

THE SEAHORSE



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

CELEBRATING 50



The Foundation staff ready to greet guests at our 50th Anniversary dinner at the NGV.

2014 has been a busy and exciting year for the Foundation as we celebrate the dual milestones of 50 years and over \$250 million in grant commitments. In September, we hosted a special 50th Anniversary celebration dinner at the National Gallery of Victoria. Our guests of honour were the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove, the Governor of Victoria, the Hon Alex Chernov and Mrs Chernov, and the Federal Treasurer, the Hon Joe Hockey representing the Prime Minister who was attending a meeting of the United Nations Security Council. Invited guests included representatives of grantee organisations, guests from the broader philanthropic and not-for-profit community and business associates.

In our golden anniversary year our key themes have been innovation and transformation. Not only have we looked back over the past 50 years and reflected on the impact of the Foundation's grant-making, but we have taken time to reach forward, think about the role of the Foundation and set the scene for the future. The dinner was an opportunity to celebrate Sir Ian's legacy and the Foundation's contribution with our guests.

In his speech at the dinner Mr Hockey said, "I want to speak on behalf of all the beneficiaries in saying thank you, the ripples of that initial donation have gone far but the legacy is in the fact that it continues to grow. For many years to come this Foundation will have a profoundly important impact on the fabric of the Australian community."

As I reflect on the year, the anniversary really has been a unique opportunity to consider the cumulative impact of the Foundation's philanthropy, to celebrate what has been achieved, and appreciate the truly extraordinary things that are taking place in our community everyday. It is easy to get lost in the busyness and stresses of life and not see the big picture. Through our 50th celebrations - including the short film and commemorative book that we launched at the dinner (see article below) - we have been able to do just that. We are proud of what has been achieved so far and now have a fresh perspective on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The speeches given at our 50th Anniversary dinner by the Treasurer and the Governor-General, as well as our Chairman, Charles Goode and Life Governor Lady Potter from our 50th anniversary event can be viewed [via our website](#). While we wish we could have celebrated with even more of our friends and associates that night, I encourage you to take a few minutes to

- ROUND UP
- FEATURE STORIES
- NEWS AND EVENTS

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 you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future, simply [unsubscribe](#) (but we hope you don't!).

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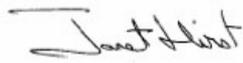
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watch them and enjoy the positive messages that remind us all of the immense rewards that come from giving back.



Janet Hirst.

ROUND UP

\$11 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS AWARDED



A grand total of over \$11 million in new grants was approved at our recent meeting of the Board of Governors, including a number of multi-year grants. Almost \$8 million of this total was a single Science grant, the details of which will be announced at a special launch in the next few weeks - so watch this space!

Following our 50th Anniversary Commemorative Grants in June, this latest round returned to our regular program areas with grants in the Arts, Community Wellbeing, Education, Environment & Conservation, the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift and Science up for consideration, as well as Travel and Conference.

Six Arts grants totalling \$1.35 million were approved including a grant of \$211,000 over two years to Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park (GASP!) in Tasmania, for their project *Swimmable! Reading the River*, to extend and consolidate their multi-faceted art, community and environment initiative that is revitalising the area both aesthetically and ecologically. The funds will support the acquisition and installation of artworks to enhance the park's appeal for visitors and locals alike.

In our Community Wellbeing program area, just over \$1 million in grants were approved. The largest was a grant of \$450,000 over three years to Loddon Mallee Housing Services to support the Sidney Myer Haven Program which provides stable, affordable housing and support services to individuals and families at risk of homelessness.

Alongside a number of new grantee organisations, several organisations that we have funded previously received new grants including \$600,000 over three years through our Science program to Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) for their World Harbour Project; \$550,000 over three years to Greening Australia for Stage 2 of their restoration of a threatened bioregion in Tasmania's Northern Midlands, and \$108,000 to Queensland University of Technology to continue the Visiting Scholars Program at the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Non Profit Studies which is bringing new thought-leadership to the sector.

Congratulations to all the successful grant recipients this round - we look forward to great things from these important projects.

For a list of approved recent grants, [click here](#).

Pictures: Images of GASP! from IPF site visit earlier this year.

ROUND UP

ARTISTIC LICENCE



The most recent round of Cultural Trust grants sees 38 emerging artists sharing in grants totalling \$243,000. Musicians lead the charge with 19 artists receiving support this round, followed by dance, visual and performing arts.

The range and calibre of programs these artists will be undertaking is quite inspiring, ranging from a structured residency at Swatch Art Peace Hotel in Shanghai to a Masters in Fine Arts (Directing) at the Yale School of Drama in the USA.

Composers were particularly successful this round:

- William Gardiner from NSW (*pictured above*), is continuing his studies for a Doctorate of Musical Arts in music composition at the Yale School of Music;
- Lisa Illean (Vic) will be completing the final year of a Master of Composition degree at the Royal College of Music, London;
- Samuel Gillies (WA) receives support for study for a Masters of Music in Composition at Goldsmiths, University of London. Samuel applied to Goldsmiths due to their strong programs in electroacoustic composition;
- Timothy Tate (Qld) will undertake a Master of Music in Composition at the Royal Academy of Music; London;
- Nicholas Buc (Vic) begins a Masters in Music Theory and Composition (Scoring for Film and Multimedia) at New York University.

Congratulations to all our very deserving Cultural Trust recipients.

To see the full list of grantees from this round visit our [website listing](#).

FEATURE STORIES

VALUE OF FLEXIBLE LEARNING HIGHLIGHTED

A new report calls for recognition of alternative education's role in stopping disadvantaged students from slipping through the cracks.

