

# THE SEAHORSE



The Ian Potter Foundation and The Ian Potter Cultural Trust newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



*IPF Governors with dignitaries at the VCCC donor reception. From left to right: Mr Robert Kirby - Deputy Chair, Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation; Ms Wendy Harris SC - Chair, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre; Dr Thomas Hurley AO, OBE; Prof Richard Larkins AO; The Hon David Davis - Minister for Health; The Hon Sir Daryl Dawson AC, KBE, CB; Mr Allan Myers AO QC; Prof Lester Peters AM - Chair, Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation; Prof Graeme Ryan AC.*

At the end of August a reception was held to celebrate the donations made to The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) Project. Work has now begun in the state-of-the-art facility in Melbourne which will rank amongst the leading cancer facilities in the world, and drive the next generation of cancer research and treatment in Australia. Last year, the Foundation committed its equal largest grant ever - \$15 million - to this initiative. The donor reception was an important next step in galvanising further support for the project, which is of such great importance for cancer patients and their families, as well as the scientists and doctors who are striving for better and better outcomes.

A key factor in the Foundation's decision to support this project was the collaborative nature of the undertaking and the promise this holds for innovation and success. The alliance of eight leading institutions in the VCCC brings together the best people and ideas, and this superb building will provide the facilities and resources to turn research into treatment, and treatment into cures.

Speakers at the event included Professor Lester Peters AM, Chair of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation, the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon David Davis MLC and Professor Graeme Ryan AC, Governor of The Ian Potter Foundation.

Professor Ryan expressed how proud The Ian Potter Foundation is to be a founding supporter of the VCCC project and went on to outline how the project exemplifies two of the Foundation's most fundamental principles – a commitment to excellence and the vital importance of innovation to human endeavour.

Along with many others in the medical research sector and the broader community we look forward to seeing this facility completed so the next chapter in cancer research and treatment can begin.

You can read more about the \$15 million grant and the donor reception in [this article](#) from Fundraising & Philanthropy Magazine.

At our August Board meeting, Governors approved 96 grants

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## 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](mailto: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!).

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totalling \$3.4 million, including 47 Travel grants. Further details of the grants approved this round can be found below.

- Janet Hirst

## ROUND UP

### FUNDING ROUND 2: \$3.4 MILLION IN GRANTS



Our Science program area supports exceptional Australian scientists with the aim of making a significant, long-term contribution to knowledge and thinking. Applications to this program are considered by the Board of Governors once a year. This year 10 grants were approved, totalling \$417,000. The largest was \$112,000 over five years to the Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation to continue the Ian Potter Doctoral Research Fellowships, which have been running since 2006.

Co-director of the Lizard Island Research Station Dr Anne Hoggett commented, "We're delighted that The Ian Potter Foundation is continuing its support of PhD student research at Lizard Island. Each year, there is a strong pool of candidates for the Fellowship and the winners are top students who do great coral reef research." A new [case study](#) about this program is now up on our website.

A second large grant in the Science program area went to The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists to continue another successful fellowship program: the Ian Potter Fellowship in Landscape Conservation. This fellowship aims to link science to the public policy challenges of maintaining the health and productive capacity of Australia's land, water and marine resources. The grant is for \$100,000.

Among the smaller grants, University of Sydney researcher, Dr Beata Ujvari received \$15,000 for her project investigating a cane toad toxin resistance gene in goannas and tweeted: 'Thanks Ian Potter Foundation. You rock!' (*Thanks Beata. We think your project rocks - good luck!*)

The Wentworth Group secured a second grant this round through our Environment & Conservation program, receiving \$480,000 over three years to further the work of their Accounting for Nature model and build an affordable, practical, and scientifically robust framework that measures the impact of economic development on the condition of our environmental assets and promote its use in informing policy decisions at various levels. Another significant grant made through the E&C program was \$265,000 to the Royal Botanic Gardens (Melbourne) to upgrade and expand The Ian Potter Children's Garden. The garden will mark its 10th birthday next year and the planned improvements will help this very popular space meet the demands placed on it by hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. These grants were two of six made in E&C, which totalled \$988,000.

Two significant grants were also made through The Alec Prentice Sewell (APS) Gift, which supports projects that improve opportunities for disadvantaged children in the areas of Education, the Arts and Community Wellbeing. One of these was a grant of \$200,000 over two years to support the establishment of a new Learning Centre at Melbourne Zoo as part of the multi-million dollar Predator Prey precinct. This grant is of particular note because The Ian Potter Foundation supported the establishment of the first classrooms at Melbourne Zoo back in 1974 with a grant of \$5,000 (equivalent to \$40,000 today). The new precinct has also been supported by significant funding from the state government, and The Yulgilbar Foundation and Sid & Fiona Myer Family Foundation have also committed large conditional grants.

