TELEMATICS TRUST
ANNUAL REVIEW
2023

telematics
trust

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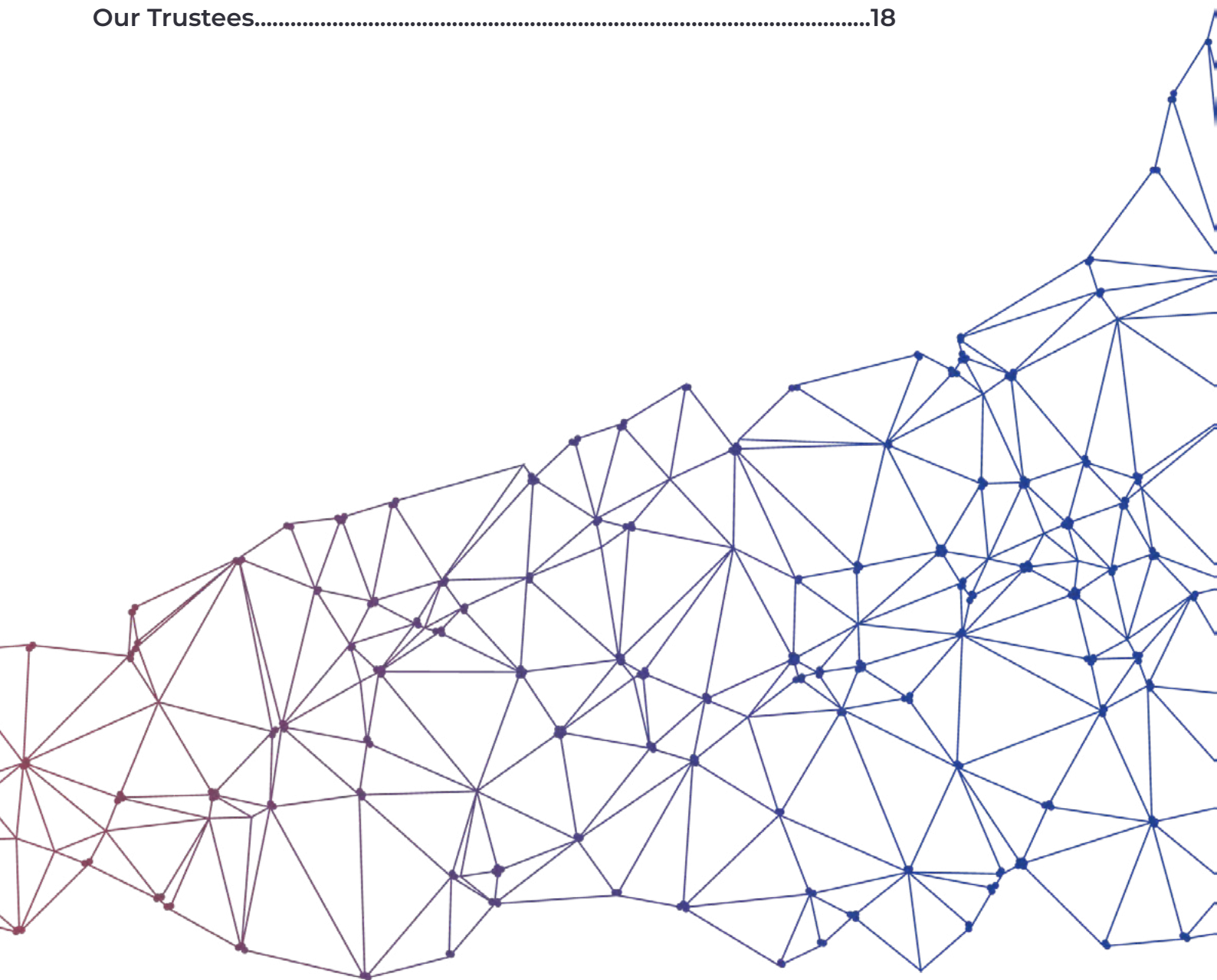
Foreword

Since its inception, the Telematics Trust has held a firm belief in the power of technology to transform the way Victorians live, learn and communicate. Technological advancements are happening at rapid speed and in the past 12 months we have seen huge changes in the ways everyday people are utilising these continually evolving possibilities. In this 2023 Annual Report, we look forward to the opportunity to reflect on the ways Telematics has progressed our vision by investing in innovative ideas, education and training for the cultural, social and economic benefit of Victorians.

