

# THE SEAHORSE

50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION NEWSLETTER



## \$5.5M IN COMMEMORATIVE GRANTS



*Representatives of the 11 organisations awarded 50th Anniversary Commemorative Grants celebrate with some of The Ian Potter Foundation's Governors and CEO at the grants announcement event at The Ian Potter Museum of Art.*

After many months of planning, consideration and deliberation, on Wednesday 11 June we formally announced the 11 organisations sharing in \$5.5 million in our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Grant program. The announcement was made at a special celebration event at The Ian Potter Museum of Art, in the company of our Board of Governors, staff, associates and representatives of the recipient organisations.

The grants were offered in two streams: Effective Organisations and Building Communities. Transcending the Foundation's usual grants streams - such as Arts, Medical Research and Community Wellbeing - these grants were open across all sectors in an effort to find passionate, ambitious people and organisations with transformative ideas in any area of the Australian community.

The response was overwhelming. After analysing more than 200 applications, 11 were approved by the Board. Each was awarded \$500,000 - the maximum grant offered - exceeding the \$4 million originally allocated to the program. "In dollar value these are not the largest grants the Foundation has ever made but they are highly strategic - focused on drawing out areas of particular need in the community, and the best opportunities to make the greatest difference," said Janet Hirst, Chief Executive Officer of The Ian Potter Foundation.

At the event each organisation was announced in turn and welcomed to the stage to introduce their project. In their comments, the calibre and the diversity of the projects shone through, as did a shared sentiment that with the funding came renewed confidence knowing that other people believe in the importance of their work. There was a wonderful buzz in the room at the afternoon tea that followed, and a sense of shared joy in the possibilities and opportunities that had been opened up.

In closing the formalities Janet said, "We share your excitement about the plans that can now be realised, feel privileged to play a part in making this possible and look forward to watching it all unfold. Now you all have a lot of work to do!"

Take a closer look at the Commemorative Grants announcement on this [short video of the day's celebrations](#).

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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)

If you do not wish to receive it in future, simply [unsubscribe](#) (but we hope you don't!).

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ROUND UP  
CONGRATULATIONS TO...



**The following organisations have been awarded  
a 50th Anniversary Commemorative Grant of \$500,000:**

**STREAT, VIC**

*To create a youth training academy at Cromwell House and help scale STREAT's enterprise model to self-sufficiency by 2017.*

**Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation, NSW**

*To enable intensive research into outbreaks of Crown of Thorns Starfish on the Great Barrier Reef.*

**Ermha (Eastern Region Mental Health Association), VIC**

*Expand the MadCap Café social enterprise to support more people with mental illness.*

**Mallee Family Care for the Independent Agency Network, VIC**

*Model of efficiency: creating a shared client database system across independent community service agencies, Mallee Family Care, Upper Murray Family Care and Oz Child*

**Training Opportunities and Options for Learning Inc (TOOL), TAS**

*To establish the TOOL Timber Recovery social enterprise, training and employment opportunities for youth at risk*

**SecondBite, VIC**

*Expansion of fresh food exchange program in regional and rural Victoria*

**Lifeline Australia, ACT (National)**

*United Lifeline: Structure Review and Shared Services Program to increase organisational efficiency*

**Centennial Parklands Foundation, NSW**

*Connecting children with the natural environment – establish The Ian Potter Children's Wild Play Garden in Centennial Park, Sydney\**

**RMIT University, VIC**

*Improving biosecurity - establish The Ian Potter NanoBioSensing Facility*

**Museums Victoria, VIC**

*Preserving our biological heritage – establish The Ian Potter Australian Wildlife Biobank*

**Social Traders, VIC**

*To broker social enterprise procurement contracts between small social enterprises*

*\*As The Ian Potter Children's Wild Play Garden is also such a strong fit with The Ian Potter Foundation's Education program area and the objectives of the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift, a further separate grant of \$1 million has been awarded by the Foundation, to a total contribution of \$1.5 million to Centennial Parklands Foundation.*

Further details about each project are available on our website:

[www.ianpotter.org.au/commemorative-grants-announcement](http://www.ianpotter.org.au/commemorative-grants-announcement)

ROUND UP  
ENTERPRISING SOLUTIONS



Social enterprises are viable businesses that exist primarily to benefit the public and the community, rather than their shareholders and owners. This innovative model of blending business principles with social impact with the additional benefit of long term self-sufficiency, is re-shaping the way the sector and the broader community thinks about how we can tackle some of our most entrenched social issues. Among our commemorative grants are four social enterprises that will use the funding to scale up their work, and build their capacity to help more people.

