Collier Charitable Fund

## Alice Edith Annette.





Jenkin Collier

1830 - 1921

A young immigrant committed himself to making Australia a better place.

His daughters stayed true to his values and after Edith's passing in 1954, the daughters' charitable wishes could be put into effect, thus benefitting institutions such as our public hospitals and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.



Alice Collier

1863 - 1950



Annette Collier

1864 - 1947



**Edith Collier** 

1869 - 1954

1955 — 2007 \$50M donated

\$100,00,000+

Jenkin Collier arrived in Melbourne from Wales as a 23 year old immigrant in 1852 and entered the building trade. It was while he was operating a mill to cut sleepers in Goulburn that he got to build the last 53 miles of the Melbourne to Echuca line, which he completed months ahead of schedule.

Later, he built the line between
Deniliquin and Moama. His visionary
plans to build a railway from Dalby to the
Gulf of Carpentaria and from Charleville
to the NSW border were too radical
to be accepted by the Queensland
parliament over one hundred years
ago, but the government's vetoing of
Collier's dream didn't dampen
his active involvement in pastoral
development of Queensland.

Collier made his money in the boom time of the 1870s. The family lived in 'Werndew', a 40-room mansion set on four acres on Irving Road, Toorak. Collier's three daughters Alice, Annette and Edith went to PLC. His son Herbert was educated at Melbourne Grammar and later became a Queensland farmer. Sadly Herbert died in his late 20s without leaving any descendants.

When Jenkin Collier died aged 91, he left his estate to his family. The three daughters, devoted to each other, never married. They travelled extensively but they lived very unpretentiously. They attended church at St John's Church, Toorak regularly and spent only a fraction of the 50,000 pounds income they received annually from their father's estate. Instead they gave generously to charities and people in need, always insisting on anonymity. Their private secretary of thirty years said they were "the sweetest and dearest souls" she ever knew.



They were also excellent businesswomen and made their own decisions as to how to invest their income. As a result they left a 1.25 million pounds trust, the income from which has been donated annually ever since to charities, hospitals and educational institutions in proportions nominated in the sisters' wil



In 2007 the Lord Mayor's Charitable
Foundation, a direct recipient of the
Fund, hosted a function to celebrate
the Fund distributing \$50 million.
In the subsequent 11 years the Fund has
distributed a further \$52 million to
bring the total to just over \$102 million.

John Jone 4 box 4500

Since commencing in 1954 the Fund has provided support to over 3000 organisations.

The first annual report published in 1955 contains the following quote from the Book of Revelation (14:13) "and their works do follow them", a fitting tribute to the legacy of Alice, Annette and Edith Collier who stayed true to their father's commitment to making Australia a better place.