In an ever-changing world, we have witnessed new and complex challenges and opportunities arising. Since last financial year, the increased cost of living has put significant pressure on organisations and individuals, and there has been a global proliferation of the use of Artificial Intelligence technology. In recognition of this dynamic landscape, the Trust has provided flexible support to our grant partners, including introducing an expression of interest process that reduced the administrative burden of submitting grant applications. Alongside this approach, and in an effort to expand our reach and deepen our impact on interconnectivity, the Trust has also increased its efforts in engaging with rural, regional and First Nations organisations.

The trustees were delighted to receive a wide range of applications in this year's grant round, which reflects the still untapped possibilities of our work. Year on year, we are affirmed in our vision and invigorated by what can be achieved when one group's big ideas are supported to become huge steps forward for the community.

The Trustees selected 14 projects across the areas of cultural accessibility, environmental conservation, health and disease prevention and management, and more, granting over $663,663. This brings the total granted by the Trust to the Victorian community to $15.4 million.

Thank you for your interest in the Telematics Trust and its work over the past 12 months. To get in touch, please contact our Secretariat via the contact information at the end of this report.

The Trustees

Ricci Swart AM
Danny Gorog
Gavin Appel
Claire Murray

Telematics Trust Vision

Our vision is for technology to transform lives through education and training for the cultural, social and economic benefit of Victorians.

OUR MISSION

The Trust is committed to funding initiatives that support our vision by demonstrating innovative use of technology through education and training.

The initiatives demonstrate the innovative use of technology through education and learning, and they aim to measurably improve the well-being of the community and environment.

The Trust provides unique funding opportunities to individuals, educational institutions, government, business, social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations.

The Trust funds initiatives that use technology to reach diverse groups and address important practical problems in our community and environment through education.

OUR HISTORY

The Telematics Course Development Fund (Telematics Trust) is a public charitable trust founded on 18 December 1987 by the Hon. John Cain, then Premier of Victoria. The Trust was initially funded with a $3 million grant by the Victorian State Government over a two-year period, and its corpus has since grown to $13.7 million.

The Trust was established for the purposes of public education and training in Victoria, for the promotion of the development, marketing, sale and delivery by 'telematic means' of education and training courses, and for the use of new information technologies for distance learning outside existing educational and training institutions within Victoria.

Since 1988, the Telematics Trust has assisted numerous organisations through the provision of grants, equity and debt investments in projects that the Trustees believe will further or promote technology-based education and training in Victoria.

The Telematics Trust is committed to the development and use of new information and communication technologies (ICT) that support innovative educational initiatives within Victoria and as such provides unique funding opportunities to individuals, educational institutes, business and not-for-profit organisations that are exploring the possibilities of using information and communications technology for educational purposes.

The Trust is particularly interested in targeting and funding the application of information and communications technology to learning processes and projects that are:

· in need of special attention

· would be assisted by seeding grants

· are not within the province of other funding bodies.

Lost at Sea: Conserving Cultural Heritage and Fur Seals, Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Phillip Island Nature Parks Marine Scientist, Dr Rebecca McIntosh (right), with students Karina Sorrell (left) and Sarah-Lena Reinhold (centre).

Telematics Trust Funding

SINCE INCEPTION

489
Grants

315
Individual organisations and university departments

$15.7
Million

OUR GRANTING IN 2023

In the 2023 calendar year, the Telematics Trust supported 14 projects with one-off grants of up to $50,000 across 8 focus areas.

Focus areas:

- Course/Software Development
- Digital Mapping
- E-Learning Platform
- Artificial Intelligence Technology

- Social Media
- Augmented / Virtual Reality
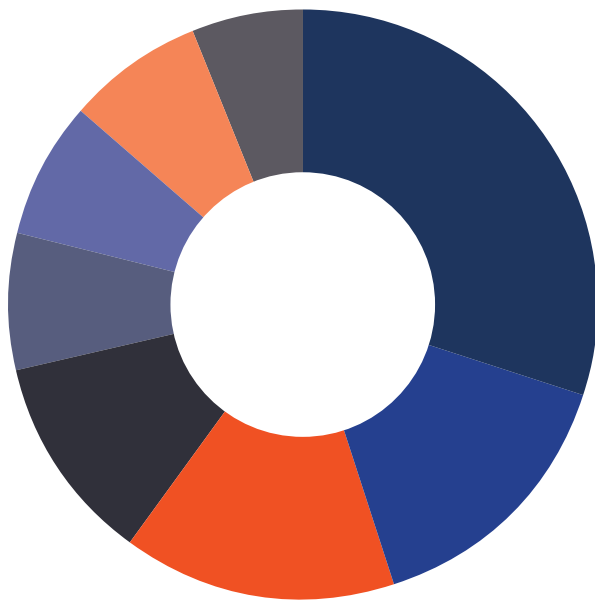- Smart Phone App
- Other Technologies

