

# THE SEAHORSE



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

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Janet Hirst, CEO

Welcome to the new-look *Seahorse* newsletter and our first issue for 2013.

As I write this report and reflect on the grants made in our first funding round of this year, I am very mindful of the tornadoes that brought destruction to Oklahoma City in the United States last month. So much devastation and heartache, and so many lives lost.

When I was in America last year attending the Council on Foundations Conference, the plenary session explored three examples of how crisis events can become turning points – the civic and philanthropic response in Los Angeles to the riots of twenty years ago, the response in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina's revelations of social inequality and the response in Detroit amidst crisis and social despair. I have no doubt that philanthropy will play a major role in assisting people in Oklahoma City to help rebuild their lives and their community. We should not underestimate the ability of foundations to bring together 'unusual' partners – who wouldn't normally work together, who understand collaboration and who will be there for the long term. Many foundations have programmatic flexibility which permits them to respond creatively and strategically to disaster situations and I am sure we will see this come to the fore once again in the weeks, months and years ahead, as Oklahoma City recovers.

At our May Board meeting, Governors gave conditional approval to a large grant of \$5 million over five years to help The University of Melbourne redevelop the Victorian College of the Arts as part of a major overhaul at the Southbank site. This is an important project for the college and for the future of Melbourne's inner city arts facilities and we look forward to it coming to fruition.

In the next few weeks, a project we have supported from its conception will reach an important juncture when the documentary *Love and Sex in an Age of Pornography* is released. The Foundation has helped to fund the researchers, Maree Crabbe and David Collett from Brophy Family & Youth Services, to make the documentary, and to develop education material for schools, government departments, youth workers, teachers and the Victorian police. The documentary is designed to arm young people, parents, carers and educators with information and confidence to think critically about pornography, which, as a result of online access, has become pervasive, and is the main sex educator for many young people. I encourage you to read this [interview with Maree Crabbe](#) which was published in *The Age* recently. We are hosting a preview of the documentary

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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](mailto: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!).

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in July and it is expected to air on SBS soon after - we will publish times and dates via social media when they are confirmed.

ROUND UP

## \$9 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS APPROVED



### The Eyes Have It

\$1.7 million in new Health & Disability grants was approved at our most recent Board Meeting, including \$1 million over four years to support the National Indigenous Eye Health Program's Close the Gap for Vision project (*pictured above*). This is the Foundation's second \$1m grant to this project, reflecting the importance of this work; the success of the program, and its roadmap to deliver a sustainable solution to the insidious epidemic of trachoma that still disproportionately afflicts Australia's indigenous population. Support for children with impaired vision is also the focus of a \$50,000 grant to Insight Education Centre, to help them design and deliver their inaugural mobile classroom project to meet the needs of blind and vision impaired children living in outlying areas of Melbourne and country Victoria. Given the lack of specialised services for these children, this is a very interesting model that aims to address an urgent issue. We wish the Insight team every success.

Among the other Health & Disability grants approved at the meeting was \$100,000 to Murdoch Childrens Research Institute to undertake research to identify more clearly the risk factors involved in the causation of cerebral palsy. Researchers will use the Victorian Cerebral Palsy Register, the largest such register internationally, and establish a biobank of genetic samples. Cerebral palsy is the most common physical disability in childhood and one for which there has been little change in frequency over the past 50 years so we are delighted to invest in this important cause.

Other grants include \$285,000 over two years to the National Stroke Foundation to help them adapt their successful FAST (Face Arms Speech Time) social media program to better reach regional and rural areas, and a grant of \$150,000 over three years (conditional) to MIND Australia to trial an innovative service model to support recovery for people with serious mental health issues.

In Medical Research, seven grants totalling \$550,000 were approved, the largest being \$250,000 to St Vincent's Institute (SVI) to facilitate improved collaboration between SVI and St Vincent's Hospital through the creation of a multi-faceted Integrated Clinical Research Facility. Our grant will go towards purchase of a key piece of flow cytometry equipment.

In addition to the major \$5 million pledge to The University of Melbourne's VCA project mentioned in Jan Hirst's message, five other Arts projects share in grants of \$110,000. Black Swan State Theatre received \$40,000 to support two artists through their Resident Artists Program, and Port Kembla Community Project received \$20,000 to help address lack of funding for local arts projects. This project will help set up Culture Bank Wollongong, a grass-roots funding initiative based on a proven US model, to raise local money for local community arts and culture projects, selected by the community.

One of the largest grants in this round was a \$1.2 million Environment & Conservation grant to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), to help them deliver a world-first for protected area management. This ambitious project involves a range of measurement and reporting initiatives including creating a framework for measuring the ecological health of protected areas and the benefit of expenditure on a range of conservation strategies across AWC's 23 properties, which encompass three million hectares.

To see more recent grants, please [click here to view our grants database](#)

ROUND UP

## CULTURAL TRUST AWARDS A FURTHER \$120K



A further 21 grantees have joined the prestigious ranks of our Cultural Trust grantees, sharing in \$120,000 to help them take up pivotal opportunities in their professional, artistic development. We regularly receive heartfelt messages of thanks from these grantees conveying the significance of these opportunities to them personally and professionally. Emails, like this one from actor Celeste Dodwell who has just received a second IPCT grant, reflect the importance and value of providing support in the early stages of an artist's career.

*"I find it overwhelming to formulate a thanks strong enough for the Trust, as it means such a great deal to me to still be here in London, living my dream and completing this life-changing and career-building experience.... I am incredibly thankful for your continued support. It really does mean the world to me, I am so excited at how my skills have accumulated, and my perception of the acting world and all it inhabits has broadened since being here. A world of thanks to the Trustees!"*

We wish all our recent grantees every success with their projects and encourage you all to stay in touch via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or good old-fashioned [email](#).

