

Message from the CEO



This giant termite mound I'm standing beside was just one of many extraordinary sights that greeted me and the IPF Program Management team during a recent field trip to the Northern Territory. The trip, which covered over 2000 km, was a wonderful opportunity to see first-hand the issues being faced by the communities, to meet people who are passionate about the Territory and to see the incredible work that is being done in the face of great challenges. In Darwin we were joined by one of the Governors of the Foundation, Dr Thomas Hurley, to continue discussions with the Menzies School of Health Research and representatives of the Northern Territory Government. We are pleased that this has led to a grant being made to Menzies this round. (Please see the articles below for more about the trip and the grant.)

It is hard to believe that another year has sped by. It has been an exciting one for the Foundation with some really innovative programs being supported as we passed the milestone of \$150 million in grants paid since Sir Ian Potter established the Foundation in 1964. As the sectors we support grow and evolve, accordingly we regularly review and plan to better meet the challenges and opportunities in the community, while still upholding the principles that continue to form the cornerstone of the Foundation's work. This process has been a feature of our work this year and has resulted in the revision of particular Program Area objectives and the move to an Expression of Interest process in some areas.

Everyone at the Foundation joins me in wishing you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing many of you in 2011.



Janet Hirst

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special events and funding round reminders. [Read more](#)

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

2010 ended with a busy and challenging funding round in which 79 grants were approved totalling over \$4 million. With hundreds of applications to be assessed, the decision making process is never an easy one, so congratulations to all the successful grantees, we anticipate some great outcomes from many of these projects.

As mentioned in Jan's report, one of the most significant grants of the round was awarded in the Education Program Area, with the **Menzies School of Health Research** receiving \$1.5 million over three years to support the development of a \$19 million Centre of Child Development and Education, which will undertake vital research needed to address critical health, education and social outcomes for indigenous children in the Northern Territory. Partnering with other key institutions and the NT Government, the Centre will facilitate high-quality scientific research to feed directly into the development of solutions in policy and practice in this area of such great and urgent need. The grant has been made following discussions over two years and trips to the NT by several members of the IPF Board. We are optimistic that other philanthropic and government support will be forthcoming for this priority program. Anyone wishing to know more should contact Caitriona Fay in our office.

The Education Program also partnered an important initiative by the **Australian Council for Educational Research** (ACER) called *Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy*, an investigation into the ways in which philanthropy can best fund the education sector to improve student outcomes and achievement. This is expected to be a three year program. IPF awarded a grant of \$174,700 for the first year of the project.

In the Arts, eleven grants were awarded including \$50,000 to the **Perth Institute of Contemporary Art** (PICA) to support a program known as *Growing Future Innovators* that will cost \$1.26 million to implement. Building on a benchmark scoping study that looked at how schools and contemporary arts organisations can work together to 'educate for innovation', the program has enormous potential and this pilot project will implement the study's recommendations and assess their impact.

The Social Studio's Microfinance Program (*pictured*) was one of 18 Community Wellbeing grants awarded. The Studio, which supports young refugees, receives \$50,000 for financial literacy training for fifteen of their students. The project will actively prevent poverty through the implementation of a long term savings and financial literacy plan, leading to business development for participants who show talent and interest in starting up their own enterprises.

A high number of Conference grants were also awarded this round with nine grantees, including **Cystic Fibrosis Australia** and **Ausglass**, sharing a total of \$75,800 to help them bring international speakers to Australia to present keynote speeches at major conferences.

Read the full list of recent grants [here](#).



The Ian Potter Cultural Trust

Thirty-two new recipients this round

Belgium, Germany, Scandinavia and the USA are just a few of the destinations for this round of CT recipients, who share in grants totalling \$196,000. All our grantees are exceptional emerging artists in their fields. Among the recipients this time is young Tasmania-based playwright, Finegan Kruckemeyer, who has been invited to speak at the ASSITEJ, the 16th World Congress and Performing Arts Festival for Young People, the most prestigious event in world children's theatre being held next year in Sweden and Denmark. Finegan is one of 21 young leaders in the field invited as the Next Generation, having demonstrated promise in, and commitment to, the sector. Kelly Leahey is another notable CT recipient: a photographic conservator, Kelly will travel participate in two internships with distinguished photographic conservators, one in the USA at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and one in the Netherlands, offering opportunities that cannot be realised in Australia. She will also travel to Canada and visit cultural institutions in New York. We wish Finegan, Kelly and all the other recipients safe and rewarding travels - don't forget to send us a postcard! [Full list of grantees.](#)



*Image: Finegan Kruckemeyer, children's playwright
(photo Andy Rasheed, Eyefood)*

Red Dirt Tour: IPF Team visits the NT

In late November our CEO Jan Hirst and three Program Managers, Caitriona Fay, Claire Rimmer and Alberto Furlan, travelled to the Northern Territory on a week-long reconnaissance trip to learn more about the issues, challenges and opportunities in this massive geographic area. It was also a chance to talk to community groups in the region about how we work, and explain the Foundation's objectives and funding priorities.