14
Grants approved

$663,663
Total value of grants

FUNDING TOTAL BY FOCUS AREA

E-Learning Platform | $200,000

Smart Phone App | $100,000

Other Technologies | $100,000

Course/Software Development | $74,263

Digital Mapping | $50,000

Artificial Intelligence Technology | $50,000

Augmented / Virtual Reality | $50,000

Social Media | $49,400

FUNDING BY TARGET POPULATION GROUP

General public | $239,400

People with a disability, illness or disease | $224,263

Flora and fauna | $100,000

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Peoples | $50,000

People experiencing socio-economic disadvantage or vulnerability | $50,000

Grantees for 2023

COURSE/SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Grants Approved: 2

Value of Grants: $74,263

Percentage $ of total Grants: 11%

University of Melbourne – The Florey Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health | $50,000

The Florey is the largest brain research centre in the Southern Hemisphere, with teams of researchers dedicated to building knowledge on a range of neurological and psychiatric conditions. Its collaborations and world-class facilities mean that the Florey's expertise can be accelerated into impact – finding treatments and advancing clinical practice to improve the lives of people living with brain and mental health conditions.

Co-Design of a Digital Tool for Early Detection of Dementia

Despite dementia being the second leading cause of death in Australia, a national dementia screening program is not currently available. The Florey aims to empower the community to co-design a digital tool (BrainHealth), with its research team, for early detection of dementia through education and training.

National Chinese Museum of Australia – Golden Dragon Museum | $24,263

The Golden Dragon Museum was established in 1991 and attracts almost 40,000 visitors per year. The Museum is situated in Bendigo's Dai Gum San Precinct, which includes the Yi Yuan Gardens and Guan Yin Temple. Uniquely, the Museum's collection of 30,000 objects provides a depth of understanding of the local Chinese community, over an extended period of time, in a way that no other collection in Australia does.

Golden Dragon Museum Auslan Self-Guided Tour

Using smart devices, QR Codes and YouTube, the Golden Dragon Museum, in partnership with Deaf Hub Bendigo, will provide a free self-guided tour in Auslan for deaf and hard of hearing people of the 10 primary objects of interest in the Museum and Dai Gum San Precinct. This project promotes inclusion, provides education, encourages interaction, and allows for independence.

DIGITAL MAPPING

Grants Approved: 1

Value of Grants: $50,000

Percentage $ of total Grants: 8%

Phillip Island Nature Parks | $50,000

Phillip Island Nature Parks is a conservation organisation that manages over 1,800 hectares of Crown Land on Phillip Island, Victoria. It undertakes education, conservation, and research programs with the purpose of 'protecting nature for wildlife'. Nature Parks is also home to Australia's largest Little Penguin colony and Australian Fur Seal colony.

Lost at Sea: Conserving Cultural Heritage and Fur Seals

Using different technologies, Nature Parks will explore climate change impacts at Seal Rocks and its seal colony, and conduct an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey. This research will help identify potential future havens for Seal Rocks colony 'refugees'. It will also create a model to identify other key Victorian wildlife conservation and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites that are most 'at risk' from climate change's impacts on sea levels and erosion. Information will be distributed online and in person to over 200,000 people.

E-LEARNING PLATFORM

Grants Approved: 4

Value of Grants: $200,000

Percentage $ of total Grants: 30%

RMIT University | $50,000

RMIT is a leading multi-sector university of technology, design and enterprise with more than 91,000 students and 11,000 staff globally. With strong industry connections forged over 130 years, collaboration with industry remains integral to RMIT's leadership in education, applied and innovative research, and to the development of highly skilled, globally focused and job-ready graduates.

International Student Work Rights: A Digital Game

International students working in Australia face widespread underpayment and exploitation. This project uses Talespin – a 3D immersive learning content creation tool – to develop an interactive scenario-based online game that will help international students in Victoria improve their knowledge of employment rights, enhance their ability to detect noncompliance by employers, and empower them with a toolkit of appropriate options and resources.

