benefits of hard work, integrity and following the share market. I will be forever grateful for his legacy. My best memories will be simple times together enjoying his company."

Jane Cotterill, Daughter

"To reflect on Dad, all you can say is what a unique person he was in so many ways. His amazing work ethic and the years of his endless dedication to the Philanthropy sector. But more than that, he was our Dad; I will always remember that on those special occasions the contented look of his, sitting proudly and relaxed at the head of a dining table surrounded by his family."

Sally Hutchinson, Daughter

"Life won't be the same without you, Dad. Your guidance, generosity, advice and the love and impact you have had on so many people is truly amazing. I am going to miss our times together at the MCG watching our beloved Tigers, the last game, fittingly a Premiership."

Martin Hutchinson, Son

"One of my favourite memories with Poppa is when we lived at Bay Street and all the dinners we had together. He would love to hear about our day and was always proud of our achievements, ever since we were little. I loved all our times together in Anglesea and that we got to share the experience of the Richmond Grand Final in 2017. Poppa was the most amazing grandfather who was always so generous and inspiring, and I will always love and miss him."

Ava Hutchinson, Granddaughter

"Some fond memories I have as a child is our regular family dinners at Nan and Pop's house. Consuming delicious food and surrounded by my cousins, aunties and uncles. At these dinners Pop would often sit with us and share his memories, travels and wisdom. When we had family photos, Pop would stand behind the camera, pull funny faces and wave his hands to make us laugh. I'm glad I can look back on these memories shared with him and reflect on the importance of coming together as a family."

Natalie Sullivan, Granddaughter





"It's hard to convey exactly how much Poppa means to me in just a few lines, as he has been a tremendous influence on me in so many ways. In my 19 years of life, he has encouraged and inspired my love for education and learning, and taught me intelligence, integrity, pride, etiquette, love, kindness and generosity. I will never forget all that Pop has done for me and will be forever grateful for the memories I've made with him. I will continue to make you so proud Poppa as I know you watch down on me."

Nellie Hutchinson, Granddaughter

"Poppa was a wonderfully charming, eccentric and caring grandfather. He took great pride in his grandchildren, keeping mementos and newspaper cuttings of our achievements. I feel incredibly proud to call myself Darvell Hutchinson's granddaughter but more importantly, to know him for who is truly was... our Poppa."

Kate Newton, Granddaughter

"Poppa engrained the importance of education, travel and saving. I will continue to enjoy these aspects of my life and know that he shaped those parts of me. We are lucky to have so many wonderful memories but feel most grateful that he met his great granddaughter, Elliot."

Alexandra Newton, Granddaughter

"Our Pop always cared a great deal for me and all his grandchildren. He always asked about my interests and was very supportive and attentive. What I admired most about him was his incredible work ethic and his generosity. I miss you Poppa, and I will forever cherish saying my goodbyes on his last few days."

Toby Sullivan, Grandson

Bottom left: Darvell and Barbara, 2014

Bottom right: Family photo, 1964

Top left: Wedding of granddaughter Alexandra, 2020

Top right: Darvell with his first great grandchild Elliot, 2021

Tributes



"Darvell Hutchinson – the Australian philanthropic world may never see another such inspiring, long-serving and respected leader. Darvell had a real passion for philanthropy in action, showed great tenacity in carrying through his objectives, and gave love and support to his family and friends. He was at the forefront of philanthropic thinking and innovation for decades, not only in his leadership of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust for 50 years, but also by providing wise counsel and active participation in a host of other foundations, companies and community organisations. The following tributes show the diversity of his involvements, the deep affection in which he was held, and the abiding humanity of the man."

Philip Moors AO *Past Chairman, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust (2014–2020)*



"Darvell was marvellous! He was always a great sounding board for me, providing guidance and cautionary advice, which I very much appreciated."

Gina Anderson *Former CEO, Philanthropy Australia (2005–2010)*

"Working with Darvell as a Trustee of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust has been one of the greatest honours of my life. His fine reputation for his pioneering philanthropic work is well earned. He sought no acclaim but received it in spades. Darvell, a man like no other:- humble yet firm of resolve, big-hearted and kind, wise and far-sighted. Thousands of men, women and children have been and will continue to be the beneficiaries of his legacy. We salute him."

