

Message from the CEO

There's just a week to go until our special fundraising event on Thursday 23 September, when we host drinks and canapés prior to a performance of Peter Wright's *The Nutcracker* by The Australian Ballet. Some of us watched the dress rehearsal last week and it is a really beautiful production. Guests at our event will be given a private introduction to the performance by the company's Artistic Director, David McAllister AM, and our very special guest, Darcey Bussell CBE, former principal dancer of The Royal Ballet, and now a Director of Sydney Dance Company, will talk a little about the importance of partnerships in dance.



I am often asked why The Ian Potter Foundation would need to hold a fundraising event. The Foundation holds deductible gift recipient status and tax exemption status under the income tax legislation that applies to 'public' funds. For a charitable fund to be classed as a public fund, it must invite the public to make donations and must actually receive public donations. It is of course essential that the Foundation maintain its tax exemption status so we can maximise our grants, which last year totalled \$17.5 million. By holding this year's fundraising event to fulfil the tax requirement, we are also provided with a wonderful opportunity to meet with generous donors and supporters and to share with them a special experience related to one of the major grants recently made by the Foundation.

As for the event next week, we are particularly excited that the Guest Principal Artist, David Hallberg from The American Ballet Theatre will be dancing on the night of the Fundraiser. A few tickets are still available so be quick and snap up the last – and some of the best - seats in the house. I encourage you to join the Governors and me to support the work of IPF and our 'little brother' organisation, The George Alexander Foundation. The all-inclusive tickets are great value at \$150 each. [Click here for full details and to download the ticket order form which can be faxed or emailed back to our office.](#)

Pictured: Madeleine Eastoe as Clara, 'The Nutcracker', The Australian Ballet. Photo: Jim McFarlane



Janet Hirst

Round Up

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

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

It was another busy funding round in the last quarter, with 78 grants totalling just over \$3 million made across seven of our nine program areas (Healthy Communities and Medical Research applications are only considered once a year). In the Arts, eight grants were made including \$200,000 over two years to Melbourne's Opera's South East Regional Touring Opera Company for their *Regional Touring and Young Artists' Employment & Education Program* and \$18,000 to the Queensland Music Festival for their *Music Enhancement Program for Indigenous Students* in Cape York and the Torres Strait.



In Community Wellbeing, 15 grants were made. Reflecting our focus on prevention of homelessness, one of these was a grant of \$50,000 to Micah Projects, a not-for-profit organisation located around Brisbane's inner city, for the *Brisbane Common Ground Project Cost-Benefit Analysis*. This project plans to take a clinical trial approach to calculating the costs and benefits of a 146-unit South Brisbane supportive housing development called Brisbane Common Ground. The housing project is designed to end chronic homelessness for its resident individuals. In Education two grants were awarded, to Queensland Baptist Care \$50,000 for the *Glendyne Lifeskills Project* and the same to Ardoch Youth Foundation for the *Stonnington Primary School Project*.

The largest grant of the round was made in our Science Program Area to the Royal Botanic Gardens NSW which received \$750,000 over three years for the *PlantBank* project, to help preserve Australia's plant biodiversity through the creation of a major seed bank at Mt Annan. Through the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift, \$450,000 over three years was granted to Zoos Victoria's exciting *Growing Wild* project, towards the creation of a tactile, hands-on education precinct at Melbourne Zoo to foster children's early connections with nature and animals.

[Click to read the full list of new grants.](#)

Photo: Michelle Meiklejohn

The Cultural Trust

In The Ian Potter Cultural Trust 22 individual applicants received grants totaling over \$138,000 to travel internationally to pursue a range of amazing career-building opportunities through study, mentorships and internships.

Among these are Lee Serle, described by our expert reviewer as a dancer and choreographer of outstanding ability, who was awarded \$6,500 to undertake mentoring with Trisha Brown Dance Company, New York City, US, between June 2010 - June 2011. Caitlin Breare demonstrated a strong case and was awarded \$7,000 to undertake a rare opportunity to study for her Masters of Art History with an Advanced Certificate in Conservation, working with distinguished conservators and art historians at the Institute of Fine Arts faculty, New York University, USA, from September 2010 - May 2014.



We love to hear about 'our' grantees' adventures, such as the experience had by Meg Hale, a new media visual artist and curator who received a grant to travel to Toronto in Canada to undertake a mentorship in Toronto, Canada with Pablo de Ocampo, Artistic Director of the Images Festival. In her report back to the Trust, Meg said, "The wealth of film and media-based works that I was exposed to during my mentorship and subsequent travels, as well as the guidance and access to knowledge and ideas I gained from mentors, peers and colleagues, has left me more confident, inspired, and eager to learn more." And *that* is exactly what this program is all about.

Meg is pictured (right), photo: Pia Johnson.

Meet Therese Reidy, Finance Manager

The view from her office window through blossoming tree tops onto the designer stores of Collins Street might be one of the best in town but it's the items lining Therese Reidy's window ledge that really catch your eye. The Ian Potter Foundation's Finance Manager has a row of dinky souvenir snow domes lined neatly in a row, glinting in the sunlight and just begging to be shaken. "Oooh, look at this!" Therese says with delight, and turns on the Washington dome, which flashes red, green and blue lights from within the White House. The snow domes, which started as a joke with a friend, represent places Therese has been - and

places she wants to go, but also hint her sense of humour and one of her great loves – travel. Therese and her partner are off to Europe for a month next year, squeezed in between a Board Meeting and the End of the Financial Year, and planning for the big trip is well underway.

Organisation and planning are definitely on Therese's 'key skills' list and as the person responsible for the day-to-day financial management of the Foundations' operations this is obviously more than a little useful! Therese has had a lifelong love of maths and numbers, and with a background in accounting and book keeping, she has had no trouble finding employment where she could put this to use. Coming to IPF in 2004 from a company that handled liquidations, she says the most wonderful thing about working here is that her work is so positive and secure. "The people at the liquidators were lovely but the work was so depressing. At IPF I spend a lot of my time raising cheques for organisations doing great things in the community – there are not many accounting jobs that offer that type of opportunity," she says. "My role here is diverse and challenging. I've had the chance to learn from people like our Governors, Mr John Gough and Dr John Rose, as well as our retired Accountant John Kellaway, and that has been a real privilege."

One thing Therese doesn't like is coming second, and that is where 'Itsme' (Therese's pseudonym) has found herself on the Potters Players Footy Tipping ladder at the end of the 2010 season. "Beaten by just one point – so frustrating!" she exclaims, her not-so-secret competitive streak declaring itself. Our winner, Program Manager Caitriona Fay, is on notice for next year!



In Other News

Homelessness Roundtables

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Foundation has made homelessness a priority for grants of \$50,000 and over in the Community Wellbeing Program Area. Using a new Expression of Interest application process we are actively seeking to work with organisations to develop projects which focus on early intervention and which attempt to prevent homelessness by addressing issues of substance abuse, family violence and mental health issues. Interested organisations should go to our website to find out more and then contact Helen Murray, who is coordinating the program. Over coming months Helen will be convening a series of round table discussions on this subject to help us to identify and refine the most effective approach for our grants. *Photo: Maggie Smith*



A Winning Achievement

Congratulations to past Cultural Trust grant recipients Tarryn Gill and Pilar Mata Dupont, who recently won one of Australia's richest art prizes, the \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize at a ceremony at the Ian Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne. The prize concentrates on the depiction of sport in art. Gill and Mata Dupont's winning piece, *Gymnasium 2010*, is video piece reminiscent of the work of Nazi filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl. One of their other works, created for the Sydney Biennale 2010, *The Lady of Lujan* is pictured (right).



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