Baker Heart And Diabetes Institute | $50,000

For more than 95 years, the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute's discoveries have guided clinical practice, assisted grieving families find answers for their loss, and helped millions of Australians to lead healthier and longer lives. Its mission is to reduce death and disability from cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and other related health disorders.

Mature Aged People with Type 1 Diabetes (MADE IT T1D) Interactive Digital Resource

There is an urgent, unmet need to provide adults with Type 1 diabetes (T1D) age-appropriate and accessible disease management resources. Over 60% of Australians with T1D are aged 40 and older and many of their concerns can be addressed through digital resources complementing clinic visits. This project will create an interactive digital resource specifically designed for mature-aged adults with T1D to improve their access to trusted, relevant healthcare information.

Deaf Children Australia | $50,000

Deaf Children Australia (DCA) supports deaf and hard-of-hearing children, young people, and their families to remove barriers to personal development and social inclusion. Its vision is a world where children and young people who are deaf have the same opportunities to achieve positive life outcomes as their hearing peers.

Online Course and Resources to Support Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

DCA will develop an online eLearning course, linked to the Victorian Careers Curriculum, that will assist teachers and host employers to effectively engage and support deaf and hard-of-hearing students into meaningful and successful work experience. The grant from Telematics Trust will be used for videography, graphic design, and educational design consultancy to produce engaging video content that will augment the course's resources and materials.

Odyssey House Victoria | $50,000

Odyssey House Victoria (OHV) is one of Australia's most experienced and respected specialist Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) service providers. OHV has delivered these services in residential and community-based settings for over 40 years. Its programs typically go beyond reducing harm, responding to the issues that underlie substance misuse and collaborating with relevant services to better serve clients.

DREAM HOPE AND RECOVERY (AOD and Co-occurring Mental Health Support for Aboriginal Peoples)

This project focuses on workforce development to enable Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) and Mental Health (MH) practitioners to increase the cultural safety of their practices through improved insight into Aboriginal peoples' AOD and MH lived experience. OHV will support the role of culture and holistic strength-based interventions, seeking to improve AOD and MH treatment design and delivery and enabling this culturally informed practice to be embedded in an operational context.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY

Grants Approved: 1

Value of Grants: $50,000

Percentage $ of total Grants: 8%

Cool Australia | $50,000

Cool was founded in Melbourne in 2008 with the purpose of supporting school communities, including educators, parents/carers, and students, with high-quality, evidence-based, curriculum-aligned teaching resources. Its mission is to equip teachers and parents with the necessary tools to provide exceptional learning experiences for their students, preparing them for a rapidly changing world and improving their outcomes.

Cool Curriculum AI

Cool Curriculum AI (CCA) will assist teachers to create custom, practical sustainability lessons for their students. Powered by open-source artificial intelligence (AI), this chat-tool merges Cool's vast resource library with the Victorian and Australian Curriculum. It will be integrated into Cool's new website as a generative learning design tool for teachers with guiding prompts. The CCA will save teachers time, reduce their workload, and create new lessons to support their students.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Grants Approved: 1

Value of Grants: $49,400

Percentage $ of total Grants: 7%

Orygen | $49,400

Orygen, a global leader in youth mental health, conducts research, clinical programs, policy work, and training. It is leading the revolution in youth mental health through a positive approach to prevention and treatment of mental disorders; developing new models of care, which is translating into a worldwide shift in services and treatments.

Supporting Adolescents to #chatsafe: Co-creating a Youth-Friendly Social Media Campaign for Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention

Suicide is the leading cause of death for young Australians. The use of social media has been a common explanation for the rise in youth suicide, with young Australians spending more than 3 hours per day online. In order to harness the benefits of social media and equip young people with the skills to communicate safely online about their mental health, this project will develop a youth-friendly and age-appropriate suicide prevention social media campaign, in partnership with young people.

AUGMENTED/VIRTUAL REALITY

Grants Approved: 1

Value of Grants: $40,000

Percentage $ of total Grants: 6%

Charles Sturt University | $40,000

Charles Sturt University champions research that helps communities flourish and shapes the world we live in. It operates in a paradigm of research excellence and partnership, and provides meaningful outcomes for industry, government, business, and communities.

Mayday Hills and Beechworth Cemetery Virtual Tour Enrichment

This project plans to embed new information, namely digital images, digital sound and video files, into a dedicated 'museum' website for the historic Beechworth Psychiatric Hospital. Relatives of its patients, past employees, and community members seeking more information or planning to visit the rural historic township will be able to tour the virtual environment as a dynamic digital repository of artefacts and knowledge.

