

THE SEAHORSE



The newsletter of The Ian Potter Foundation & The Ian Potter Cultural Trust

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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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

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It's hard to believe that 2013 is nearly at an end. It has been a busy year for the Foundation, with almost 200 new grants made to support some exciting and promising projects right across Australia. The year also marked The Ian Potter Cultural Trust's 20th anniversary which was celebrated with a special gala at the Melbourne Recital Centre in October. This was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the 1,200 talented emerging artists supported by the Trust so far and set the stage for those to come.

In October, I attended the Rockefeller Foundation's Human Resources Centennial Symposium: *Talent Management in Philanthropy for the Next 100 Years*, convened at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Centre on Lake Como. As part of the celebrations for its centennial year, the Rockefeller Foundation partnered with the Council on Foundations to bring together twenty CEOs and Chief Human Resources Officers representing foundations from every continent. A range of topics were covered including, the evolving landscape for philanthropy globally and how human resources must respond; how effective are philanthropic organisations at attracting and retaining the talent needed to meet complex challenges; leadership and high-talent development and diversity. The symposium was an excellent opportunity to learn and share experiences with leaders in the sector from around the world, and consider future challenges and opportunities.

For me this experience was a wonderful segue to 2014 when we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Ian Potter Foundation. This milestone offers a special chance to celebrate and reflect on the contribution our grants have made since 1964, and an opportunity to look to the future and think about the impact the Foundation wants to have over the next 50 years. There will be several celebrations throughout the year and we look forward to sharing them with you.

The approach of the Foundation's gold anniversary also presented a key point in time to reflect on our vision and mission. I am delighted that these have now been encapsulated in [formal statements](#), which will provide an invaluable guide and reference as the Foundation moves into its second half century.

The first part of our 50th celebrations was launched earlier this month with the announcement of a special \$4 million anniversary grants program with two themes: Building Communities and Effective Organisations (see article below for details).

Everyone at The Ian Potter Foundation joins with me in wishing

you all a safe and happy Christmas, a relaxing holiday and a wonderful year ahead.



Janet Hirst, CEO

ROUND UP

\$2.2 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS



In our final funding round for 2013, the Board of Governors approved 63 new grants totalling \$2.2 million.

Community Wellbeing programs received the majority of the funding this round with just over \$1 million to be distributed to 19 projects. The largest grant of \$225,000 over three years went to Woodville Community Services Inc for their project *Innovate, Create, Change* which will work with multiple local service providers, teachers and families to support better school-to-work transitions for vulnerable young people in Fairfield, a suburb in Melbourne's inner north-east. The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW received \$150,000 over three years to help employ a trained mental health case worker in their H2H Hospital to Home program. This preventative program will assist patients at risk of homelessness after discharge from hospital to transition to secure housing and community-based treatment programs. Among the smaller Community Wellbeing grants, On The Line Australia received \$50,000 for an on-demand online counselling program to support men in rural, regional and remote Australia.

Three grants were made through The Alec Prentice Sewell Gift which supports disadvantaged children. The largest was \$150,000 over three years to Kids Thrive Inc (pictured above) which will engage 1,550 children and adults in the Cities of Banyule and Hume (Victoria) in three multi-faceted community arts programs which work to build social connections and improve outcomes for at-risk children and their families.

In the Arts, six grants were approved including a grant of \$10,000 to Lorne Sculpture Exhibition Inc to support *Sculpturscape* - a free, public access event that will showcase artists at work along a sculpture trail, producing major works before the live audience.

To learn more about all the other grants approved this round, including 18 Travel grants and 13 Conference grants, [see the list on our website.](#)

ROUND UP

22 NEW CT GRANTEES ROUND OFF 20TH YEAR



To round off its milestone 20th year the Cultural Trust awarded a further \$135,000 to help 22 talented emerging artists fulfil their dreams of overseas experience and exposure.

Among them is writer-director Jennifer Kent, who received a grant of \$7,000 to help take her movie, *The Babadook* (pictured above), to the 2014 Sundance Film Festival in the US. The psychological thriller starring Essie Davis is one of two South Australian-shot features to be showcased at Sundance, joining Sophie Hyde's *52 Tuesdays*.