Fran Awcock AM *Former Trustee, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust*

"Friend, colleague, mentor, and wise counsel. Darvell's 75 years of extraordinary service will continue as an inspiration to us all. His impact and legacy are sealed in the policies he helped develop, the trusts and foundations he established and led, and the countless beneficiaries he enabled. Thank you..."

Lin Bender AM *Former Chief Executive, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust*

"Our friendship began in 1962 with Darvell arranging my personal and business accounting. Later, a group of our friends established a syndicate to develop residential land developments. Meetings over many years culminated with a good social lunch. A friendship truly missed."

Ralph Beveridge

Main: Darvell, 1956

Top right: With Dr Philip Moors AO

Bottom left: Conferment of Honorary Doctorate by Monash University

Bottom right: Site visit to WEHI with Barry Hutchins, 1982



"All honour to Darvell Hutchinson. I can think of no other Australian who has given so many years to guiding a philanthropic trust and guiding it so effectively. He possesses a special quality, sheer good sense. How you will miss him!"

Geoffrey Blainey AC *Former Governor, Ian Potter Foundation*

"It's not about giving the most money, it's about a record of outstanding philanthropic generosity through sustained commitment and service to the sector. It involves active leadership with strategic intent and is demonstrated by values and purpose. It's been my honour both professionally and personally to learn from Darvell's leadership and long-term commitment to philanthropy and the community."

Pat Burke OAM *State Manager VIC & TAS, Philanthropy Australia*

"Persistence... Courage... Inquisitiveness... Patience... Encouragement... each in part portray the achievements and strengths of Darvell. Thank you sir."

Martin Carlson OAM (dec. May 2022)
Former Trustee, Hugh Williamson Foundation

"Darvell was as kind and curious as he was generous. It was an honour to know him."

Deborah Cheetham AO

"During my time as Accountant at the Trust he was very kind and thoughtful to his colleagues and his record of service to the charitable sector was an inspiration to us all."

Barry Cook

"Friendships cannot be bought or sold. How privileged I have been to have met Darvell over 70 years ago. His family and my family have grown up together enjoying many happy moments including some special holidays. Rest in peace my friend."

Val Currie

"My family and I had over 55 years' association with Darvell, originally as an accountant, then he became a close friend. I fondly remember our many parties & trips together. My late husband Peter, Darvell and his childhood friend Brian Davis were the same age, and I feel those Three Musketeers are now somewhere drinking together, watching us. Darvell is greatly missed."

Kimi Duncan *Director, Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation*

"As a young Scottish chartered accountant immigrating to Australia in 1961 with my wife Betty and our one-year-old daughter, we were met at Station Pier by Darvell who sponsored us to Australia. Since then we have remained in close contact, and we remember Darvell with great fondness."

Tom Eager



"Thank you for your support and advocacy of the NGV while undertaking numerous vital roles over many years, and for choosing the National Gallery of Victoria as a recipient for your outstanding Hermannsburgs Watercolour Paintings collection. The strength and significance of this collection is a testament to your dedication and passion for the Hermannsburgs community and the pivotal role it has played, and continues to play, in Indigenous arts broadly within our country."

Tony Ellwood AM *Director, National Gallery of Victoria*

"I worked with Darvell on legal issues across charity law since the 1970s. Darvell had decisive strength and foresight. This was part of Darvell's leadership. He was a strong man, he didn't back off from a cause because it was too much trouble. He was a very astute, strategic thinker."

John Emerson AM *Former Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills*

"Darvell committed over 40 years of his life to the L.E.W Carty Charitable Fund initially serving as a Trustee, then taking over as Chair and in the last few years, mentoring new Trustees in prudent financial management as well as relationship building with medical researchers in Victoria. Dedicated to delivering the intent of Olive Carty's will, Darvell's wisdom, work ethic and ability to guide delivery of the Trust's mission will be forever missed."