SMART PHONE APP

Grants Approved: 2

Value of Grants: $100,000

Percentage $ of total Grants: 15%

La Trobe University | $50,000

La Trobe University was established to provide education for people living in the north of Melbourne and into Victoria's rural regions. The La Trobe Rural Health School is Australia's largest rural health school offering undergraduate and postgraduate education in 11 health discipline areas across four regional campuses.

e-SPACE: Empowering Rural Education via Virtual Experiments and Collaborative Learning

Engaging students in STEM subjects is a challenge, especially in remote rural areas. This project aims to provide remote access to authentic laboratory equipment used in Space science and biology to ignite interest in STEM in students from rural communities. Using the e-virtual laboratory platform, the project aims to facilitate an online community of practice for students, teachers and researchers in Space science to encourage development of skills and attitudes for future careers.

Western Health Foundation | $50,000

Western Health (WH) is a major public health service. It employs 11,000 staff and services a catchment of one million people in the fastest growing population in Victoria. Despite higher needs and growth in the West, most hospital capacity is currently based in the East. WH experiences high rates of chronic disease and co-morbidities and services a CALD community who bear a disproportionate health burden.

Leaflet – Helping CALD Communities Manage Chronic Health and Improve Health Outcomes

Leaflet is a health management project. Its key objective is to help CALD community members who receive a challenging health diagnosis access appropriate, understandable information to manage chronic health conditions, prepare for health procedures and improve health outcomes. By using an app available in the four key languages of the West, and focusing on the most common health problems, CALD community members will be able to manage their health conditions more effectively.

Vimana Founder, Joel Kuperholz, with Ian Cane, Vimana's expert beekeeper.

OTHER TECHNOLOGIES

Grants Approved: 2

Value of Grants: $100,000

Percentage $ of total Grants: 15%

Vimana Tech Pty Ltd | $50,000

Vimana Tech is on a mission to save the bees and at the heart of this mission is its commitment to safeguarding the bees' custodians – the beekeepers. By empowering beekeepers with cutting-edge technology, Vimana seeks to revolutionise hive management, protect bee health, and ensure the future of these vital pollinators.

Technology Supported Beekeeping

Revolutionising beekeeping through IoT technology, this project empowers beekeepers with real-time hive data, while promoting environmental preservation through enhanced pollination and early threat detection. Here, education and innovation combine to create positive impacts for bee populations and ecological sustainability. Through the use of educational videos by leading beekeepers and the optional use of IoT sensors, Vimana plan to ameliorate the seemingly daunting task of keeping bees, making it more accessible to everyone.

Melbourne Holocaust Museum | $50,000

The Melbourne Holocaust Museum is dedicated to the memory of the six million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust. The Museum's collection includes documents, photographs, and audiovisual testimonies given by survivors. Underscoring the Museum's collection is a mission to educate the public against antisemitism, racism, and prejudice.