Also headed for the US is Gemma Turnbull, a documentary-turned-art photographer who has left photojournalism behind to make socially engaged art with intensive community collaboration. Gemma will be undertaking a residency at Portland State University.

Congratulations to all our grantees, and remember to send us a 'postcard' on [Facebook](#)!

See the [full list of new grantees](#).

FEATURE STORIES

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE GRANTS

To commemorate our 50th year, we are running a special anniversary grants program. The \$4 million program, which will run in tandem with our standard grants, will support proposals that aim to achieve transformative change with practical, sustainable results and long-term impact.

The 50th Anniversary Commemorative Grants program has two overarching themes: Building Communities and Effective Organisations.

Chief Executive Officer, Janet Hirst explains, "We are looking for ideas and opportunities that will support the development of strong, cohesive and resilient Australian communities.

"To achieve positive change we need well-managed and properly resourced organisations, able to respond creatively and effectively to the needs of Australian communities. We hope the Commemorative Grants will play a role in helping communities achieve transformative change, realise their potential and enable them to become more resilient."

Expressions of Interest are currently being sought for grants between \$200,000 and \$500,000 for one-off payments in 2014. More information, including eligibility criteria, is available on our [website](#).

Applications close on Tuesday 25 February 2014.

Image: Sir Ian Potter (1902 - 1994)



FEATURE STORIES

THE CALLING

Since winning the inaugural Ian Potter Moving Image Commission in 2012, Angelica Mesiti has been deeply immersed in her work, *The Calling*. This project looks at whistling as a form of communication, and Angelica has spent time with remote communities in Greece, Turkey, the Canary Islands and the French Pyrenees capturing incredible footage of this dying art. With the shoot completed the project is now in the editing phase, and according to the editor, "every frame is a work of art."

The Calling will run from 4 February next year through to mid-July as a free exhibition at ACMI's Gallery 2 in Melbourne. We hope you can make it along to view what promises to be a beautiful work.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for details on how to win a double pass to the opening night and the exclusive *In Conversation* event with Angelica.



LOOKING FORWARD: ONLINE ANNUAL REPORTS

This year we have embraced the future in our communication and created online grant reports. Both the Cultural Trust and Foundation reports have been designed in easy-to-navigate scrolling formats that adjust to your screen, whether viewed on desktop, tablet or mobile. We have also made extensive use of video featuring our CEO, our program management team, and a couple of the Foundation's Governors, as well as some of our wonderful grantees. Our hope is that this makes the reports more engaging and accessible. We'd love to hear what you think of the online format.

We have also produced short printed summary reports which 2013 grantees will receive by post in coming days. If you would like a printed summary, please [contact the office](#) to request a copy.

To view the online reports please follow these links:

[The Ian Potter Foundation Annual Grants Report](#)

[The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Annual Grants Report](#)



NEWS AND EVENTS

CULTURAL TRUST 20TH CELEBRATED IN STYLE

On October 9, we celebrated the first 20 years of the Cultural Trust with a very special gala event at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Contact books and databases were scoured as we attempted to locate every single grantee and invite them to this unique occasion. We made a big effort to find every grantee because the celebration was theirs. Our grantees represent the best of Australia's talent and we wanted to honour each and every one of them and celebrate with them. The anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on their achievements so far and to look forward to the road still to be travelled by grantees past and future.

The event itself, guided by Artistic Director Emily Sexton and generously supported by performances and participation by some past grant recipients, was designed to demonstrate the depth and breadth of the talent and art practices that our grantees represent.

To watch a short video featuring highlights from the event please [click here](#).

Image: Playwright and performer Lally Katz (grantee 2004 & 2012) with Lady Potter AC at the Cultural Trust gala



NEWS AND EVENTS

FESTIVE SEASON OFFICE CLOSURE

Our office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holiday period from Monday 23rd December and will reopen on Monday 6th January.

Enjoy a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to sharing a wonderful year with you in 2014.

Merry Christmas from all of us!

