

# THE SEAHORSE



The newsletter of The Ian Potter Foundation and The Ian Potter Cultural Trust.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



*Our new graphic celebrates 50 years of making a difference.*

Fifty years ago this year, Sir Ian Potter, financier, businessman, philanthropist and patron of the Arts, made the decision to formalise his philanthropy and set up The Ian Potter Foundation. Even this initial act was change-making. While setting up his Foundation, Potter lobbied at the highest levels of Government for changes to tax regulations that were catalytic in generating the growth of philanthropic trusts and foundations that has occurred since the 1960s.

From Sir Ian's initial gift of one million pounds (equivalent to \$26 million today) to establish the Foundation, to many more contributions in his lifetime, and a major bequest after his death in 1994, the generosity and foresight of its Founder has ensured that The Ian Potter Foundation can continue to make a significant difference to the Australian community.

Over the past 50 years the Foundation has made grants to thousands of organisations in the Arts, community wellbeing, education, environment, health & disability, science, medical research and - through travel and conference grants - to fostering Australia's intellectual capital.

Throughout 2014 we will join with many of these organisations, friends and associates of the Foundation, to celebrate and reflect on what the grants have helped to make possible. At the same time, we will reach forward and consider the next 50 years, and prepare the Foundation for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Our 50th anniversary plans include several events, the publishing of a book and video, and our special 50th Anniversary Commemorative Grants program (see below).

We encourage you to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to keep up to date with all these happenings, and look forward to sharing a wonderful golden anniversary year.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

## 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)

To subscribe to our mailing list please use the Contact Form on our website [www.ianpotter.org.au](http://www.ianpotter.org.au). If you do not wish to receive it in future, simply [unsubscribe](#) (but we hope you don't!).

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ROUND UP  
ACCOLADES FOR ANGELICA MESITI



## THE INAUGURAL IAN POTTER MOVING IMAGE COMMISSION OPENS @ACMI

The world premiere of *The Calling* by acclaimed Australian artist Angelica Mesiti took place in Gallery 2 at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Federation Square on the 4th of February. Guests at the opening event described the work as 'fascinating', 'beautiful' and 'intimate'. The work, which is presented over three large screens, transporting viewers to three remote communities: Kuskoy in Turkey, Antia in Greece and La Gomera in the Canary Islands, which still use traditional whistling languages as a means of communication across long distances. Angelica's fascinating work captures the tenacity and creativity of traditional communities in preserving important parts of their culture.

The work was created for the inaugural Ian Potter Moving Image Commission, for which Angelica received \$100,000 from The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, coupled with production and curatorial support from the team at ACMI.

The immersive work has been in development over 15 months, with the commission allowing Angelica to conduct in-depth research into an area of interest first piqued through her work in her award-winning video installation *Citizen's Band* (2012).

Entry to *The Calling* is free, and the exhibit will run until Sunday 13 July, 2014. This exhibition marks the first in the Ian Potter Moving Image commission series, a 10 year joint initiative between the Cultural Trust and ACMI. [Click here to read a review of \*The Calling\* from The Age.](#)

Applications for the next Ian Potter Moving Image Commission will open in a couple of months' time. Follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#), or check the [website](#) for details.

*Image: Angelica Mesiti, The Calling (production still), 2013. Courtesy of Anna Schwartz Gallery. Produced by Felix Media.*

## FEATURE STORIES

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE GRANTS

In December 2013 we announced a special grants program to mark the Foundation's 50th Anniversary. There are two themes within the special \$4 million Making A Difference program: Building Communities and Effective Organisations.

We have been overwhelmed by the level of interest in the grants, as well as the calibre and diversity of the projects that have been proposed for funding.

Our hope was that this program would draw out transformative ideas which will deliver positive, sustainable change in our communities. Indications are that Australia's social sector is alive with creativity, determination and ambition for better, more cohesive and inclusive communities.

Our great challenge is to identify those proposals with the potential to bring the most benefit, in areas where both the need, and chance of success, are greatest: a task we take very seriously.

Applications close on Tuesday 25 February and the successful projects will be announced in early June. Thank you to all the applicants and good luck!



## REEF LIFE SURVEY

Round of applause for Reef Life Survey Foundation (RLS) (grantee 2013).

RLS made the news this week when Professor Graham Edgar and his team completed the first ever underwater circumnavigation of a continent, surveying 750,000 sq m of rocky and coral reef around the Australian coastline over the period of a year.

In addition, their research findings about the need for - and value of - properly managed marine parks, have been published in the prestigious biological science journal Nature. The article explains that evidence from globally consistent surveys show that five factors influence the success of marine protected areas — age, size, isolation, protection and enforcement — and only when all five are present does nature thrive.

Congratulations to Professor Edgar and his team, as well as the wonderful volunteer divers who made such an invaluable contribution.

*Image: [www.reeflifesurvey.com](http://www.reeflifesurvey.com)*



## WEBSITE FINALIST

We're excited! The Ian Potter Foundation's website, designed by Square Circle Triangle, is a finalist in the prestigious AIMIA Awards, (Government/Not for Profit website category). AIMIA is the Digital Industry Association for Australia.

The website, which was launched at the end of 2012, was a huge leap forward for our communication and (we hope) makes life a lot easier for grant seekers and others needing to know more about what we do. The winners will be announced in April.

[www.ianpotter.org.au](http://www.ianpotter.org.au)

#### Grants Database

The next big step for our website will be the finalisation of our grants database, which will provide a publicly accessible, searchable listing of all the grants the Foundation has made over the past 50 years. This major undertaking has been expedited by the contribution of our wonderful volunteer Cecilia Gason who has spent countless hours scouring records and checking content to ensure the data is as accurate as possible. Thank you Cecilia.

- *Avalee Weir, Communications Manager*