Dr Susan Forrest *Chair, LEW Carty Charitable Trust Chair*

"Darvell was the inaugural Trustee of The John Villiers Trust (JVT), which was established under the Will of the late John Villiers in 2002, and he served passionately as its Chair for 17 years before his retirement in 2019. Darvell brought great empathy, curiosity and business acumen to JVT's granting, and he delighted in engaging with grantees. His belief in the power of philanthropy in helping build strong, resilient communities is an extraordinary legacy that he leaves in so many organisations, including ours."

Dr Ian Galloway AM *Chair, The John Villiers Trust*

"We share a commitment to creating transformational change in our community and we are proud to be one of the highest recipients of philanthropic funding from the L.E.W. Carty Charitable fund since its inception... Your strategy to support the next generation of researchers across the breadth of medicine, science, the arts and the environment has not only contributed to nurturing the careers of talented early career researchers in Australia, but has led to research breakthroughs, across multiple research disciplines."

Prof Margaret Gardner AC *President and Vice Chancellor, Monash University*

Image 1: Launch of Helen Macpherson Smith biography, State Library of Victoria, 2011

Image 2: With fellow HMSTrust trustees, 2014

Image 3: John Villiers Trust site visit to CQUniversity, 2011

Image 4: L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund trustees and staff, 2021

Image 5: With Deborah Cheetham AO, launch of Hutchinson Indigenous Fellowship



"Once in every generation there emerges a person with an unrivalled commitment to philanthropy. Such a person is Darvell Hutchinson who, for the past 50 years, has been a distinguished leader in philanthropy, with a pre-eminent contribution to a wide range of interests in Victoria."

Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE

"Melbourne Business School honours the late Darvell Hutchison as a far-sighted benefactor, whose generosity and commitment helped to birth a world-class business school in Melbourne. Through his long chairmanship of the HMSTrust, Darvell oversaw donations to the School's buildings, establishment of fellowships for women and support for leadership development in the for-purpose sector – a legacy that endures to this day."

Prof Ian Harper AO *Dean & Director, Melbourne Business School*

"Darvell's passionate and encouraging support of many researchers at WEHI has provided them with reassurance during their long research journeys. The WEHI community warmly and wholeheartedly thanks Darvell for his inspiring philanthropic leadership that has contributed to many advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease, and benefitted the health of the community for generations to come."

Prof Doug Hilton AO *Director, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI)*

"I first met Darvell when I was Minister for the Arts in the Howard Government. He was a leading figure in the non-profit sector, noted for his work on numerous boards. He was a greatly respected figure in the philanthropy sector for over half a century. As a Trustee of HMST I witnessed the outstanding leadership he gave to the Trust. I joined the Board of the National Institute of Circus Arts when Darvell was Chairman. He played a vital role in bringing additional support to NICA to support the work of its founding director Pam Creed. Darvell made a significant contribution to our community."

The Hon Rod Kemp AM

Former Trustee, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust



"I was honoured when Darvell asked me to Chair a new organisation the Trust was initiating to provide support and assistance in the development of young leaders in rural Victoria. He was passionate about the vision for the Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation as well as the key advisor on the management of the \$5mil corpus granted by the Trust. The success of the visionary initiative is an outstanding tribute to Darvell's leadership and contribution."

The Hon Robert Knowles AO

Former Chair, You thrive (formerly Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation)

"Darvell was a visionary who worked tirelessly, cooperatively and quietly making big things happen. I recall his call to action as the 1982 Toronto International Philanthropy Conference concluded: *'Let's go home and create a national philanthropy body in Australia'* – which he then helped establish. Darvell was an analytical thinker who embraced change and shared knowledge willingly. Above all he was true gentleman, dear friend, astute mentor and generous citizen."

Winsome McCaughey AO

Former Trustee, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

"I am sure many charities like the Jean Hailes Foundation respected enormously Darvell's attention to detail, his use of his trusty yellow highlighter to make sure he left no stone unturned in his evaluation of a funding proposal, but at the same time his encouragement and enthusiasm for the sector."