In Their Own Words: Vital Lessons for Today

This project consists of 30 video projections of Holocaust survivor testimony displayed in the Museum's special exhibition gallery. Utilising technology to educate the public, the videos include graphic representations of key words and emphasise topics such as discrimination, bystanders, acts of kindness, hope, faith, ghettos, and camps, among other subjects. The exhibition will impart the lessons of the Holocaust through an engaging medium that is accessible to a diverse range of abilities.
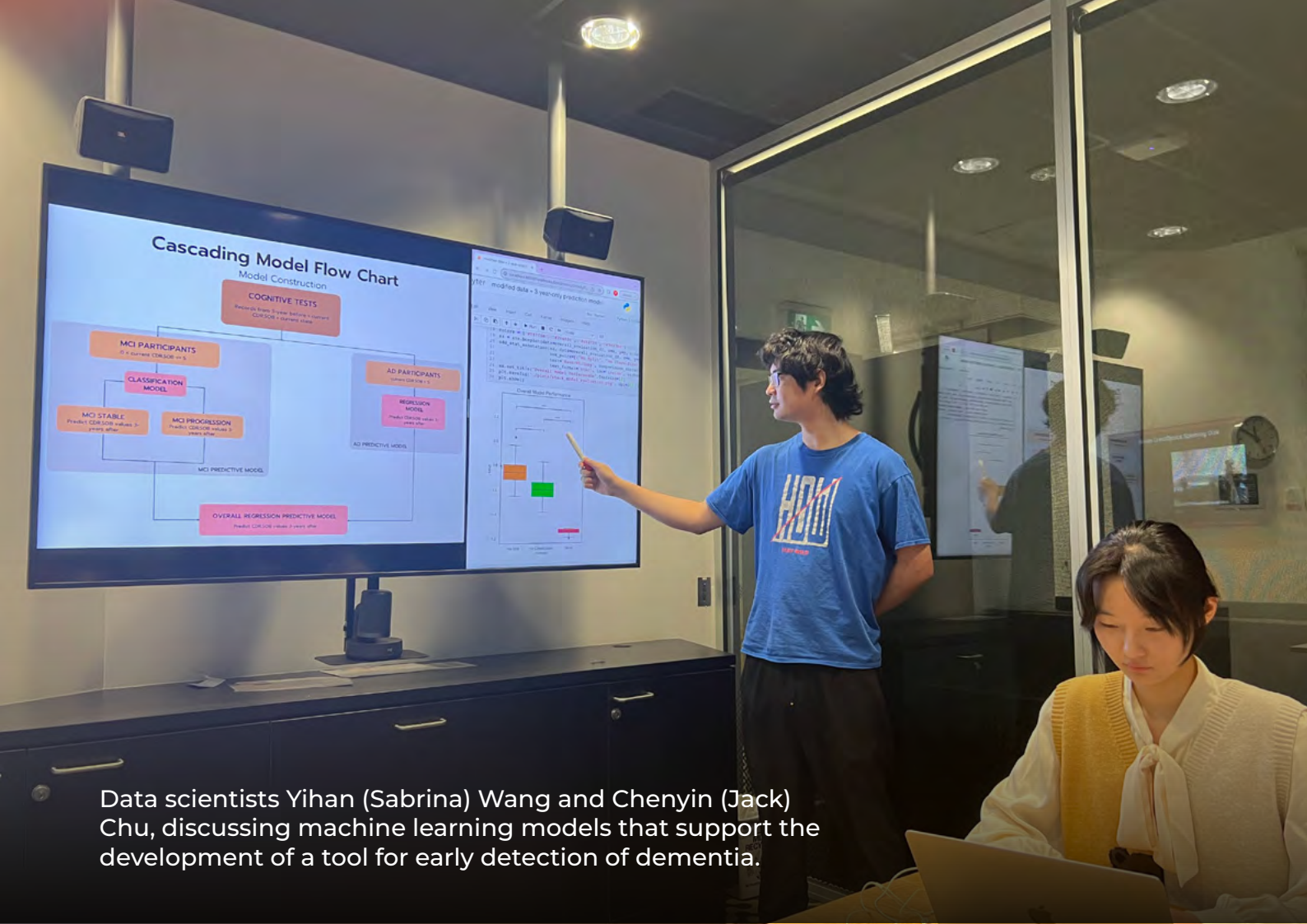
Data scientists Yihan (Sabrina) Wang and Chenyin (Jack) Chu, discussing machine learning models that support the development of a tool for early detection of dementia.

In Their Own Words: Vital Lessons for Today, Melbourne Holocaust Museum.

Our Trustees

RICCI SWART AM (CHAIR)

Ricci Swart was appointed to the Board in December 2009 and has been Chair since 2018. She has over 30 years' experience in film and new media, producing several award-winning documentaries and feature films. Her previous board appointments have included Koorie Heritage Trust, ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image), the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Royal Children's Hospital and Haifa University.

DANNY GOROG

Danny Gorog was appointed in June 2014. Danny is a founder, investor and currently the CEO of Snap Send Solve. He is an active investor in early-stage start-ups as well as a board member and adviser. In September 2009, Danny co-founded Outware Mobile (outware.com.au), Australia's leading mobile app developer responsible for developing apps for ASX 100 companies. Danny is also currently a board member at Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

GAVIN APPEL

Gavin Appel was appointed in January 2019. Gavin is a startup adviser and tech investor with 25 years of global operational and investing experience in the technology industry spanning startups, corporates and venture capital. Prior to founding startup advisory firm Ignition Lane, Gavin was one of the first employees and CTO at Hitwise (acquired for US$240 million), SVP at Experian and VC Partner at Square Peg.

CLAIRE MURRAY

Claire Murray was appointed in January 2021. Claire is a consultant and advisor with over 25 years of diverse experience in the innovation, science, technology, education and creative industries. Claire has advised federal and state government clients, government departments, publicly funded entities and private sector organisations in strategy, policy and evaluation, often through a technology and change lens. Claire is a member of the council of the Brotherhood of St Laurence's David Scott School.