Over seven days, the group travelled up the Stuart Highway from Alice Springs to Darwin, via Tennant Creek and Katherine, covering 2,229 kms in all. The Foundation has a diverse range of interests, and the three Program Managers who went on the field trip manage different program areas - Arts, Community Wellbeing, Education and Environment - so the group met with organisations whose work aligns with these interest areas, holding 16 meetings in total.

The group have returned with new knowledge, understanding and great respect for the work being done on the ground, tackling 'big issues' in many diverse ways. "The trip gave us a great insight into the issues being faced by communities and the resilience of people who are committed to the Territory," said Jan. "It confirmed the importance of grant-makers going on site visits to get to know people and their work, to be able to speak to participants, and importantly to increase our knowledge which in turn leads to better assessments of projects and the provision of more informed advice to our Board of Governors."

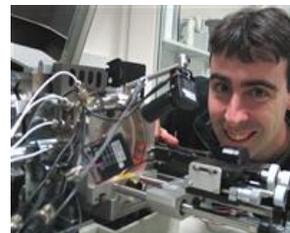
[Read the full story here.](#)



In Other News

Exciting outcomes at CMRI

A 2009 equipment grant to the Children's Medical Research Institute, Sydney, has enabled young, up and coming scientist Dr Mark Graham (*right*) to make a fundamental discovery about an entirely new brain cell signalling mechanism. This discovery opens a new avenue to pursue treatments for neurological related disorders. Mark won a major ARC project grant to further pursue this discovery.



"We are excited by the prospect that we can exploit this new discovery to develop new treatments and research tools for epilepsy and other neurological disorders," said Dr Graham. "There is also the potential for this discovery to impact on a wide range of human conditions, if it is found to be common." [Read full article.](#)

Cultural Trust grantees making waves

It is always exciting to follow the careers of our Cultural Trust grantees as they build on their international experiences to reach new heights in their artistic endeavours. This month we opened *Inside Out* magazine to find a full page article on glass artist **Amanda Dziedic** who is flourishing on the experiences and inspiration she gained on her travels last year and will be exhibiting some of her extraordinary glasswork as part of *Excursion: New Art Made in South Australia* until January 9 at Carbon Black Gallery in Prahran, Victoria. Meanwhile recent grantee **Michael Cutrupi** was featured in Sydney's *Inner West Courier* in an interview about his recent travels to work with the renowned acting coach, Philippe Gaulier (pictured left with Michael) and to SIT1 in New York. Michael is now back in Australia and currently starring in the Squeaky Floor Productions' performance of *The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee* - he also featured in our Cultural Trust Grants Report 2010. Also making an impression is past grantee, **Monika Behrens** who celebrates her first solo exhibition at Breenspace in Waterloo, Sydney. The exhibition is entitled *Double Dutch* and showcases a suite of paintings developed while Monika was on residency at the *Cite Des Arts Internationale*, Paris which was undertaken with some assistance from a Cultural Trust grant. [Double Dutch](#) is open until December 24.



Annual Grants Reports

Our Annual Grants Reports are now available online. The reports include complete listings of all grants paid in the 2009-10 Financial Year and feature articles and interviews with a few of our wonderful grantees, whose stories never fail to remind us of the array of amazing projects happening in our communities and the vital role philanthropy plays in helping great ideas and talented people to get the opportunity to realise their potential.

We encourage you to click through and share a little inspiration.

[The Ian Potter Foundation Grants Report 2009-10](#)
(web-based 'virtual book')

[The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grants Report 2009-10](#)
(pdf)



Farewell Helen

We sadly farewell one member of our great team at the Foundation - Program Manager Helen Murray has made the decision that it's time to retire and will be leaving the Foundation at the end of December. Helen will be missed, not only by everyone at the Foundation, but by the many people she meets with to discuss projects and to whom she gives invaluable advice and assistance. We thank her for her excellent contribution over the last four years. - Jan Hirst, CEO.



Applicant Survey

Many thanks to the applicants in our last funding round who took a few minutes to complete our online survey, providing valuable feedback about the application process. The results will help shape our communications and admin processes in 2011. In the next newsletter we will share a few of the key survey findings and start a series of 'quick tips' for applicants to give some insight into the process and help smooth the way!



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