

Message from the CEO



On a recent visit to Melbourne Zoo, Jenny Gray, CEO of Zoos Victoria, gave us an update on the *Growing Wild* initiative. In 2010, the Foundation provided a grant of \$450,000 through the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift, towards Stage One of this exciting project. Melbourne Zoo is one of the largest off-campus learning sites for children in Victoria and *Growing Wild* will be the Zoo's newest educational precinct, aiming to foster early connections between children and wild places. As you can see from the photo, I was also lucky enough to have my own encounter with the wild!

In March, we joined with the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to launch [LLEAP - Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy](#), a three-year research project that investigates the impact of philanthropy on education from both sides of the equation. An inspiring keynote speech by Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC set the scene at the well-attended launch event, and highlighted the level of interest in how this research will help fill 'the knowledge gap'.

The first phase of the project is underway and involves interviews with people from schools, philanthropics and not for profit organisations. The interviews will identify relevant issues for inclusion in the next stage of the project – the online surveys. An Advisory Group has been announced and held its first meeting this week. This group will monitor the progress of LLEAP, particularly at key milestones and provide additional knowledge and expertise about philanthropy and education in order to maximise learning from the project as it progresses.

After a year of discussions with ACER and research into our own funding patterns, The Ian Potter Foundation is supporting year one of the project. We hope that other philanthropic foundations will get behind this project, which we at the Foundation believe will lead to better grant making and better, sustainable education outcomes.



Janet Hirst

Round Up

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

Feature Stories

[Sounds of the Music Commissions](#)

[Got a big idea for a social enterprise?](#)

[Strong Foundations](#)

[Penny for your thoughts](#)

[It's a girl!](#)

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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

Medical Research was on the agenda at the last Board Meeting held on 28 April, and in keeping with a long tradition of supporting outstanding

projects, grants were awarded to two very promising projects. A grant of \$750,000 was made to **The Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health** towards the fit out of one of the laboratories in their new building in Melbourne (pictured). This lab will provide the facilities for development of a blood-stage malaria vaccine, a key part of the Institute's malaria vaccine program headed up by Dr James Beeson. A grant of \$125,000 went to **Melbourne Health** to assist the purchase of equipment that will allow Sodium Imaging of patients with neurological diseases. Sodium is critical in maintaining cell and brain function so this equipment will be of great benefit to the understanding of metabolic cellular responses in the brain.



The sum of grants approved at the meeting totalled approximately \$5 million, including \$170,000 to Cultural Trust recipients (see below). In **Community Wellbeing** our focus on Prevention of Homelessness continues and four grants totalling \$588,000 were made towards this, including \$160,000 over two years to the **Katherine Women's Crisis Centre** to support therapeutic services for children affected by trauma.

Environment & Conservation applications were also considered with \$2.1 million approved in this Program Area, including \$450,000 over three years to **Greening Australia (Tasmania)** to support a strategic restoration to conserve remnant forest in the threatened bioregion of the Northern Midlands of Tasmania.

In other Program Areas, 11 **Arts** grants were approved valued at \$300,000, as well as 17 **Healthy Communities** grants totalling \$480,000. For the complete list of grants approved at the April Board meeting please [click here](#).

Update

Cultural Trust grantees take flight

Thirty-one talented young artists received individual grants ranging from \$1700 to \$7000, to help them travel overseas for a range of learning and professional development opportunities. New York City continues to be a major drawcard for a variety of theatre, dance and film opportunities, although Scandinavia is also a popular destination in this round. Among the recipients in this round was the Zellwood Quartet of Sophie Hudgell, Bridget Graham, Nelson Yarwood and Josie Graham (*pictured*) who each received a grant to travel to Banff in Canada for a three week Chamber Music Residency at The Banff Centre, which will provide them with inspirational exposure to high level tuition and performance. Congratulations to [all the Cultural Trust recipients](#).



Next Application Closing Date Coming Soon

Applications for grants to be considered in the next funding round must be received by **5pm on Monday 30 May**. This is strictly enforced so please make sure your application is in with time to spare - especially if you are posting from interstate or a rural or regional area. Applications in the areas of Arts, Community Wellbeing, Education, Environment & Conservation, Science, Travel, Conference and Cultural Trust will be considered at our August Board Meeting. [Click here to find out how to apply](#).



