

THE SEAHORSE



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

SEASONS GREETINGS!



The Prime Minister, The Hon Tony Abbott MP with Janet Hirst, Chief Executive Officer of The Ian Potter Foundation and Mr Leon Kempler, Chairman of Questacon's Advisory Council, at the opening of The Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre at Questacon, Canberra.

As we wrap up our busy and memorable 50th Anniversary year, it seems very fitting that - as a national funder with a focus on innovation and excellence - we conclude the year with a major Science grant. The Foundation has awarded \$7.8 million to the National Science and Technology Centre – Questacon for the Enterprising Australia initiative. This is our largest grant in the areas of science and education and our largest ever outside Victoria.

The Enterprising Australia initiative is designed to engage young people with technology and innovation, especially in regional and remote areas. The national outreach of Questacon's network was a key factor in the decision to support this project, as was Questacon's proven track record in delivering high quality experiential learning in science and engineering to young people.

In October, the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, opened *The Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre* at Questacon in Canberra and acknowledged the Foundation's grant as "an investment in the future of our country". In my speech at the opening, I noted that the grant reflected the investment needed to transition Australia to a technology focused, innovative and knowledge based economy.

Education was also the focus of a speech I gave at the AGM of the Tomorrow:Today Foundation in Benalla, attended by over 100 people from the community. Since 2007 we have supported their Education Benalla program, a whole of community, cradle to career program that is aiming to significantly improve the number of students completing Year 12; as well as the number of young people transitioning to tertiary education, completing a diploma or degree or successfully completing an apprenticeship in Benalla.

Tomorrow:Today exemplifies the excellence we look for when recommending projects and organisations to our Board – it has outstanding leadership, the programs are innovative, there is a strong mix of philanthropic partners and the projects are community led and driven. It is importantly a partnership, with our Senior Program Manager Alberto Furlan being a member of the Management Committee.

Sadly as the year ends we say goodbye to program manager Claire Rimmer, who has been with the Foundation for six years and is leaving us as she is expecting her first baby. Not only will

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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 communications@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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Claire be missed by everyone at the Foundation, but by so many grantees in the Arts and Environment & Conservation Program areas who she has guided and worked with.

We are also saying goodbye to two staff who came on board to assist in Communications with the additional work for our 50th anniversary. I'd like to thank researcher extraordinaire Jim Vale, and our excellent Communications Officer Fiona Collie, for their invaluable contributions over the past year.

With less than a week until Christmas, we are now thinking about spending precious time with family and friends. Our thoughts are with all the families whose lives have been changed because of the Martin Place siege.

Everyone at the Foundation joins me in wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year and look forward to being in touch with many of you in 2015.

Janet Hirst
Chief Executive Officer

ROUND UP

\$1 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS



Concluding a very busy year, the Foundation's final Board Meeting for 2014 saw 42 new grants approved, including 23 Travel grants and eight Conference grants.

Of the other 11 grants, three were Community Wellbeing grants, including \$200,000 over two years to Children's Ground in Kakadu West Arnhem in the Northern Territory. This project, led by Indigenous people residing in the community, is part of a twenty-five year plan underpinned by rigorous, ongoing evaluation around community outcomes. Children's Ground's four pillar program areas tackle all aspects of personal and community development, particularly focusing on early childhood education, community engagement and sustainable economic development. Funding from the grant will focus on economic enterprise development and opportunities in the Kakadu West Arnhem community with a view to employing local workforce in permanent, sustainable jobs.

In the Arts, the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) received \$210,000 over two years to support the introduction of a Masters of Fine Arts course specialising in training in all elements of advanced Voice. The course will enable NIDA to make a broader suite of courses available through its new Graduate School, to produce actors with enhanced skills. NIDA will be the only institution in Australia to offer MFA courses in Voice.

Good Beginnings Australia was the sole grant recipient in the Education program area this round. They received \$75,000 to implement an action plan that has been developed from the State of East Gippsland's Children and Youth Report which examined key gaps in childhood and youth wellbeing in the region (also supported by a Foundation grant in 2012). This new grant will support the employment of a program coordinator to work with the community and agencies to implement this whole-of-community plan to improve prospects and outcomes for young people in the area.

Congratulations to all the new grant recipients.

[A full list of the grants can be found on our website](#)

ROUND UP

WELCOME 27 NEW CULTURAL TRUST GRANTEES



Twenty-seven new grantees will join The Ian Potter Cultural Trust 'family' following the recent Board meeting, sharing in a total of \$172,000 to help them to travel and further develop their artistic potential.

Among the new recipients is up-and-coming VCA graduate theatre director Bridget Balodis who receives \$7,000 towards a mentorship with Elevator Repair Service, New York, USA, January - July 2015. Bridget will work alongside the producing director to learn how to produce, market, fund raise and plan within the company. Bridget will also spend time in the rehearsal room observing the creative process of this successful experimental theatre company.

Also receiving a grant is accomplished conceptual dancer Atlanta Eke, who will participate in the Performing Arts Forum (PAF) Spring University Meeting, St Erme, France, March - April 2015. Atlanta is seeking to challenge her working methods through this experience.

We wish Bridget, Atlanta and all the other grantee artists every success with their international experiences.