[View list of all recent grantees.](#)

*Image: Dancer Joe Jurd, grantee 2010*

## ROUND UP

### TWO NEW GOVERNORS JOIN FOUNDATION BOARD



Earlier this year, the Foundation appointed two new members to the Board of Governors. Professor Richard Larkins AO (pictured, above left) and Mr Anthony Burgess (above right) joined Mr Charles Goode AC (centre) and our other Governors for their first board meeting earlier this month.

Professor Larkins brings a wealth of knowledge and experience following a distinguished career in medicine, scientific research and academic management, including six years as Vice-Chancellor and President of Monash University. Tony Burgess is a leading Corporate Financier, currently CEO of Flagstaff Partners, a director of Melbourne Business School and chairman of the Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics. Mr Goode said, "We are delighted to welcome Richard and Tony to the Board. They are both highly qualified and leading members of the community, who will make a major contribution to the Foundation's philanthropic work and bring new ideas and perspectives to our deliberations."

The appointments of Professor Larkins and Mr Burgess follow the resignations last year of Mr Frank Nelson and Mr John Gough AO, who both gave decades of valuable service to the Foundation.

## ROUND UP NEW FACES



We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to the IPF team.

Ngairé Jones (*pictured above right*) comes to us direct from New Zealand, to take up the position of Program Officer. This role will put to good use her skills in coordination of programs, assessment and report writing, gained in her previous role as Commissioning Assistant at Television New Zealand.

Having waded our way through a sea of applications for the part-time Communications Officer role, we are pleased to announce that we have appointed Tim Fisher to the role. Tim (*pictured above left*) holds a Bachelor of Arts (Journalism) from RMIT. He has worked as an editor on a range of publications - both print and online - as well as several communications roles within the NFP sector, including the Australian Drug Foundation and VCOSS. Tim is currently lecturing in online journalism at RMIT and is a Board Member of the Emerging Writers Festival.

A very warm welcome to them both!

## FEATURE STORIES DESPERATELY SEEKING PAST GRANTEES!

In celebration of the collective contribution The Ian Potter Cultural Trust's supported artists have made to Australia's cultural life over the past 20 years, we are hosting a special gala event in October.

With 1,200 grantees scattered to the corners of the globe it's not easy keeping track of everyone but we want to ensure as many as possible are invited. An alphabetical list of 'lost' grantees is now available on our [website](#). If you have ever received a Cultural Trust grant, or you know someone who has, please take a look (it's a bit of a who's who of Australian artists). If your name appears on the list, please complete the email contact form on the page to ensure you're on the invitation list!

Cultural Trust grantees who do not appear on the 'lost' list can assume their contact details are current. Thank you!

*Image: Emma Henshall (IPCT grantee 2009), trapeze artist*



## NEWS AND EVENTS BENALLA GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

In 2009 we made a grant of \$275,000 to the Tomorrow: Today Foundation's Education Benalla Program, followed by a second grant of \$225,000 last year, to support their ambitious multi-faceted project that sought to improve educational outcomes for Benalla's young people, starting from infancy. In IPF's 2009 annual report, the convenor of the project committee Liz Chapman, predicted, "In five years I think we will

see some big shifts. I hope we will see a change in community attitudes and a measurable change in student wellbeing data...". Now almost four years down the track, the Education Benalla Program is making impressive progress towards achieving its long-term aims of significant and sustained improvement in education completion rates.

The latest evaluation report by The University of Melbourne notes, "It is readily apparent that 2012 has been a markedly successful year. There are multiple stories and compelling instances of success in re-engaging young people to education and educational aspiration, of helping young parents negotiate the dilemmas of parenting, of nurturing communal networks, of facilitating improvements in well-being at multiple levels, and of actively tapping into the extensive voluntary resources of a service-oriented regional community." Congratulations to Tomorrow:Today Foundation.

*Image: Taking flight - participating in the Connect9 component of the Benalla Education project*



#### NEWS AND EVENTS

### POTTER MOVING IMAGE COMMISSION UPDATE

In December 2012, the Cultural Trust awarded the inaugural Ian Potter Moving Image Commission to Angelica Mesiti, an accomplished video artist who divides her time between Sydney and Paris.

For the commission, Angelica is creating a multi-channel video installation entitled *The Calling*, which explores the non-verbal messaging systems used to communicate in isolated and difficult landscapes. Known as whistle languages, these calls are a tradition still practiced in isolated communities in various parts of the world. Following a couple of months of desk-based research, Angelica travelled to the French Pyrenees; La Gomera in the Canary Islands; Evia in Greece, and Kuskoyn in Turkey to further research and develop the project, identify performers, record sound and video reference material and plan the return trip. Angelica's finished work will be unveiled at ACMI in February 2014 and already promises to be absolutely fascinating.



#### NEWS AND EVENTS

### MAJOR GRANT TO NEW MONASH MUSIC SCHOOL

At a special acknowledgement event last week, Monash University officially thanked Lady Potter and The Ian Potter Foundation for one of the largest grants in our history, made to help create the Ian Potter Concert Hall in the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music. As reported in our last newsletter, the \$10 million grant will go towards an 800 seat concert hall, and a space that will ensure future music students are limited only by their imaginations. At the function, Monash President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ed Byrne AO, thanked the foundation, saying the grant will help transform the University's Clayton campus into an alternative cultural epicentre for greater Melbourne.

[Read more about this grant.](#)

