

Issue 04, May 2010

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Message from the CEO

You may wonder why I am pictured sitting in the sun with a couple of meerkats crawling on my lap. In summer, Program Manager Caitriona Fay and I went on a site visit to Melbourne Zoo to learn more about some of their excellent programs. One of the highlights of the visit was this very close encounter with the inquisitive meerkats!



Back in the office, we continued to focus on our 'prevention of homelessness' theme which was identified as a priority in a review of our Community Wellbeing Program Area last year. In this Funding Round we moved to a new Expression of Interest process for our large grants dealing with homelessness. Three submissions were considered and approved by the Board of Governors at our Board Meeting on 29 April. We are optimistic about the potential of this process to draw out exciting and innovative funding opportunities. Certainly the three grants made to these important 'circuit-breaker' projects, which have been awarded a combined total of \$1.76 million, are a promising start.

As is the case in each funding round, the Foundation receives many more applications than we can support. We appreciate the time and effort people put into preparing their applications and we welcome prospective applicants contacting a Program Manager to discuss a project before submitting an application.



Janet Hirst

Round Up

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

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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

2010 has begun as a year of very significant grants. Following on from the major \$8 million grant to **The Australian Ballet** announced in February (see below), the Board of Governors approved further grants of just under \$4 million at the recent Board Meeting.

Under the new Expression of Interest process in our Community Wellbeing area, which focuses on prevention of homelessness, three large grants were made. The **YWCA NSW** received \$160,000 over two years for their *Future for Families* program to support and up-skill homeless young mothers; the **Children's Protection Society** received \$600,000 over three years for a ground-breaking new program of *Integrated Care and Education* that employs a holistic approach to address the effects of extreme deprivation on pre-school children and prepare children for success at school and in later life. The third in this trio is a grant of \$1 million over four years to **Mission Australia** to help build a new *Mission Australia Centre* in Kingswood, in Sydney's western suburbs (*pictured bottom right*) that will provide accommodation and a

range of support services for homeless families to address each families' underlying issues and assist them back to secure circumstances and help to avoid long-term homelessness. [Read more about the Foundation's Homelessness funding program.](#)

A further 14 smaller grants totalling \$433,600 were made in the Community Wellbeing Program including \$50,000 to **Shine for Kids'**, *Connecting Kids and Dads* program, which facilitates positive relationships between imprisoned fathers and their children, with benefits for all parties.



Education and other key grants

Another exciting grant from this round that takes a holistic approach to tackling the circumstances of social disadvantage that limit children's chances in life was made in the Education Program Area. *Education Benalla*, a program coordinated by **Tomorrow: Today Foundation**, is an ambitious 'place-based' program addressing school readiness and early years education, student wellbeing and student transitions. The aim is to improve education and training completion rates for local young people, so that the figures are in line with state averages. This is a unique program model that holds great potential to change the future for the area, which was identified as one of Victoria's most socially-disadvantaged areas in the 2007 Vinson Report. Learn more about the program at the [Tomorrow: Today website](#).



In other Program Areas, \$753,320 was granted to 16 projects in the Healthy Communities Program and in Medical Research \$595,000 was approved for seven projects, including \$50,000 to Cystic Fibrosis Australia to enable the Australian Cystic Fibrosis Data Registry to be fully connected to the International Cystic Fibrosis Data Warehouse which will contribute to knowledge that will benefit young Cystic Fibrosis patients and their families, such as young Kate, *pictured*.

[Click here to read the full list of approved grants from this Funding Round.](#)

Granted

Talented young artists take flight

With support from The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, 22 exceptionally talented young artists will venture overseas to take up post-graduate study, mentorships and internships in no less than 13 countries including West Ghana, Portugal, Belgium and Indonesia as well as popular centres for the Arts such as France and the UK. The artistic endeavours they will pursue are equally diverse ranging from artist Lisa Barmby's residency at *La Scuola Internazionale di Grafica* in Venice to study the history of gondolas to percussionist Adam King's venture to Bali to undertake private lessons with leading Balinese musicians (*Adam is pictured, right*). In addition, talented up-and-coming film-maker James Robertson was granted \$7,000 towards the production of a short film for his final year of study. The total value of the grants for this Funding Round amounted to \$119,600. Congratulations to all the recipients of the grants, we wish you well with your pursuits and look forward to hearing of your progress. [See complete list of recent Cultural Trust grantees.](#)



Raising the barre

In February, The Ian Potter Foundation announced a grant of \$8 million to support The Australian Ballet's future plans to help build an environment that will allow the Company to flourish. This major grant reflects the Foundation's strong belief in, and commitment to, supporting our country's major artistic institutions.

The grant is made up of two parts, a \$4 million grant to be paid over five years towards the refurbishment and upgrade of The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre and to further the Ballet's education and outreach programs, plus a further matching grant to be paid against funds raised by the Company on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to \$4 million.