To learn more about the grants made this round in our Community Wellbeing, Arts, Education and Conference Program Areas - as well as the record number of Travel grants - please refer to the full [list](#) on our website.

If you just received a new grant, make sure you stay in touch with us via [Facebook](#) or Twitter [@IanPotterFdn](#). Congratulations to all new grantees.

## ROUND UP

### CULTURAL TRUST: CONGRATS NEW GRANTEES



Thirty-four new grantees have joined the ranks of the Cultural Trust, sharing in \$208,000 which will help them travel to various European destinations as well as the United States, Canada and Japan, to take up professional development opportunities.

One of these is Natasha Frisch, a highly talented visual artist whose recent works have used simple materials such as tracing paper, to create exquisitely crafted replicas of everyday items like venetian blinds and chairs. Producing such convincing pieces can be a double-edged sword: Natasha told us a visitor to her recent exhibition thought the delicate paper chair was real and tried to sit down - with devastating consequences for the chair! Natasha will take up an Artist-in-Residence position at The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation and will also present her first solo international exhibition at Gallery Brooklyn, with the help of her IPCT grant and other philanthropic support.

Best of luck to Natasha and all our newest Cultural Trust grantees - don't forget to send us a postcard, pop a message on our [Facebook](#) page or follow us on Twitter [@IPCulturalTrust](#) to let us know how you are going.

*Image: One of Natasha Frisch's earlier works 'Gone...', 2003' (photo: Natasha Frisch)*

## FEATURE STORIES

### MEET THE TEAM: ALBERTO FURLAN

The term “renaissance man” isn’t used very often these days (at least, not with a straight face) but for our Northern-Italy-via-Northern-Territory Senior Program Manager, it seems quite apt.

Alberto joined the Foundation via a circuitous route that started when a lack of anthropology courses in Italy led a professor at the University of Venice to suggest he look at studying in Australia. After four months at the University of Sydney, Alberto returned to Italy to graduate, but his interest in Australia’s indigenous people led him back to undertake a PhD in 2001. Twelve years later, he’s still here. Venice’s loss is certainly our gain.

“I like to say it was divine intervention, but it was by chance,” Alberto says with a smile, of the opportunity that led him to join the Foundation in 2009. “I had moved to Melbourne after five years in the NT and wanted a job in the not-for-profit world, and was lucky enough to become program manager of the Foundation’s Community Wellbeing grants.”

Alberto’s research skills and genuine passion and faculty for his work has seen him become a valued and respected member of the team, and step up to the role of Senior Program Manager earlier this year. Of course, “the Italian flair which everybody needs desperately in their life” may have a little to do with it, too.

As Senior Program Manager, Alberto manages four areas of funding, and cites the amazing people and projects he gets to see on a daily basis as constant inspiration. “There may be a \$10,000 grant for a playground in Port Pirie which will change the community – giving kids somewhere to go and helping parents interact and support each other ... then there’ll be a million dollar project in Western Sydney. People in non-profits in this country really make a difference to others in need. Helping them is rewarding, it’s great.”

Also rewarding is Alberto’s approach to the office footy-tipping competition. Basing tips on the ancient Chinese I Ching might not seem like a sure-fire path to success, but to the absolute bafflement of his colleagues, Alberto has just taken out line honours for the third year in



a row. As we said: quite the renaissance man.

#### NEWS AND EVENTS

### TEMPORARY CLOSURES AHEAD!

Due to the large amount of funding pre-committed for the 2013-14 year we will not be taking applications in the Arts, Community Wellbeing and Education areas in our Funding Round 1, 2014.

These areas will resume taking applications in Round 2, 2014, which opens on Monday 24 March next year.

Applications ARE being accepted for the current funding round (Round 3, 2013), which closes next Tuesday 17 September.

[Click here for all the details.](#)



#### NEWS AND EVENTS

### NEW 100 STORY BUILDING NOW OPEN

On Saturday 7 October, the 100 Story Building opened in Melbourne's west, starting a new chapter in a journey that began four years ago in San Francisco.

Inspired by internships at a US literacy non-profit named 826 Valencia, 100 Story Building founders Jenna Williams and Lachlann Carter returned to Australia and began a publishing program for primary students in Melbourne's inner-west, known as Pigeons Projects. Their aim was to provide literacy skills and opportunities for some of the most marginalised children in our community. As the programs grew, it became apparent that a centre for young writers was needed to support and extend the resources of teachers, parents and schools in the area, and in 2012, 100 Story Building was conceived.

