

Message from the CEO



At the end of April I attended the Council on Foundations Conference in Los Angeles. The Council is the national not-for-profit association and its members' assets collectively total over \$300 billion. Over 1300 grant-makers attended the conference to discuss best practice and critical issues in philanthropy.

For the first time a CEO's track was part of the conference, and there were also special streams for aspiring CEOs, for the next generation of young grant makers, for new board members and for global grant-makers. The opening plenary session explored three examples of how crisis events can become turning points – the civic and philanthropic response in Los Angeles to the riots of twenty years ago, the response in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina's revelations of social inequality and the response in Detroit amidst crisis and social despair.

Panelists spoke about the importance of partnerships and collaboration – the ability of Foundations to bring together 'unusual' partners – who wouldn't normally work together, who understand collaboration and who will be there for the long term. I came away with new inspiration, ideas and a sense that it is time for bold leadership in philanthropy. The conference highlighted the need for long term commitments – 10-plus years, the importance of leadership programs, the need to share funding models, data and the importance of knowing the needs of a community. The best funders have an ear to the ground and an understanding of what is really happening in a community.

We are working towards achieving this in our own work, such as the series of roundtable forums and our interstate visits, and the Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy (LLEAP) forum, which you can read more about in the News section of this newsletter. Experience has taught us that grant-making informed by genuine understanding carries the greatest chance of success.

Finally, I encourage potential grant applicants to check our website as the funding objectives for the Arts and Community Wellbeing have changed since our last newsletter. Each funding round the Foundation receives many more applications than can be supported. We recognise the time and effort everyone puts into preparing applications and I cannot stress enough how important it is for prospective applicants to contact our Program Managers to discuss a project before preparing and submitting applications. We are now into our second funding round for the year, and with hundreds of applications pending, we have plenty to think about over the next few months.



Janet Hirst

Round Up

Highlights from the recent funding round. [Read more](#)

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Join us on Facebook and stay in the loop with IPF news, special events and funding round reminders. [Read more](#)

Feedback

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of *the seahorse*.

We welcome your comments and suggestions, please send them to the Editor at seahorse@ianpotter.org.au

If there is someone else in your organisation this newsletter should go to, please [forward to a friend](#). If you do not wish to receive it in future, simply [unsubscribe](#) (but we hope you don't!).

Round up

New Ian Potter Arts Commissions

The Ian Potter Arts Commissions have been an important element of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust's support for talented Australian artists for almost 20 years. In 2009, the Trust concluded its successful decade-long Ian Potter Music Commissions, which was preceded by a series of Sculpture Commissions in the 1990s.

The quest to identify the next area of the Arts that could most benefit from this type of support has been a challenging and rigorous two-year process.

We are delighted to announce that the next Ian Potter Arts Commissions will be a ten-year partnership with the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) to support artists working with the Moving Image. To be known as ***The Ian Potter Moving Image Commissions***, this biennial award of **\$100,000** will support talented, mid-career artists working in this exciting, vibrant art form to create a significant new work.

"The Moving Image is a dynamic, accessible art form that is growing rapidly in popularity among artists and audiences alike," said Janet Hirst. "This commissions program is a significant investment in the future development of Moving Image art in Australia, and represents a wonderful opportunity for artists, giving them the time and scope to explore new works and advance their artistic practice. This is an exciting new direction for the commissions and we are thrilled to be working in partnership with ACMI."

[See press release for more information.](#) Full details, including the application process will be announced in late July.



Highlights from the recent funding round

Every funding round sees outstanding organisations being awarded grants ranging widely in value and all vitally important to the organisation and the work they are doing. At our last Board Meeting **\$22 million** was committed for funding.

In our **Health & Disability** program, a grant of \$150,000 (over two years) was made to the **Australian Council for Educational Research** for *Dare to be Different* - a documentary about the outstanding work that is being carried out by Port Phillip Specialist School in providing comprehensive educational opportunities and outcomes for children with multiple and severe intellectual and physical disabilities.

In the Arts, a grant of \$200,000 (over two years) was made to the **National Art School** in Sydney (*pictured*) to assist in establishing a secure, climate-controlled storage for their collection. And in our Community Wellbeing program area, \$200,000 (over two years) was granted to **Catherine House** in South Australia to support the development of a social enterprise initiative providing fee-for-service job placement services where homeless women will be matched with employing companies interested in social investment for a social purpose.

The Foundation has had a long term commitment to several organisations which provide nutritious food and meals to those in our community who are hungry and those who are homeless. A grant of \$700,000 was made to **FareShare** for the purchase and fit out of new premises which will mean that volunteers at FareShare will be able to cook one million nutritious free meals a year for over 400 charities.

These are just a few of the recent grants approved - for a complete list please refer to our [website](#).



Cultural Trust welcomes 45 new grantees

The Ian Potter Cultural Trust received \$265,000 which will be distributed to 45 talented artists from around Australia. Their destinations stretch to the corners of the globe, from Sweden to Texas and almost everywhere in between. For glass artist Ebony Addinsall, this will be her first overseas trip. Her travels will take her to Scotland to attend a masterclass at North Lands Creative Glass, and then on to a teaching

residency at Kitengala Hot Glass Studio in Nairobi, Kenya.

We wish Ebony and all the new grantees safe and successful travels. Please remember to drop us a note on our Facebook page to let us know how you are going!

