

Message from the CEO



As I write this I am very mindful of the pain and suffering of the people of Christchurch, and of the devastating floods, cyclones and fires that have affected so many Australian families and communities over summer. As so often happens in these tragic events, the pain and loss is juxtaposed with the outpouring of human kindness and generosity that gives hope to those who have lost so much and helps all of us to cope with such traumatic events. We pay tribute to all those who have stood up and helped others, and to those who will continue to provide support through the long recovery phase.

At the Foundation, we are in the middle of our first funding round for 2011. On every closing date, the Foundation receives a large number of applications – this funding round was no exception, with 288 applications being submitted amounting to requests of over \$19 million.

Obviously, the Foundation cannot fund every request, however we would like every application to be *eligible* for consideration, as it can be very distressing for applicants who have put time and effort into preparing an application, only to find that it can't be considered. It is the task of our hardworking Administration team, Gail Lewry (*pictured above right*) and Sue Wilkinson (*centre*) to check all incoming applications and ensure that the fundamental eligibility requirements have been met before they are passed on to the Program Managers.

We would like to remind grant-seekers of three key requirements:

- **Applications must be received by 5.00 pm on the closing date** – we cannot make exceptions, so please ensure that yours will be safely received before this time.
- We **must** receive the information we request. As a Public Fund, the Foundation has its own tax and legal obligations and the information we require from applicants ensures that we comply with these regulatory requirements.
- The **Application Checklist** was designed to make it easier for applicants to ensure their applications are complete and that no part of the documentation is missing. However we often find that while the boxes have been physically ticked, the related documentation has not been included.

We recommend that all applicants refer to our website prior to applying to check requirements or funding priorities, as these can change. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our Program Management team who are always happy to help with your queries.



Janet Hirst

Round Up

Highlights from the recent funding round. [Read more](#)

Feature Stories

[Message from the Editor](#)

[Good luck Miranda](#)

News and Events

Read more about current events at IPF and IPCT

[Read more](#)

Facebook



Join us on Facebook and stay in the loop with IPF news, 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!).

News and Events

International Women's Day

March 8 is International Women's Day and to mark the occasion the Foundation is supporting The School For Social Entrepreneurs and Australian Women Donor's Network to **Celebrate Women Changemakers**. The event features some great speakers and a chance to meet some of Melbourne's changemaking women - including IPF's CEO Jan Hirst. This free event will be held in the Village Roadshow Theatre at the State Library of Victoria, from 12 - 2pm. We hope to see you there! [Find out more.](#)



Update

IPF Applicants Survey: the good, the bad - and the ineligible!

Late last year we ran a survey among recent applicants to gain insight into applicants' experiences of the IPF grant application process: what works, what doesn't and to identify areas that need improvement. Thank you to the 150 applicants that participated.

We were delighted that for the most part, people's experiences have been positive. We learned that most people take more than 10 hours to complete their applications, but despite the time most people found the process either easy or quite easy, with the detail of the forms being the biggest challenge. We were pleased that most applicants had contacted a staff member before submitting - which was almost universally rated as helpful - but surprised that of those that did not contact us almost 15% said it was because they did not want to bother our Program Managers! Ineligible applications were the source of most frustration. As Jan expressed in her message above, we are acutely aware of how this impacts upon applicants who have often put so much effort into the rest of their application - so please do make those essential checks.

As a result of the feedback we have made changes to some forms and some aspects of our website and more improvements will flow through when we overhaul our website later this year.

Pic: The Community Wellbeing application "in box" last round



Filling the knowledge gap

Education and philanthropy have a long history together but relatively little has been measured, evaluated and documented about the success factors in these relationships. At IPF we support education programs and indirectly, schools, across virtually all of our program areas but despite this commitment, we believe we can better understand the factors that make philanthropic support successful. How can philanthropy and education work together to ensure the relevance of the issues we are addressing? And how do we understand and measure the effectiveness?

The Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy (LLEAP) project is an initiative of Tender Bridge, a service of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) which seeks to direct funds into schools to support educational projects. Last year IPF's Board agreed to support a benchmarking year for the LLEAP project which will investigate the impact of philanthropy in education and aims to build knowledge and improve outcomes for schools and philanthropic supporters.

LLEAP is a three-year research project and the first national study of its kind to evaluate the relationship from both philanthropic and education perspectives. The project will also build pathways for sharing this information.

Individuals and organisations from both philanthropic and education sectors are encouraged to support this collaborative project. LLEAP offers a range of ways for people to participate, including interviews, survey, focus groups and case studies. Participation in the project is voluntary and confidential.

LLEAP will be officially launched by Professor Geoffrey Blainey at an event at Melbourne Town Hall on 23rd March. [Learn more about LLEAP.](#)



New horizons for Hannah

One of the enduring images of the Queensland floods will be that of Hannah Reardon-Smith caught in Toowoomba's catastrophic floodwaters, captured in a photo that was splashed across the front page of *The Australian*. She ultimately managed to swim to a shopping centre car park and climb over the railing to safety - executing, in her words, "a lucky escape".

Just a month before, Hannah, a highly talented flautist and musician who is undertaking a Masters of Philosophy in Music Performance from University of Queensland, had received news that she had been awarded a Cultural Trust grant. Her grant was to help her travel to Europe to undertake lessons and pursue opportunities in contemporary art music, including participating in the acclaimed Impuls Festival in Graz, Austria (*pictured*). Although the decision to go was a difficult one, we are delighted to report that Hannah was able to follow through with her travel plans and is having a successful and productive tour. "Europe is going very well, the Impuls festival that I attended in Graz was a really wonderful event, and it was just so good to see what performers and composers of contemporary art music are up to over here!," she reports. Hannah is very modest about what she has been able to achieve but we think she has shown remarkable resilience and determination, and wish her every success on the road ahead.



In Brief

Message from the Editor

When we began publishing *the seahorse* in 2009, our aim was to keep the Foundation's contacts informed and maintain regular communication. Now, via our new Facebook page we invite you to stay in touch and get the inside running on the Foundation's latest news, events and reminders of key dates such as those all important grant application deadlines! We really appreciate and value feedback so encourage you to contact us, via email or on Facebook and let us know if you are getting what you need to know from our communication, and what we can do better. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Avalee Weir



Good luck Miranda

Our lovely Administration Assistant, Miranda Hartcher-O'Brien has taken maternity leave from the Foundation as she and her partner Lachlan await the birth of their first child.

We all await the arrival of 'the Foundation's first baby' with great anticipation and wish them all the very best. Watch this space for the big news next issue!

Sue Wilkinson has joined the Admin Team to fill the role while Miranda is on leave.



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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