Ermha, is a community based organisation that supports recovery and instils hope for people experiencing mental illness. Their [MadCap Cafés](#) provide transitional employment training that offers consistent, professional support and real on-the-job experience. This grant will allow Ermha to implement a 'Business of Recovery' program specifically to develop a partnership agreement to establish four new modular cafes at Masters Home Improvement stores over the next three years and to develop and trial an Individual Placement Support (IPS) model to assist trainees in finding employment beyond their MadCap training. The long term goal is for the MadCap Café enterprise to be self-sustaining.

Social Traders is dedicated to supporting the development of sustainable social enterprises. It is often the case that these enterprises, especially small ones, do not have the capacity to attract significant contracts. Similarly, corporations that want to explore social procurement are often not aware of good social enterprises. The [Social Enterprise Procurement Exchange \(SEPEX\)](#) will initially establish a network of 30 employment-based social enterprises and develop market opportunities that will increase their economic and social impact by brokering \$10 million in new social procurement contracts from leading Australian companies.

STREAT provides homeless and at-risk youth with a supported pathway to careers in the hospitality industry, and independent living. Since its beginnings in 2009 their program has helped over 180 young people to exit the cycle of homelessness through training in its four cafés and catering business. The grant will enable them to renovate their new facility and expand their operations by housing a café, a bakery, a training kitchen, a coffee roastery and its head office facilities. This expansion will see [STREAT](#) more than triple the number of young people they can train and support each year from 80 to over 250.

Another social enterprise that received a grant was Training Opportunities and Options for Learning Inc (TOOL) for their [Timber Recovery social enterprise program](#), providing training and employment opportunities for at-risk youth in a highly disadvantaged area of Hobart. The project will collect dunnage (crate timber) waste from Greater Hobart for re-machining, re-use and sale. The program will provide a packaging and dunnage collection service to importers in the Greater Hobart area; offer a new recycling waste collection service to the timber manufacturing sector; and de-nail, disassemble, treat and machine timber to be suitable for re-use in a wide range of markets, including for TOOL's own social enterprise: the TOOL Toy Factory. TOOL has a strong track record: 90 per cent of people that begin a program with TOOL complete it – up to three times the rate of government programs.

*Image: STREAT*

ROUND UP  
EFFICIENCY AND EFFICACY



Many community organisations around Australia share similar visions and challenges. Their work often aims to build more inclusive or stronger communities. Their shared challenges include adequate funding to achieve their vision, efficient expansion and managing the compliance requirements of diverse government bodies. In focusing on Effective Organisations in these Commemorative Grants we recognise the many benefits that will flow from helping community organisations to work more efficiently so they can concentrate on the important business of helping those who need it and building a stronger community.

In north-west Victoria, Mallee Family Care, Upper Murray Family Care and Oz Child deliver services to some of Victoria's most disadvantaged children and families. Together the agencies have formed a consortium ([Integrated Agency Network or IAN](#)) that aims to develop an integrated client management database and other systems, in partnership with the University of Melbourne. The database will allow greater efficiencies within their organisations and deliver meaningful improvements to their operations. Most importantly for the members of IAN, the system will collect and customise information, allowing them to improve their practice and outcomes for vulnerable children and their families.

[SecondBite](#) provides access to nutritious fresh food for people in need across Australia by rescuing and redistributing quality surplus fresh food. This grant will assist SecondBite in responding to the need of food security programs in rural areas. They will establish regional hubs around Victoria, by supplying and supporting local agencies who will distribute the fresh food. These hubs will also act as valuable collection points, allowing regional producers to donate surplus product.

[Lifeline](#) is a highly recognised, highly valued institution, but its national structure is highly complex. It comprises 24 separate legal entities, 34 boards with more than 300 directors, and 42 Lifeline Centres operating from 60 locations across all states and territories. The grant will help Lifeline achieve their goal to audit and improve their governance structure to develop efficiencies and cost savings that will enable Lifeline to direct more resources directly to the provision of their life-saving services.

*Pictured above: Members of the IAN consortium with The Ian Potter Foundation CEO, Janet Hirst (centre) and Chairman, Mr Charles Goode AC (back row, third from right).*

## ROUND UP THE WORLD AROUND US



A cornerstone of The Ian Potter Foundation's funding has been support of science, research and the environment, underscored by an appreciation of its intrinsic importance to the wellbeing of our communities. Four of the Commemorative Grants will bring benefits for the wider community through investments in scientific discovery and the importance of environmental education.

