

Message from the CEO



For the philanthropic sector the importance of having world renowned speakers come to Australia cannot be underestimated. This year we have been privileged to hear from some amazing women working to bring about positive change in the world. **Dr Jane Goodall** spoke to audiences at the Melbourne Zoo and Museum Victoria about the importance of inspiring young people to take up the challenge of protecting the planet's future; the National Geographic Explorer in Residence, **Dr Sylvia Earle** highlighted the issue of the degradation of our oceans and the impact of industrial scale fishing, and filmmaker, philanthropist, and recipient of the prestigious international Advocate for Peace Award, **Abigail E. Disney**, spoke at a dinner organised by the Australian Women's Donor Network about her philanthropic work and her films 'Pray The Devil Back to Hell' and 'Women, War and Peace'.

At the dinner for Abigail Disney, we were shown a clip from a documentary film about the social implications of increasingly pervasive pornography and the impact of pornography on the behaviour of young people and on their relationships. Discussions are taking place with broadcasters in Australia about the possibility of screening the film. In 2009, the Foundation awarded a grant of \$40,000 to Brophy Family & Youth Services Inc towards the development of this documentary and towards education kits for schools. In December this year, the Board of Governors approved a further grant of \$50,000 to support Stage 2 of the project, which will involve education and training to equip government and key organisations with the knowledge and strategies to address issues relating to young people and pornography.

IPF was very pleased to assist the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network to bring Dr Sylvia Earle to Australia to share her urgent message about protection of our ocean resources. The Foundation has a long history of commitment to the marine environment and has been a major supporter of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) where Sylvia was presented with a new award during her visit. I encourage you to read the story of her Australian trip below and hear what she had to say in her TED Award Wish speech.

The opening of the new Treasures Gallery at the National Library of Australia in October was a source of further inspiration. The Foundation

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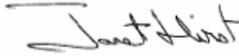
Feedback

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!).

supported the development of this Gallery with a grant of \$1 million. The Library can now exhibit the many extraordinary items held for the nation in its collection, many of which have never been displayed before. Among the treasures is the famous Aeroplane Jelly advertising jingle – as you can see from the photo above taken at the event, I certainly love Aeroplane Jelly! The Gallery was officially opened by the Governor-General. Lady Potter also addressed the audience speaking about the significance of the collection and the tradition of the Foundation of supporting the development of vibrant, accessible cultural institutions that contribute to our sense of national identity.

For the Foundation it has been a busy and productive year, with 172 grants approved by the Board of Governors. As 2011 draws to an end, everyone at the Foundation joins me in wishing you a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



Janet Hirst

Round up

Highlights from the recent funding round

\$1.2 million in new grants was approved at the recent meeting of our Board of Governors in early December, distributed across 47 organisations. Among the larger grants was \$150,000 made through our Community Wellbeing program, to STREAT, a Melbourne-based cafe/food-service social enterprise, to help them to expand their successful model and support more homeless young people.



In the Education program area, Victoria University received \$120,000 (over two years) to support an important research program that will be of interest to many groups in the community. The research will examine the reach, impact and outcomes of various alternative education programs targeting marginalised young people.

There were 12 Travel grants and 10 Conference grants approved, as well as two grants through the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift. One of the Sewell grants goes towards the work of Visionary Images and their project in the Bass Coast area, delivering innovative creative arts workshops for disengaged young people. IPF contributed to the pilot of the project and this new funding will enable a second stage of the program to be delivered, and for the project model to become embedded locally, enabling local organisations to deliver it on an ongoing basis.

In addition, 23 talented young artists will travel overseas to undertake a range of learning and skills development opportunities, assisted by Cultural Trust grants totalling \$135,000.

See the complete grants lists for:

[The Ian Potter Foundation](#)

[The Ian Potter Cultural Trust](#)



It's a date!

The Foundation's office will be closed from Thursday 22 December - Monday 3 January.

The next closing date for [funding applications](#) is Monday 30 January, 2012.

We wish you all a wonderful relaxing summer break!



