

Message from the CEO



It is hard to believe that the year is nearly at an end and Christmas is only a couple of weeks away. What a year it has been, with the devastating Victorian bushfires in February and the beginning of the recovery from the Global Financial Crisis. As always, we feel privileged to be able to support many inspiring Australians who are so committed to making a positive difference to our community. In 2009, the Foundation approved grants totalling \$7.8 million in addition to our ongoing grant commitments, which is similar to recent years.

Since our last Newsletter, Dr Alberto Furlan has joined the team at the Foundation as a Program Manager in the Community Wellbeing Program Area. Alberto holds a PhD in Anthropology and previously worked as an Anthropologist with the Central Land Council in Tennant Creek, NT. Alberto arrived at the Foundation just in time for our successful and productive Staff Planning Day in the Yarra Valley (*Alberto is pictured right with Janet*).

As the year draws to a close I think back to the words of one of the Foundation's Governors, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, who remarked at the launch of *Ian Potter: A Biography*, "A host of Australians will remember Sir Ian Potter. They will remember him because The Ian Potter Foundation will continue to encourage new Australian ideas and ventures."

Everyone at the Foundation joins me in wishing you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to many new ideas and ventures in 2010.

Best wishes,



Janet Hirst

Round Up

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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 December funding round

The breadth, depth and diversity of the Foundation's funding was highlighted at the recent Board Meeting on December 3rd. The details of a few grants are still being finalised but approximately 70 grants were approved, including \$130,000 to The Ian Potter Cultural Trust to support 22 grants to individual artists.

In Education, through the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift, the Music Council of Australia received a grant of \$48,500 towards the creation of a special



toolkit entitled *Building Musical Futures: a Toolkit for School Communities* which will be a national resource available to all schools' and parents' groups, designed to counter the decline of effective music education and help build capacity.

Amongst the Arts grants, Victoria's Heide Museum of Modern Art was awarded \$70,000 to assist the integration of Heide 1 (*pictured right*), once the home of gallery founders John and Sunday Reed, to become a functional part of the visitor experience at the museum. Visitors currently have only limited access to Heide 1, but when the project is complete it will be accessible during museum opening hours - to be used as an exhibition and museum space, and public research archive. Also in Arts, a group of complementary programs to build capacity across a range of areas at Australia's most prolific artist-run organisation, West Space, also got the green light and a grant of \$26,000 over two years.

In our busy Community Wellbeing Program Area, 29 grants were awarded ranging from a \$9,938 travel grant to Orygen Youth Health Research Centre for a scoping tour of England, Ireland and Denmark to investigate best practice approaches to youth mental health issues, through to \$45,000 to Wimmera Uniting Care to help fund their Youth and Community Bus Project which will ease issues of isolation for socially and economically disadvantaged sectors in that community.

Congratulations to all the recent grantees. There were many other innovative projects and organisations supported this round. To view the complete list, [please click here](#).

News and Events

The Ian Potter Music Commissions Finale

The final award of The Ian Potter Music Commissions Fellowships was presented at a special event at the Melbourne Recital Centre on October 1st. The Emerging Composer Fellowship (\$20,000) was awarded to West Australian composer Iain Grandage, who plans to write a trilogy of 'ocean songs' inspired by the West Australian coastline. The Established Composer Fellowship (\$80,000) went to Victorian author and composer Gordon Kerry, to write a number of ensemble works, including his first symphony to be composed for The Sydney Symphony Orchestra. "It's a great honour to be awarded such a prestigious fellowship and a wonderful vote of confidence in my work," said Gordon, in an interview with *Fine Music* magazine. Iain (left) and Gordon (centre) are pictured here with Lady Potter and Janet Hirst.



The finale event, featured a 'landscape of musical works' composed by past Music Commissions Fellows, Dr Richard Mills AM, Damian Barbeler, Dr Liza Lim and Anthony Pateras. The music was directed by Barbeler and performed by some of Australia's premier musicians. The event and presentations, including a tribute speech by special guest Jonathan Mills, provided a fitting send-off for the Music Commissions, which over the past decade, supported 23 composers, produced over 40 works and invested over \$500,000 in the composition of new Australian music, ensuring that the Commissions legacy will endure for years to come.



The Trust is currently conducting a scoping study to determine the next sector of the Arts that will be supported and to identify the best structure for the program. We expect to make an announcement about this following the next Board Meeting in April 2010.

Arts Program Funding Fully Committed

A number of particularly strong Arts project proposals came through in the first two IPF Funding Rounds of the year, presenting important, strategic funding opportunities for this Program Area. As a result of these grants, Arts funding for 2009-10 is now fully committed, and applications for Arts are now closed for this financial year.

Arts applications will re-open for the first funding round in the 2010-11 financial year. The closing date for this round is Tuesday 1 June and outcomes will be advised to applicants in early September. *Pictured right: Foot Juggling at Theatre Works, which received a grant in August for their Circus Works Masterclass program.*

Applications for The Ian Potter Cultural Trust WILL be considered at the next Board Meeting on 23 April 2010. Applications for the Cultural Trust close on Monday 1 February 2010.