The renaming of the Company's headquarters in Melbourne as *The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre* was also announced in February and pays tribute to the extraordinary work that Lady Potter has contributed over a 35 year personal association with the Company, and the part she has played in helping to make The Australian Ballet the success it is. We warmly congratulate Lady Potter on this significant acknowledgement.

Lady Potter is pictured with Principal Artists of The Australian Ballet.

Meet The Staff Caitriona Fay, Program Manager

Once upon a time, not so long ago, a young woman of Irish stock took leave of these Australian shores to find adventure and explore lands afar. Caitriona Fay is her name and adventure she did surely find, and by chance, she did also happen to come across a great deal of money, and although sadly the treasure was not hers, she did find a unique way to spend it and stumble onto a career path into the bargain...

Adelaide girl Caitriona found her first job in philanthropy at the Heritage Lottery Fund in Edinburgh. From this experience she discovered that giving money to people who can use it to do meaningful things for the benefit of society is both a privilege and very satisfying. And ultimately, this is how she came to work at The Ian Potter Foundation in 2006.

Being a Program Manager, says Caitriona, brings bountiful opportunity to meet inspirational people: the movers and shakers of the Third Sector, people that will bring about positive change in our society. Caitriona is passionate about the potential for Social Media to change the face of philanthropy in the future - to shape the way people give, what they support, and how they communicate about it. She also believes that greater collaboration in the sector will help philanthropy to fulfil its potential as an agent of change.

Although the people are inspiring, Caitriona secretly admits that some of her happiest moments have come via the animal friends she meets as part of her Environment portfolio including releasing endangered Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies in the Grampians and seeing a bilby on a road trip with the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network.

Crows are another favourite creature in Caitriona's life, in the form of the Adelaide Football Club about which she is unashamedly fanatical, confessing to being a 'parochial South Australian'. While Caitriona's idea of a perfect weekend entails watching her beloved Crows thrash a Victorian team at 'the G', followed by sharing good food and a bottle of red with friends, she remains an adventurer at heart and travel is still one of her great passions, although her next adventures are likely to involve seeing more of this wide, brown land, Australia.

Caitriona is pictured on her most recent travel adventure to the Solomon Islands.



In Other News

New Education Funding Objectives

In recent years, the Foundation has been working to refine and direct its grant-making to help ensure that our funding has maximum impact. This strategic approach also helps us to better assess our success as grant-makers and to uphold the principles established by Sir Ian.

Over the past six months, the Foundation has conducted an extensive review of its work in the Education sector and going forward our focus will reflect a clearly identified need to promote 'whole of community' approaches to improving educational and employment outcomes. We understand that the potential of the individual is best met by connecting and supporting families, communities and schools. This is a long term approach and evaluation and dissemination of the outcomes will be central to the Program's work.

To help achieve this new direction, a new set of objectives have been established for the Education Program and a new Expression of Interest process introduced for grant-seekers. Please [click here](#) to read the objectives and find out more.



A Taste of Harmony

Like thousands of others in meeting rooms and canteens of businesses

and organisations around the country, the Potter team celebrated International Harmony Day with a Taste of Harmony lunch, featuring dishes from countries as diverse as Canada, Egypt, Sweden and Spain. Spanokopita, burfi, guacamole and Tarte au Fromage were some of the treats on offer, all washed down with a little Sangria. It was a wonderful way to get together, learn a little and celebrate cultural diversity through the international language of good food. Salute! Prost! Bon Appetit! Cheers!



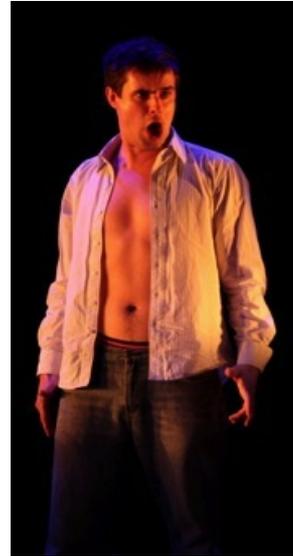
Hitting a high note

Cultural Trust grant recipient, 27-year-old opera singer Laurence Mickle, has been making quite an impression since arriving in London to study for a Masters degree at the Royal Academy of Music. In the latest of his many achievements, Laurence will perform the title role in a new production of Handel's *Saul* for the Spitalfields Festival in June, conducted by Laurence Cummings with the Royal Academy of Music Baroque Orchestra and soloists.

Other recent highlights include:

- Performing in the London Handel Festival's *Belshazzar* with Laurence Cummings
- Joining Cock Tavern Theatre's *La Boheme* for 30 performances in February
- Appearing in a Royal Command Performance at Australia House London
- Laurence's disk *The Fringes of the Fleet* named Classic FM's "CD of the Week" 02/11/09
- Performing in a Hong Kong opera gala alongside Dame Kiri Te Kanawa in October 2009

It is always exciting to celebrate the progress and achievements of our talented young Cultural Trust recipients and follow the progress of their careers. We know Laurence has worked very hard to achieve what he has so we congratulate him and look forward to watching his career blossom over the coming years. [Read more about Laurence.](#)



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