A visit from 'Her Deepness': Dr Sylvia Earle

It was with great excitement that the environmental grantmaking community and marine environment sector welcomed Dr Sylvia Earle to Australia in November. A legend of the marine conservation and science world and dubbed 'Her Deepness' by The New Yorker, Dr Earle is Time Magazine's first "Hero for the Planet", recognised as a Living Legend by the US Library of Congress and is a TED Prize winner.

Her visit to Australia reignited awareness for the need for greater protection and understanding of 'blue Australia'. During her whirlwind visit, Dr Earle met with members of parliament in Canberra, held discussions with Sydney and Melbourne-based environmental grantmakers, led a field trip out to marine protected areas on Port Phillip Bay and gave a public lecture at Melbourne Museum.

Dr Earle also accepted the inaugural Emerald Award from the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), at the first Emerald Dinner in Sydney. At the dinner Dr Earle spoke about the ocean systems that were intact and robust in the middle of the last century and the impact of industrial scale fishing, which is stripping the ocean bare with populations of some species down by 90 percent.

As a winner of the TED prize, Dr Earle's TED wish was to establish a network of protected areas large enough to secure protection for the blue heart of the planet. The TED prize is awarded annually to an exceptional individual who receives US\$100,000 and a 'wish to change the world'. Her visit generated significant political, media and community interest in the need for greater protection for our marine environments. Dr Earle's trip was facilitated by the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN) with support provided by The Ian Potter Foundation and the Pew Environment Group.



Pic: Lady Potter, Dr Thomas Hurley, Dr Jessica Meeiwig and Dr Sylvia Earle at a Melbourne reception dinner

[Watch Dr Earle's illuminating TED wish speech.](#)



In Other News

Better funding for desert Australia

The Ian Potter Foundation, together with the Menzies Foundation and Desert Knowledge Australia, are leading a collaborative series of workshops for grant makers and grant seekers to learn more about desert Australia. The workshops explore how funding organisations and not-for-profit organisations can better collaborate and achieve more strategic and sustainable change in desert Australia. Two workshops, one in Melbourne and one in Alice Springs, were well attended. Participants reflected on the barriers that prevent fruitful collaboration between the 'coast and the desert' and initiated a conversation around more effective grant making and grant management. The proceedings of the workshops will be formalised into a 'road map' paper in the near future - a good starting point for a more engaged and productive relationships between philanthropic foundations on the eastern coast and central Australia.



Image: Janet Hirst and the IPF Program Managers on reconnaissance to the Northern Territory in 2010.



LLEAP results shed new light

"It takes the guesswork out of grant-making," commented one of the philanthropic sector participants in the LLEAP (Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy) survey, which has now completed its initial report. This groundbreaking study has revealed some important findings that will be of immediate and practical use for schools, not-for-profits and philanthropics working in the education sector. Some strong themes emerged around issues of **access** from a schools perspective, **sustainability** for not-for-profits and the **sharing of knowledge**, **genuine collaborations and best practice** for philanthropic participants.



Our congratulations and thanks to the LLEAP project directors, Dr Michelle Anderson and Dr Emma Curtin on a highly successful first year. We are delighted that the Origin Foundation will support the project's continuation in Year 2. We look forward to continuing to work with LLEAP and to seeing the practical outcomes come through from this new knowledge in the years ahead.

Image: The audience at the LLEAP launch in February 2011: stay tuned for details of the next LLEAP event early in 2012!

[Read the LLEAP survey report.](#)



A fresh face in Finance!

In November we welcomed a new staff member to our team. Lee-Anne Harris has joined us as our new Finance Manager and will steer the day-to-day financial operations of The Ian Potter Foundation, Cultural Trust, The George Alexander Foundation and other entities, as well as managing the HR functions for our small team. Lee-Anne and her family recently moved to Melbourne from Sydney.

Welcome Lee-Anne!



Annual Reports

2011 marked the 10,000th grant made by The Ian Potter Foundation. In this year's Annual Report we celebrate the work being done towards the vision we share with many of our grantees: a vibrant, healthy and progressive nation.

You can read our Annual Reports as online 'books':

[The Ian Potter Foundation Annual Report](#)

[The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Annual Report](#)



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