The '[Putting the Jigsaw Together](#)' project report by Victoria University researchers and funded by The Ian Potter Foundation, was launched last month. The first part of the project created a database of more than 900 alternative education options for young people around Australia.

These programs include:

- In-school programs (withdrawing students from the regular classroom for periods of time)
- Separate alternative schools (mostly independent) that offer Year 9, 10, 11 and/or 12 education
- Programs offering general education within TAFE or community colleges.

The second phase studied eight programs in-depth and identified several innovative ways these programs achieved successful learning where others had failed. Lead researcher, Associate Professor Kitty te Riele said. "The case studies also highlight the importance of government regulations that enable flexibility in curriculum and staffing for these tailor-made approaches to work, and the invaluable role of local businesses, community associations and philanthropic organisations."

Janet Hirst officially launched the report at an event at Victoria University and said the research was important for the philanthropic sector, as well as government and educators. "As a funder of education programs we receive a large number of enquiries for support, but



questions about efficacy and sustainability have made it difficult to support many of those requests," she said. "This new information will help direct support to the programs with the greatest potential for success."

The full report is available via the [Dusseldorp Forum website](#).

NEWS AND EVENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK AND VIDEO

Celebrating our 50th has been a fantastic opportunity to retrace our footsteps and revisit many of the people and projects that we have worked with over the years. In exploring the impact that our grants have had, we heard many wonderful, positive stories that show the difference that can be made when you help good people do good things.

Some of these are featured in a special commemorative 50th Anniversary book, *The Ian Potter Foundation, 50 Years: Looking Back, Reaching Forward*. In its pages are stories of a relative handful of the 2000 plus organisations and people that the Foundation has supported over five decades, and our approach to philanthropy. Limited copies of the book are available upon [request](#) (only one copy per organisation please). A digital version of the book is also available [online](#).

We also created a special short film that highlights three grants that represent the essence of how, who and what we fund, and the difference that philanthropy makes in the community, woven into a little of the Foundation's historical context.

[Click here to watch the film](#).

Our thanks to the many people who assisted providing information, interviews and images for these projects.

We do hope you enjoy them.

Image: The story of Ruby and her family's journey to find answers for her debilitating condition is featured in our short film, 'Making a Difference'.



NEWS AND EVENTS

PROF GEOFFREY BLAINEY RETIRES

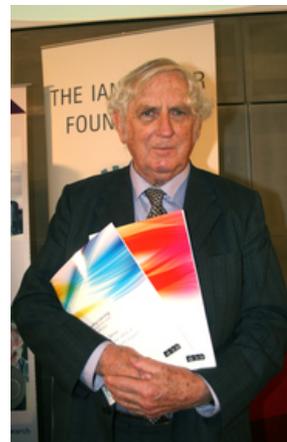
After 24 years of service to The Ian Potter Foundation, Professor Geoffrey Blainey recently retired from the Board of Governors.

Professor Blainey joined the board in 1990 and has been with the Foundation for close to half its existence. In 1991 our annual distributions were \$1.76m and in 2014 grants distributions reached \$20.2m - it's been a time of rapid growth and change.

As a renowned historian and academic, Prof Blainey's knowledge and insight on a wide range of issues have been a valuable resource to the Foundation. He has been an active participant in a number of special projects including the History committee that oversaw the writing of the Ian Potter biography by Peter Yule, and assisted publication of monographs of Alec Prentice-Sewell and George Alexander. He was also a member and Chair of the Foundation's Arts Committee and member of the Education Committee.

Our sincere thanks go to Professor Blainey for his significant contribution.

Image: Prof Blainey at the launch of the Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy (LLEAP) reports in 2012.



EUREKA FOR REEF LIFE SURVEY

After training 200 divers to survey the entire coastline of Australia, the Reef Life Survey Foundation (RLS) has been awarded the prestigious Australian Museum 2014 Eureka Prize for Environmental Research.

RLS is a new concept in marine conservation which brings together scientists, marine managers, and recreational divers to maximise the collection, analysis and use of large-scale biodiversity information. The RLS-trained divers collect data on population trends of thousands of marine species across a geographic scale impossible for traditional scientific dive teams to cover.

The RLS team was nominated for providing a new perspective for scientists and managers on the magnitude and distribution of threats occurring out-of-sight underwater. Among the findings their data has shown that nutrients leaking from fish farms often extend hundreds of metres from the farm, rather than tens of metres as assumed in regulations and that marine protected areas can take decades to recover from fishing.

Congratulations to Graham Edgar and all the RLS team and volunteers.

The Ian Potter Foundation assisted RLS with a grant in 2013 to assist completion of their survey of Australia's coast with an expedition to remote north-western WA.



IAN POTTER CHILDREN'S GARDEN IS 10!

Happy 10th Birthday to The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne.

We are proud to be associated with these much-loved and well-utilised gardens which bring joy and learning to thousands of children, families and school groups each year. The new extension and refurbishment of the garden will open to the public this Saturday, following a few months' closure for the works.

As we cut the cake at a special little birthday party, Janet Hirst recalled the words of her predecessor, Dr Dorothy Scott, who noted in her review of the initial grant application in 2002, "It is likely the garden will become a significant and permanent component of an institution of high-standing internationally."

We think you were right, Dorothy!

Congratulations to the whole RBG team and to the volunteers who play such a vital role in the ongoing success of the gardens. We're sure the Children's Garden will continue to flourish for decades to come.

Image: Lady Potter enlists the assistance of a young friend to cut the amazing birthday cake, with Janet Hirst and Prof Tim Entwistle, Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Photo Janusz Molinski