Janet Hailes Michelmores AO

Founder & CEO, Jean Hailes for Women's Health

"I knew Darvell from day one in Melbourne High's 1944 commercial stream. For three years he was our top scholar in accounting – a brilliant career beckoned, and it was so. Forty years later we were reunited when I succeeded him at his request – and that of life-long friend and colleague Barry Hutchins OAM – as Chair PKF. Darvell's two "Hon Docs" and AM say it all!"

Dr John Miller AO

"Darvell's charitable interests (were) formidable and numerous and a great contribution to Melbourne's philanthropic life."

Gordon Moffatt AM

Image 1: Grant announcement to Skin & Cancer Foundation, 2008

Image 2: Centre for Leadership for Social Impact launch, Melbourne Business School (MBS), 2008

Image 3: MBS Leadership Team and Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister Timor Leste, 2008

Image 4: HMS Trust grantees, Government House, 2014

Image 5: Melbourne High School Distinguished Old Boys (1944)



"The University of Melbourne community is greatly honoured by its association with Darvell. His steadfast commitment to the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust over five decades of service is recognised by the Hutchinson Indigenous Fellowship, which awards a fellowship and residency program for Victorian Aboriginal emerging artists. Through this annual award the University will continue to recognise and celebrate his role as a champion of philanthropy."

Allan Myers AC QC *Chancellor, University of Melbourne*

"Darvell has made a significant contribution as chairman of the L.E.W Carty Charitable Fund over the past 40 years. We have greatly appreciated his sharp mind, tremendous insights, strong sense of humour and his kindness."

Maureen O'Keefe *Former CEO, Australian College of Optometry*

"Darvell Hutchinson served on the Board of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund with great distinction for sixteen years. His leadership of the Investment Committee, where he contributed with his extensive knowledge, experience and understanding of the investment markets, continually proved of inestimable value to the Fund."

Royce R. Pepin AM, MBE, GCSI
Former Chairman, Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund.

"Darvell and I worked for years on the history of the Trust. I believe he would have happily become an historian – if he had had the time. He loved the detail, the reporting, the romance, the detective work. As co-conspirators, we delved into Helen's world, with the hope of treasure: a diary note, a newspaper cutting, a lead. And in the end, a book with a beautiful young Helen on its cover."

Jane Sandilands *Writer*

"A wonderful man, an extraordinary contributor, and a thoroughly inspirational human being. He is a big loss to our city, our state and our country."

Elaine Shallue *Former Sustainable Gardening Australia*

"Darvell and I were friends from primary school to the end. As a young man he participated in tennis, football, church fellowship and the annual Lorne holidays with a close group of friends. Many memories of wonderful times with a good mate."

Bill Singleton

"We had little record of what had become of our great aunt Helen Macpherson Smith after her father left the Scottish Borders for Victoria in the 1850s. As Chairman of Helen's Trust, Darvell found us at her Scottish birthplace. I subsequently had the privilege of serving alongside Darvell as a Trustee. He, through his focused application, renowned skill, and leadership, amplified Helen's legacy to the great benefit of Victoria. The philanthropic sector is a lesser place without him."

Keith Smith *Helen Macpherson Smith Trust Family Link, Darnick, Scotland*

Image 1: Community Gardens Manual launched by Cathy McGowan AO, Toolangi, Victoria
Image 2: HMSTrust trustees with Governor and Mrs Chernov



"As Chairman of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Darvell Hutchinson's contribution has been a shining example to the world of philanthropy. He was such a special philanthropist...a caring man who did so much for our community."

Lady Southey AC *Life Governor, The Myer Foundation*

"Darvell was instrumental in the establishment of the Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation and continued to work tirelessly after Brian's passing in early 2021 to ensure that Brian's legacy would be honoured through the work of the Foundation. His wisdom, meticulousness, and passion for the Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation will always be appreciated and remembered by the Directors and staff of the Foundation."

Trevor Stringer *Chair, Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation*

Image 3: Honorary Doctorate from CQUniversity

Image 4: Hutchinson Indigenous Fellowship recipients, Glenda Nicholls and Tiriki Onus

Image 5 top: Alan Schwartz AM, presenting Philanthropy Australia Life Membership, 2014

Image 6 bottom: Celebrating with Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE



"Among the handful of early pioneers who marked out the ground and shaped the philanthropic sector to be what it is today, Darvell Hutchinson has been an outstanding figure, shaping and holding the space as we have matured and expanded. Salut Darvell, with gratitude and respect."