The Foundation is proud to support the Centennial Parklands' [Ian Potter Children's Wild Play Garden](#) in Sydney. Drawing inspiration from other children's gardens in Melbourne, Perth and overseas, this space will offer an

interactive environment so children from urban areas can experience the learning power of nature. The garden will be an inclusive outdoor learning environment, enabling free nature-based play. This will be the first dedicated public children's garden in NSW, and will teach children to respect and understand the natural world in a hands-on and engaging environment.

The [Lizard Island Research Foundation](#) has been supported with a grant to advance their research into eradicating the Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS). Since 1986, it is estimated that there has been a 50 per cent reduction in mean coral cover in the Great Barrier Reef and that 40 per cent of this can be attributed to the coral being destroyed by COTS. The destruction has implications beyond our iconic reef itself. If COTS are able to degrade the reef uncontrolled, it will impact tourism, the state's economy and the lives of those in the broader community surrounding the Great Barrier Reef.

Museums Victoria has been awarded \$500,000 to establish [The Ian Potter Australian Wildlife Biobank](#). The Biobank will be a liquid nitrogen cryo-facility that will house and protect Museum Victoria's past and future faunal tissue collections supporting critical wildlife research and public engagement. The facility will be the largest of its kind in Australia and will sit beside and collaborate with the tissue storage banks at the National History Museums in London and New York further positioning Museum Victoria as a leader in natural sciences collection preservation.

RMIT University are using their grant to build [The Ian Potter NanoBiosensing Facility](#). This facility will assist RMIT to create a secure materials science precinct, allowing the development of new transformative diagnostic technologies that will enable efficient treatment of diseases and health hazards. According to the director of the new facility, Associate Professor Vipul Bansal (pictured above), "The point-of-care nano-devices we're developing are not only inexpensive and simple to use, but also extremely sensitive, so they give an accurate diagnosis almost instantly." Among projects already in development is a nano-tool that will reduce time for diagnosis of meningococcal disease to minutes not hours, and one for malaria, that will be ideally suited for use in developing countries.

## ROUND UP THANK YOU



While we celebrate with the 11 organisations that were awarded Commemorative Grants, we are also keenly aware that many more organisations' applications were not successful in this program.

What we learned through the 486 initial phone calls and 214 applications from around the country, is that there is a great need for funding programs that facilitate capacity building and organisational efficiency. Overall, the calibre of projects and applications was very high and this program was the most competitive that we have ever seen.

We would like to thank every applicant for the time and effort they put in. The decision-making process was difficult, and we do want to assure you that each project was considered very carefully against the program criteria and the overall opportunity for these funds to make the greatest difference in the community.

*Image: Museums Victoria.*

## NEWS AND EVENTS IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!

Today, the 26th of June 2014, marks the 50th Anniversary of the first board meeting of The Ian Potter Foundation. According to Peter Yule's biography of Ian Potter, the first Governors: Sir Ian Potter, Sir Sydney Sutherland, Mr Roger Darvall, and Sir Ian Wark, together with the Executive Secretary Pat Feilman, "...resolved to accept Potter's gift of 388,000 shares in AUI and 150,000 shares in AUC (worth 996,000 pounds at that day's closing prices)." This would equate to about \$25 million today. It was anticipated that the Foundation should "make

grants of about 50,000 pounds in its first year."

The grants discussed on that day were:

- The National Art Gallery and Cultural Centre Building Committee: 10,000 pounds over two years
- The Howard Florey Laboratory: 15,000 pounds

And 1,000 pounds each to:

- The Mercy Hospital Building Appeal
- University of Melbourne computer
- Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation

These signalled some of the major directions the foundation would follow - support of medical and scientific research, the arts and development of Melbourne's cultural facilities - over decades to come.



## NEWS AND EVENTS

### CHANGES TO NEXT FUNDING ROUND

The process of researching and assessing the Foundation's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Grants has highlighted a number of pressing issues and funding opportunities in the community. In response, it has been decided that we will not be accepting new applications in the next funding round, and instead pro-actively pursue a number of promising leads within our program areas.

Travel and Conference grants will open as usual on Monday 14 July, 2014 with applications closing on Tuesday 16 September at 5pm.

The next regular funding round will open on Monday 17 November, 2014.

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