[See list of new grantees.](#)

Image: Ebony Addinsall and her work, entitled White Lines



Making a difference

Education Benalla Program

The Foundation is delighted to have committed a further \$225,000 towards the Education Benalla Program. The program is a wonderful example of a community driven 'cradle to career' education initiative and it continues to enjoy excellent collaboration among funders, service providers and government. As the program grows and develops it will require further philanthropic and government support. We would like to congratulate the Tomorrow: Today team on securing new support from the Victorian Government's Advancing Country Towns Initiative and look forward to welcoming further new collaborators to the project in the future.

Visit the Tomorrow: Today [website](#).



John Gough Retires

At the end of 2011, Mr John Gough AO tendered his resignation from the Board of Governors after 18 years of service to The Ian Potter Foundation, The Ian Potter Cultural Trust and The George Alexander Foundation.

Mr Gough has been an active and generous Governor who has contributed a great deal of time, and brought a range of excellent initiatives forward since his appointment in 1993. Many of Mr Gough's recommendations became some of our major grants, including key funding to the National Gallery of Victoria, the National Portrait Gallery, the new Treasures Gallery at the National Library of Australia, the Sydney Institute of Marine Science and Lizard Island Research Station, which will always remain important parts of the Foundation's legacy. Mr Gough played an instrumental role in the Foundation's support of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and Cranbourne over many years. He was also a valued member of the Finance Committee, Education Committee, Environment Committee, Audit Committee and oversaw the preparation of our Annual Report for several years.

His thoughtful counsel and advice will be greatly missed and we wish him the very best for his retirement.



In Other News

Community Wellbeing Forums

We have been hosting a series of roundtables with other philanthropic funders and not-for-profit organisations including Berry Street, Victorian Youth Mentoring Alliance and VACRO, to discuss topical issues such as the needs of young people exiting out-of-home care, youth mentoring and early intervention and support for families of at-risk individuals.

At these roundtable events funders discuss the best approach for effective changes to these long standing issues with experts in the field and come together to draft strategies for collaborative funding

partnerships. Further forums are planned for the second part of the year. See our website or 'like' our Facebook page to be kept up to date with news.



Welcome Aoife!

Our increasingly busy Communications 'department' has doubled its resources with the very welcome addition of a part-time Communications Coordinator, Aoife O'Connell-Whelan. Aoife's background is in journalism and marketing. For several years she worked with national and local newspapers in Ireland, before emigrating to Australia and joining the PR team at Museums Victoria. Aoife is particularly passionate about disability issues and has worked extensively in this area, and has been promoting greater consideration of accessibility issues in our work practices. She has already ensured that our forthcoming new website will feature a contrast switcher for people with impaired vision.

A warm welcome Aoife!



Program Managers head for the Apple Isle

Our CEO, Janet Hirst and the Program Management team spent several days in Tasmania in April, meeting with a range of organisations. These visits provide an important opportunity to learn about the issues being faced by communities and organisations working in different regions of Australia, and for us to talk about the vision of the Foundation and the work being supported by our grants. Thank you to all the people who went out of their way to make us so welcome. We returned with new knowledge, ideas and opportunities to increase and improve our contribution to the Tasmanian community.



One of our current Tasmanian grantees, Greening Australia (Tasmania) has been enjoying great success with the Midlands Biodiversity project we funded in 2010. [Click here to read more](#) about our tour of the Midlands with their CEO Jonathan Duddles and Senior Ecologist, Neil Davidson.

Celebrating a great LLEAP forward!

More than 100 people from philanthropy, education and the not-for-profit sector attended the Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy (LLEAP) Celebrate & Learn Forum at the State Library, Victoria for the launch of the LLEAP Dialogue Series – a practical guide for grant seekers and grant makers in education. Governor of The Ian Potter Foundation and noted historian, Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC spoke about the importance of growing good ideas. LLEAP is a three year research project that documents and shares best practice approaches to improving educational outcomes, and that builds knowledge about the impact of philanthropy in education – all leading to better grant making and better, sustainable education outcomes. The project is an initiative of ACER's Tender Bridge, in partnership with The Ian Potter Foundation and Origin Foundation. You can view speeches from the launch event and get your copy of the guide from the [LLEAP website](#).



The 2012 LLEAP Philanthropic Sector Survey is now open, if you would like to take part, [please click here](#).

Image: Dr Emma Curtin, Dr Michelle Anderson, Mr Brian Caldwell and Prof. Geoffrey Blainey celebrate at the LLEAP forum

Keeping our eye on the ball at the IPF staff retreat

In April the IPF staff took a couple of days out of the office, leaving behind the distractions of the phone and email and headed to Cape Schanck for a staff planning retreat. The beautiful coastal surroundings provided a stimulating backdrop for dynamic discussion and workshops about our organisational objectives and purpose, as well as a chance to look at how we are tracking against these, what we can improve on - and how.



We did manage to squeeze in a quick golf lesson to end the day, discovering some previously unrealised talents among the Potter team. Senior Program Manager Caitriona Fay, left the golf pro speechless after potting an 'impossible' long putt!

The Ian Potter Foundation Ltd

ABN: 42 004 603 972

Level 3, 111 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

Telephone (+613) 9650 3188 Facsimile (+613) 9650 7986 Email admin@ianpotter.org.au

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