[A full list of grantees can be found on our website](#)

Image: Kids Killing Kids at Melbourne Fringe 2013, written by Too Many Weapons, producer/director Bridget Balodis. Photo by Sarah Walker.

FEATURE STORIES

ANNUAL GRANTS REPORT 2013 -14

Looking for a little holiday reading? We are delighted to present our [Annual Grants Report for 2013-14](#), featuring highlights from our 50th anniversary events, our special commemorative grants program and of course, reviews from our Chairman, CEO and details of some of the 222 grants awarded during the year.

In response to feedback on last year's report, we have continued with an online format - although this year in an interactive flipbook style, with a few video elements. The flipbook can be also be printed off.

We hope you enjoy it!



Looking Back,
Reaching Forward



FEATURE STORIES

FOND FAREWELLS

Our year ends with fond farewells to three of the Foundation's staff members and one of our Governors (see story below).

Claire Rimmer (*pictured right*) has been a valued part of our program management team for six years and is leaving to start an exciting new chapter as she moves to Western Australia and awaits the arrival of her first child, due next May. Claire's work at the Foundation has been hallmarked by her diligence and passion, and her willingness to spend time advising and supporting grant applicants to ensure the best possible outcome. Having managed millions of dollars in grants over the years, her proudest achievement has been the creation of the Ian Potter Moving Image Commission program, in partnership with ACMI. We will miss Claire and wish her and partner John, every happiness.

We also bid adieu to our Communications Officer, Fiona Collie, whose time with us was short but sweet and successful, coordinating many of the events that marked our 50th anniversary year. We thank her for those marvellous organisational skills and all her work to ensure that the year was truly memorable.

Finally, farewell to our wonderful Researcher, Jim Vale, who came on board to assist with the development of our 50th anniversary commemorative book and short film, and then stayed to help sort and record our archive. Besides bringing a new level of sartorial style to the office, Jim's thoughtful, thorough and insightful work was invaluable to the successful completion of these projects.



FEATURE STORIES

DR THOMAS HURLEY RETIRES FROM THE BOARD

Retiring in The Ian Potter Foundation's 50th anniversary year seems fitting for its longest serving Governor.

Dr Thomas Hurley AO, OBE became a Governor of the Foundation 36 years ago, in 1978. At that time the corpus of the Foundation was \$3 million and the annual grants in that year totalled \$300,000. Now the corpus is over \$500 million and annual grants exceed \$20 million.

Dr Hurley's association with the Foundation goes back to 1969 when he received a travel grant to attend an international medical conference in Prague.

As a senior medical practitioner; President of the Royal Melbourne Hospital; a Member of the NHMRC; a Board Member of WEHI; and many other appointments, Dr Hurley has brought wide experience and insights to the Board and provided expert advice in the areas of medical research, health and disability.

During his tenure as a Governor of the Foundation, 224 medical research grants totalling \$52 million were awarded, and 415 health and disability grants totalling \$10 million.

The Foundation's Chairman, Mr Charles Goode AC, said, "On behalf of the Foundation, thank you Tom - for your wonderful contribution, for your insights and knowledge, and for being a thorough gentleman and colleague to us all."



NEWS AND EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS DANIEL CROOKS

Following the first critically acclaimed Ian Potter Moving Image Commission (IPMIC), the second \$100,000 commission in the ten-year program has been awarded to celebrated Melbourne-based video artist, Daniel Crooks.

Daniel's work was selected from a field of impressive applications for this prestigious visual art commission – an initiative of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust (IPCT) and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI).

Head of the IPMIC Judging Panel, ACMI Director & CEO, Tony Sweeney, praised the exceptional standard and creativity of the 2014 submissions, which he said was a compelling reflection of the diversity and strength of Australian moving image culture.

Daniel will create *Phantom Ride* (working title): a two channel video installation that references the history of cinema's relationship to trains



by creating a journey along various tracks through discontinuous spaces.

"I'm really excited and incredibly grateful for the opportunity to develop a project of this scale and ambition, said Daniel. "It's hard to overstate the impact the commission will have, both on this project and on my wider practice."

The work will be exhibited at ACMI from 16 February to 3 July 2016, and will be accessioned into the ACMI Collection.

Image: Daniel Crooks, (section of) Static No. 16, 2010. Image courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery.

NEWS AND EVENTS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROCESS EXPANDED

In 2013, The Ian Potter Foundation introduced a new Expression of Interest (Eoi) process for all grants in the Community Wellbeing Program Area. This approach has effectively:

- increased the success rate of full applications,
- reduced time and effort spent by grant applicants preparing unsuccessful proposals,
- facilitated a much faster response time for applicants.

This success has prompted the Foundation to extend the process to several other program areas: Arts, Education, Environment & Conservation and Health & Disability.

As of this funding round (which opened on Monday 17 November) all grant applications in these areas will operate a two-step process. Eois for this round close on Monday 12 January, 2015.

For further information please [see our website](#).



NEWS AND EVENTS

SEE YOU IN 2015!

Our office will be closed for the summer holiday break from 5pm on Friday 19th December and will re-open on Monday 5th January 2015.

We wish all our friends and associates a peaceful and joyous festive season and a very happy new year.

- *The Ian Potter Foundation team*