Applications for the following funding round will close on Monday 12 September.

New role for Nicole

Our recently restructured Program Management team welcomes a new member, Nicole McLeod, who has been appointed to the newly-created position of Program Officer. Nicole's intelligence and initiative shone through in the interview process and she has quickly become a valued member of the team. Her varied role includes management of the Travel and Conference Program Areas, as well as The Alec Prentice Sewell Gift.

So far, she says, the role has been all she had hoped it would be and she goes home at night feeling that she has "used her powers for good". Having worked as a volunteer at Oxfam and long dreamed of doing work that makes a difference in the community, Nicole says she feels that she has settled into the role more quickly and easily than she expected. Her favourite part is reading project evaluations and learning about all the great work happening in communities around the country.

Caitriona, our Senior Program Manager, is simultaneously delighted to have such a capable new addition to the team, and perhaps a little

worried that Nicole is starting to make a run for top spot in the staff Footy Tipping competition - *despite* blindly-loyal tipping of her team, the Kangaroos. Nicole's preferred sport however, is netball, which she plays regularly in a team called The Creeps. Truly.

Welcome Nicole!

In Other News

Sounds of the Music Commissions

It is 18 months since the final Ian Potter Music Commissions were awarded and several of the commissioned works have been completed and performed. Winner of the 2009 Established Composer Fellowship Mr Gordon Kerry, has been busy writing beautiful music from his home in northern Victoria, and in April the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra performed a work written especially for it, entitled *In iubililo*. Gordon's next major work will premiere at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Sydney Symphony 2011 Season. Simply entitled, 'Symphony', it will be performed on May 25 & 26. This is sure to be a special night, so be there if you can! Gordon is also speaking before the performance. [Click here for ticketing information.](#)

Damien Ricketson, who received an Extraordinary Grant within the Music Commissions program, performed his multi-media work *Fractured Again* (pictured right as performed by Ensemble Offspring) to great acclaim at the 2010 Sydney Festival. Damien has since been short-listed for the 2011 Art Music awards for both Instrumental Work of the Year and Award for Excellence in Experimental Music. Damien has also recorded the work and created a DVD to showcase the visually beautiful performance of this composition for instruments made of glass. Wide distribution of the DVD is still in negotiation. You can see a preview [here](#).



Got a big idea for a social enterprise?

Have you got an idea for a project or business that will benefit the community but need help to make it fly? Want to learn in a practical action-oriented environment? The School for Social Entrepreneurs runs programs in Sydney and Melbourne for people with entrepreneurial ideas that have a social or community benefit. The program has helped produce some very successful social business models. Funding from The Ian Potter Foundation is helping SSE to offer more places in the Melbourne course. Applications for the next intake close on 31 May. [Find out how to apply to SSE.](#)



Strong Foundations

Catherine Brown is familiar to many people working in the Not For Profit sector, having worked as an advisor for many years. Catherine's new book *Great Foundations* was written to give new CEOs and Board Members an easy to read guide to managing or governing a productive and resilient not for profit organisation. "I hope this book will provide a tool to build the capacity of not for profits in Australia and save people time and avoid confusion - so that everyone can focus more on the issue or cause that they are passionate about," explained Catherine.

The book can be ordered via [Catherine Brown's website](#) or direct from the ACER Shop.



Penny for your thoughts

Our website is about to undergo a major 'renovation' and to help guide our ideas and decision making we would appreciate your thoughts and opinions about what works and what doesn't on our current site. Please click here to take our [online survey](#) - it only takes a minute or two! Thank you for your valuable input.



It's a girl!

Our Administration Assistant Miranda Hartcher-O'Brien and her partner Lachlan welcomed their first baby in February - a gorgeous girl called Arianne. The little bundle of joy melted hearts when Miranda brought her into the office to meet us for the first time a few weeks ago. Congratulations Miranda and welcome Arianne!



'Like' Us!

['Like' us on Facebook](#) and get the inside running on the latest grants, closing date reminders and hear about the amazing things some of our grantees have been up to. We love getting posts from our grantees and friends with their news and updates too!



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