Genevieve Timmons, *Senior Associate, Paul Ramsay Foundation*

"Darvell was such a pillar of Melbourne and Australian philanthropy. I will always remember fondly numerous lengthy discussions on some of the more intricate detail. His considered input into the first Trustee Handbook was tremendously valuable."

David Ward *Technical Director, Australian Philanthropic Services*

"Darvell was a true renaissance man: astute financial manager, doyen of the arts, environmentalist ahead of his time and man of letters endowing the education of others. He manifested his philanthropy through his dedicated 50-year HMST stewardship, transforming the life opportunities of countless grateful Victorians."

Catherine Walter AM *Chair, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust*



"In 1989, when I was appointed the inaugural Executive Officer of the then Australian Association of Philanthropy, now Philanthropy Australia, the Association was offered rent free accommodation and pro bono administrative support by what was then called the Helen M. Schutt Trust. Darvell as Chair of the Trust, and one of the people instrumental in supporting the early work of the Association, could not have been more generous in his support of me, as a lone worker in a new role, and of the work of the Association more generally."

Marion Webster OAM *Founding Executive Director, Australian Association of Philanthropy (now Philanthropy Australia) (1988-91)*



Reflections on my professional career



I have been very fortunate and privileged to have had virtually three careers, each serving to benefit certain people.

- Chartered Accountant profession serving the interests of clients, 40 years (1947–1987);
- Directorships roles serving interests of shareholders, 45 years (1969–2014); and
- Philanthropic Sector serving interests of charitable bodies, 58 years (1964–2022)

I was thoroughly absorbed in each of those sectors and have enjoyed each to the full.

My first career as a practising Chartered Accountant, and my second as a Public and Private Company Director, collectively gave me a sound base of business knowledge across the free-enterprise sector, which proved an invaluable foundation stone for my third career across the charitable sector.

Many people have more than three career changes, but my three were each long journeys of learning, and concurrently now will amount to 75 years in the workforce.

When I walked up Queen Street, Melbourne on 6 January 1947 to start employment as a Junior Audit Clerk with Wilson Bishop & Henderson, a well-respected Melbourne only firm of Chartered Accountants, I would never have dreamt my first employment would ultimately take me to far wider horizons.

Four parties made that employment position possible:

- Melbourne High School for giving me sound teaching in accounting/economics and awarding me with the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants Prize.
- My parents for giving me wise advice that I promptly accept the job offer.
- Myself for recognising that my parents could not afford sending me to university, and as my birthday was 1 July, the start of each new financial year, and I had won the Institute Prize, I seemed destined to be an accountant, so let's get on with it.
- Wilson Bishop & Henderson for giving me the chance to prove myself to them.

Career as a Chartered Accountant

Governing Bodies

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, 1976–1987

- Victorian State Council, 1977–1982
- Treasurer, Vic Council, 1982
- Executive Committee, 1982
- Legislation Review Committee, 1976–1982
- Membership Committee, 1979–1982
- National Disciplinary Committee, 1986–1987
- Public Relations Committee, 1980

As a Practising Chartered Accountant I joined the old established firm Wilson Bishop & Henderson (a Melbourne

only firm) on 6 January 1947, and after admission as a partner, became heavily involved in its national expansion (National Secretary), and later becoming a foundation member firm of a new international affiliation (International Partner for Australia Asia/Pacific Region).

This steady growth over the years resulted in two name changes, firstly to Wilson Bishop Bowes & Craig, a new Australian national affiliation, and later to the international name of Pannell Kerr Forster. I retired from the latter partnership on 31 December 1987, six days short of 41 years' service.