Claire Is All Arts

Claire Rimmer, Arts Program Manager for The Ian Potter Foundation has now also taken on responsibility for managing The Ian Potter Cultural Trust. With qualifications including a degree in Fine Arts and a Masters in Art History, Claire is ideally placed to make a valuable contribution to the Trust's work supporting exceptionally talented young artists.



Reporting In

The Ian Potter Foundation Report 2008-09 and The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Report 2008-09 are complete! The Reports include messages from our Chairman and CEO, as well as feature stories about a selection of grants from the year, a full list of grants paid and special sections looking back at the progress made by some past grantees. Click here to view a copy of the [IPF Report](#) or [IPCT Report](#) online or download to print.



Meet The Staff

Gail Lewry, Administration Manager

You've got to be quick to keep up with IPF's Administration Manager and resident Sparty Spice, Gail Lewry. Not only does Gail have a keen eye for detail and organisational skills that make most mere mortals feel like Homer Simpson, her lifelong passion for sport means she is perennially training for her next heroic sporting feat, whether that be running a half marathon, climbing mountains in Nepal or supporting the efforts of her Ironman husband. This is made all the more remarkable by the fact that she has only one eye – when it comes to her football team that is: Gail is a bona-fide, dyed-in-the-wool Collingwood Magpies fanatic! This passion for football has proved infectious in the IPF office where Gail manages our hotly-contested Footy Tipping Competition, Potters Players. Thanks to Gail, Footy Tipping is now a compulsory activity for all staff regardless of one's level of interest - or disinterest – in the game!

Before starting at IPF, Gail had always worked in sport-related fields – first as a Phys Ed and Science teacher and later as an Administrator for a range of sporting organisations. She was drawn to the job at IPF by the opportunity to contribute to an organisation that was making a difference in the community. For Gail, the greatest thing about working at the Foundation is speaking to grantees and hearing the stories about how the funding has helped different people and what it has made possible in the community. She says she genuinely likes coming to work – because it is rewarding, and she loves the team she works with... And because we promised not to tell anyone about her secret passion for white chocolate. Oh, whoops, sorry Gail!



Grantee News

Clean Sweep for CSL

The accolades keep rolling in for The Centre for Sustainability Leadership (CSL) and its young prodigies. In September, CSL received the Melbourne Award for the Community Environmental Organisation of the Year in recognition of its contribution to making Melbourne a better place to work, live and visit. Two CSL Leadership Fellows were also singled out for awards, with alumni Rachel Lowry receiving the Corporate Environment Award and current participant Ellen Sandell, who is funded by a George Alexander Foundation Fellowship, receiving the Award for Melbourne Environmentalist of the Year. CSL participant Monique Conheady was also recognised for her work establishing Flexicar, a car share service. Congratulations to all, we are thrilled to see this dynamic young organisation gaining recognition at such a high level. CSL has received two grants from IPF totalling \$59,000.



Down The Track

We love hearing stories from past grantees telling us where their paths have taken them since their grant...

Love Sick

Artist Andrew Nicholls received a \$3,000 Cultural Trust grant in 2004 to travel to the UK to undertake an artist-in-residence program at the Spode china factory. Andrew contacted us recently with the news that he had produced a 10 year retrospective catalogue that was launched to coincide with an exhibition of his works entitled *Love Sick* at the Boutwell Draper gallery. The catalogue entitled *LOVE ANDREW NICHOLLS* features essays by a number of leading Australian curators and academics providing commentary on his fascinating, intricate and provocative works. The catalogue includes the ceramic works produced during Andrew's residency at Spode, which were exhibited in a solo show *Blue Australia* at Craft ACT in Canberra, a piece from this show is pictured right *Blue Australia 1: Hyacinth Bulb Pot* 2004. Three pieces from the exhibition have been reserved by the Art Gallery of WA for their collection. Congratulations Andrew!



Mapping Indigenous Places

Back in 2003, the Foundation granted \$14,000 to the University of South Australia towards a project that aimed to investigate when Aboriginal people first came to southern Arnhem Land and to follow their lives from deep antiquity to the current day. This Mapping Indigenous Places project documented histories and associations between people and places on Jawoyn lands in the Barunga-Wugularr region of the Northern Territory.

The research documented how new social landscapes are created and new networks of significant places are added during times of social change. The researchers documented both change and continuity, and traced the associations between people and the physical landscape.

This project addressed the concerns of senior traditional owners and senior custodians much of this information would be lost to future generations if it is not recorded now. By recording stories and places and presenting the information in accessible formats from which educational materials are developed, this project contributes to what senior Aboriginal people refer to as 'making culture strong'.

The support from The Ian Potter Foundation allowed the researchers to develop the first stages of this project, and this was built on with funding from the Australian Research Council and from the Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts. The information gathered is being factored into cultural and heritage tourism plans for the region and had added to international archaeological knowledge.



The Ian Potter Foundation Ltd

ABN: 42 004 603 972

Level 3, 111 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

Telephone (+613) 9650 3188 Facsimile (+613) 9650 7986 Email admin@ianpotter.org.au

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