Just one year from the launch of the concept, the doors of the building were flung open, with writer Alice Pung, Maribyrnong councillor Martin Zakharov and a host of eager young writers helping celebrate the fact that, in Lachlann's words, "It's now a thing! You can touch it! It's got a heartbeat."

With grant funding from the Foundation's Alec Prentice Sewell Gift and many others, 100 Story Building offers creative writing excursions, publishing programs, after-school activities and writing workshops for adults interested in writing for children. All activities aim to give children an opportunity to foster their creative voice and have their ideas shared. Judging by the number of eager writers working busily through the launch, we'll see many more stories added to this building in coming years.

For more information visit the [100 Story Building website](#).

*Image: 100 Story Building's Lachlann Carter opens a secret doorway at Saturday's launch.*



#### NEWS AND EVENTS

### CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CULTURAL TRUST

On October 9th we are celebrating 20 years of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust with a special event at Melbourne Recital Centre, featuring live performances of dance, theatre, music and on-stage interviews with past grantees - along with a few surprises! The sampling of works and artists performing on the night attempts to represent 1200 grantees and the depth and breadth of arts practices supported by the Trust's grants.

Next Wave Festival's Emily Sexton has taken on the role of artistic director to help bring it all together. We look forward to joining with our

past and present grantees and our friends in the arts community to celebrate the Trust's investment in emerging Australian artists and their individual and collective contributions to Australia's cultural life. Full report in the December newsletter.

*Image: Lally Katz, acclaimed playwright, actor and IPCT grantee (2003 and 2012), will perform at the anniversary event (photo: Gary Heery)*



## NEWS AND EVENTS

### BEYOND THE BROWN PAPER BAG

In July, we joined with Andy Inc Foundation to host a preview of the documentary film, *Love and Sex In An Age of Pornography* at Nova Cinema in Carlton.

The producers of the film, Brophy Family and Youth Services, has received three grants from the Foundation to support various aspects of the project known as *Reality and Risk: Pornography, Young People and Sexuality*.

The project evolved from increasing concern that pornography has become the main sex educator for many young people, driven by increased accessibility to pornographic images and videos online.

The normalisation of pornography, much of which depicts violence towards women, is shaping young people's perceptions of sex and relationships.

The documentary component *Love and Sex in an Age of Pornography* explores these issues through interviews with young Australians and porn industry representatives, including Larry Flynt.

The project encourages young people, parents and educators to think critically about the messages conveyed in pornography.

"Our education system is yet to catch up with the challenges many young people face as they explore sexual relationships that are informed by pornography," says Maree Crabbe, Project Leader.

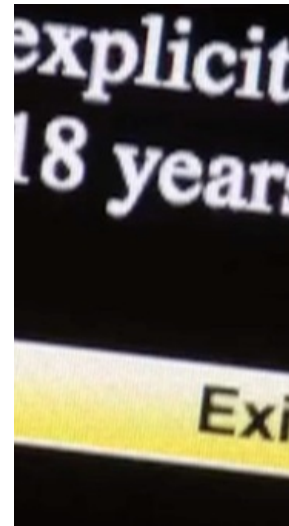
The rise in mobile technology makes pornography almost impossible to avoid. A University of Canberra study found that more than 90 per cent of 13-16 year old boys and 60 per cent of girls have been exposed to pornography online.

The film *Love and Sex in an Age of Pornography* went to air on SBS2, 26 July and on SBS1 on August 11, with further screening dates anticipated.

The SBS screening of the documentary was a great success and has been the catalyst for some excellent media coverage of the issues, including in the Herald Sun, The Australian, The Sunday Age and major Fairfax papers nationally, and The Project on Channel 10, which has successfully sparked conversation and debate.

The feedback from the screening was very positive, and the film's broadcast and related media coverage already has made a significant contribution to public debate around this issue. It is hoped this exposure will help create a political and social climate in which pornography's influence can be addressed appropriately across a range of sectors, including in sexuality and relationships education in secondary schools.

Brophy is seeking further funding for components of its education project. To find out more visit [www.brophyweb.org.au](http://www.brophyweb.org.au)



## MOVING IMAGE COMMISSION NEWS

Angelica Mesiti (pictured) is working apace on her Moving Image Commission, *The Calling*. So far this year she has travelled to the far reaches of Greece, Turkey and the Canary Islands to interview people who use whistle language as a means of communication, and has been developing her ideas for the look and feel of the work. She'll be filming this month and next, and will be sharing some previews of the final work with us and ACMI in November, ahead of the public launch at ACMI in February 2014. Exciting!

Further details of Anglica's progress will be published soon at the Moving Image Commission website [www.movingimagecommission.org.au](http://www.movingimagecommission.org.au). Follow us on Twitter [@IPMIC](https://twitter.com/IPMIC) for notification.