Wilson Bishop & Henderson, 1947–1968

- Partner, 1962–1968
- Staff member, 1947–1962
- Peat Marwick Mitchell, London*, 1956
- Peat Marwick Mitchell, Toronto*, 1957

Wilson Bishop Bowes & Craig, 1968–1980

- Partner, 1968–1980
- National Secretary, 1969–1973

Pannell Kerr Foster, 1980–1987

- Chairman National Firm, 1980
- Chairman Melbourne, 1980–1987
- International Partner – Australia Asia/Pacific, 1980–1987

* Given leave of absence by Wilson Bishop & Henderson whilst overseas for one and a half years in U.K. and Canada gaining overseas practice experience.

Career as a Company Director

Listed Public Companies

Luke Group Industries Ltd
Engineering, 1970–1983

Gerrard Company of A/asia Ltd
Agricultural Engineering, 1970–1983

John Foster Valley Ltd, *Worsted Mill*,
1973–1984

- Chairman, 1973–1984

Acorn Securities Ltd, *Finance*, 1980–1981

Hallmark Finance, *Finance*, 1984–1990

- Chairman, 1984–1990

Datronics Corporation Ltd
Computer Services, 1984–1990

Quatro Ltd, *Holding Company*, 1985–1989

- Chairman, 1985–1989

Whitehall Industries Ltd
Coffin Makers, 1986–1989

Communications and Entertainment Ltd, *Home Videos*, 1987–1989

McDonald Brushware Ltd, *Brushes, Brooms*, 1987–1995

- Chairman, 1987–1995

Bank of Melbourne Ltd, *Banking*,
1989–1998

- Chair, Audit Committee, 1989–1998
- Member, Lending Committee, 1989–1998

Unlisted Public Companies

Resi-Statewide Building Society
Home Finance, 1970–1989

J.C.Williamson Ltd, *Theatre*, 1972–1982

- Chairman, 1978–1982

Allans Music Australia Ltd, *Music*,
1973–1975

Private Companies

Décor Corporation Pty Ltd
Homewares, 1972–2013

Midland Milk Pty Ltd, *Dairy*, 1983–1988

International Meehanite (Aust.)
Pty Ltd, *Metals*, 1986–2005

HMS Nominees Ltd, *Nominees*,
1992–2014

- Chairman, 1992–2014

Commonwealth Steamship Insurance Co. Pty Ltd, *Underwriters*, 2002–2007

- Chairman, 2002–2007

Career in the Philanthropic Sector

Governing Bodies

Association of Australian Philanthropic Trusts (now known as Philanthropy Australia Inc), 1985–1994

- President, 1987–1988
- Life Member, 2014

NFP Service Charities

Fairfield Hospital (Government appointment), 1974–1991

- Chairman, Finance Committee, 1974–1991

Art Foundation of Victoria (now NGV Foundation), 1980–1983 and 1990–1999

- Treasurer, 1990–1999

Bank of Melbourne & Victorian Government Art Foundation, 1984–1995

Asthma Foundation of Victoria, 1988–1995

- President, 1991–1995
- Life Governor, 1997
- Patron, 2010

Australian Centre Foundation, University of Melbourne, 1990–1994

National Gallery of Victoria (Government appointment), 1990–1999

- Treasurer, 1991–1999
- Life Member, 1999

Melbourne Business School Foundation Ltd, 1992–2000

- Honorary Fellow, 2014

National Institute of Circus Arts, 2002–2011

- Chairman, 2008–2011

Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, 2011–2022

- Member, 2011–2022

Philanthropic Trusts

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, 1964–2014

- Chairman, 1970–2014

Harvey Patterson Fund, 1970–2021

L.E.W Carty Charitable Fund, 1980–2021

- Chairman, 1980–2021

Lord Mayors Charitable Fund, 1990–2006

- Vice-President, 1992–1995

William JR Wilson & Mary W Wilson Research Bequest, 1994–2020

The Order of Australia Assoc. Foundation (A.C.T), 2001–2019

- Treasurer, 2003–2019

Joan & Peter Clemenger Trust, 2001–2014

The John Villiers Trust, 2002–2019

- Chairman, 2002–2019

Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation (now Youthrive), 2008–2015

Brian M. Davis Charitable Foundation, 2012–2022

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- Melbourne Recital Centre
- Victorian Opera
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