

Message from the CEO



The Foundation recently completed a comprehensive review and assessment of our funding strategies. As a result, we have moved to a two stage Expression of Interest application process for the Program Areas of Community Wellbeing (for grants of \$50,000 and over) and Environment & Conservation (for grants of \$100,000 and more), and will extend this application process to Education in 2010.

Our success as a philanthropic foundation is determined by the impact and effect of the grants we make. The Foundation has always placed an emphasis on prevention of problems. Sir Ian Potter believed in 'building the fence at the top of the cliff rather than paying for an ambulance at the bottom'. Through our large grants in Community Wellbeing we aim to improve the life chances of individuals and families by supporting organisations and programs that address issues of drug dependence, family violence, mental health and other problems related to homelessness. Find out more about our new Community Wellbeing objectives on our [website](#).

We are also very excited about our special Music Commissions event on October 1st, when we will announce our 2009 Fellowship winners and celebrate some of the music created over the past decade of the Commissions, with some of the composers and musicians who have been part of this unique program.



Janet Hirst

Round Up

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

Feature Stories

[Congratulations Earthwatch](#)

News and Events

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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

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

Highlights from the recent funding round

Grants totalling \$2.5million were approved at the August Board Meeting of The Ian Potter Foundation.

Twenty-two grants were made in the **Community Wellbeing** Program Area, including \$73,000 to Shine for Kids to assist their In-Prison Visiting Initiative which aims to improve the experience of children visiting imprisoned parents, and \$40,700 to Kids Under Cover to help the organisation to better support Victoria's young Indigenous people, through provision of specially-designed mobile bungalows.

The largest single grants this round were made in the **Environment and Conservation** Program Area, accounting for \$889,500, including \$500,000 to the Kimberley Foundation to continue the Kimberley Human and Environmental History Project (*pictured*), bringing our total grants to

this important project to \$1.55million since 2007. In addition, RMIT University received \$250,000 to help create The Potter RMIT Hamilton Rural Community Research Network which aims to bring together resources that will result in better farming and rural development practice and policy.

In **Science**, seven grants were made. Museum Victoria were successful in their application for \$150,000 to purchase much-needed new equipment for the DNA Lab and Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre received \$35,000 to help build a multi-purpose marine laboratory to be utilised by schools, universities and researchers.

Seventeen **Travel** grants and four **Conference** grants were made to assist professional opportunities for applicants representing a diverse range of interests across the arts, medicine, science and the environment.

Of the eight grants made in the **Arts**, a regional arts organisation known as Visionary Images received \$20,000 to research and develop its model of providing access to arts and cultural opportunities for socially and geographically isolated young people. A further \$68,000 went to Fusion Australia to help fit-out the Poatina Artist Retreat and Glass Centre, Tasmania's first permanent public access Glass Blowing Studio.

Congratulations to these and all our other grantees this round, as always we look forward to following the progress of each of these exciting and worthwhile projects. To see the complete list of grants [click here](#).



The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grants

Twenty talented young Australian artists will be travelling to destinations around the globe with the help of grants totalling \$121,752 from the Cultural Trust, approved at the August Board Meeting.

The list includes Mr Dane Lam who will be taking up a position as Junior Fellow in Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester UK. Another recipient is Ms Emily Goddard, who will undertake second year training at L'ecole Philippe Gaulier in Paris and collaborate and perform with cross-cultural theatre company Ultimo Combrio Teatro in Barcelona. We wish all the recipients safe travel and enriching experiences.

For the complete list of grantees from this round [click here](#).



A Celebration of Australian Composition

Music Commission Winners To Be Announced At Special Finale Event

Pianist **Michael Kieran Harvey**, percussionist **Vanessa Tomlinson**, and soprano **Merlyn Quaife** accompanied by **Caroline Almonte** will perform a compilation of works by past Music Commissions Fellows **Liza Lim**, **Richard Mills**, **Damian Barbeler** and **Anthony Pateras** at a special recital event for invited guests on Thursday 1st October. The event will celebrate some of the music created over the past 10 years of the Ian Potter Music Commissions. The evening will culminate in the announcement of our two final Music Commissions Fellows, one Established Composer who receives \$80,000 and one Emerging Composer who receives \$20,000 to compose portfolios of works over the next two years.



The event heralds the end of a program that has resulted in support for 25 composers and the creation of 40 new works of music, so we are delighted that we are able to celebrate just some of this music in concert, including the premiere of some pieces. **ABC Classic FM** will be recording the event to be broadcast on New Music Up Late on Friday 2 October, so the music can be enjoyed by a wider audience - which was, from the outset, a primary aim of the Music Commissions program.

We would like to publicly thank our four judges, **Dr Richard Mills AM**, **Professor Barry Tuckwell AC OBE**, **Mr John Hopkins OBE** and **Ms Elena Kats-Chernin** (pictured with *Limelight* editor *Katarina Kroslakova* and *Lady Potter*) for their insight and professionalism selecting this year's winners from a record field of entries of the highest standard. It was a very challenging task which they approached with dedication and most careful consideration.

The next issue of *the seahorse* will feature an interview with the 2009 Fellowship winners, in the meantime check out the October issue of *Limelight* magazine for a feature about the Commissions.

[Click here to read the story of Katy Abbott, one of the finalists in the](#)

Staff Profile: Helen Murray

Compassion and concern for others and a belief in social justice have been constant themes in the life and career of the Foundation's Community Wellbeing Program Manager, Helen Murray. Helen started her career in education, including a stint as a lecturer at The Emily MacPherson College of Domestic Economy (now part of RMIT), before being drawn to Social Work. She redirected her career, ultimately undertaking a Masters in Social Work at Rutgers University in New Jersey, where she also worked with Vietnamese refugees. For 14 years, Helen taught Social Work at the University of Melbourne, and later returning to the US, she ran the academic internship program at Syracuse University in New York.

Back in Melbourne again, thoughts of early retirement were put on hold when Helen was recruited to the role of Program Manager at IPF, a job that allows her to put her skills and experience to work in new and challenging ways, and to look at the issues and problems in our communities from a different perspective.

Besides the great joy of being able to help people to get their projects off the ground, Helen says that by far the best aspect of the role is the opportunity to meet lots of new people and learn new ways of doing things. On the flipside, it is always hard to disappoint good people and good projects, and she often wishes dollars could go even further.

When she is not at IPF, Helen sits on the Board of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, volunteers at Heidi gallery, loses herself in cookery books and enjoys the company of friends and family including her granddaughter, one-year-old Matilda.



In Other News

Congratulations Earthwatch

The Foundation was delighted to learn that our friends at Earthwatch have been awarded the 2009 Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award in recognition of their support for environmental researchers and for 'inspiring a generation of informed and enthusiastic citizen scientists'. Our congratulations to all at Earthwatch on this prestigious award.

The Ian Potter Foundation has contributed grants totalling \$82,000 to Earthwatch since 2001, including a current ongoing grant for the Earthwatch Student Challenge program that gives young people an opportunity to get hands-on experience in the field and the chance to work as a real researcher - rain, hail or shine! Programs such as Earthwatch that promote strong volunteer engagement rate highly on the Foundation's priorities for support.



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