



INSIGHT + FOCUS

ANNUAL
GRANTS REPORT
2015–16

ianpotter.org.au



The Ian Potter
Foundation

Welcome



GRANTS DISTRIBUTED
SINCE 1964

The Foundation makes grants nationally to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors and endeavours.

Our Vision

A vibrant, healthy and fair Australia.

Our Mission

Honour the legacy of founder and benefactor, Sir Ian Potter, and his commitment that the Foundation make a difference to Australia.

Maintain a tradition of encouraging excellence and enabling innovation to facilitate positive social change, and develop Australia's creativity and capacity as a nation.

Support outstanding charitable organisations, invest in Australia's innovative and creative people, protect the environment and alleviate disadvantage.

About the Foundation

The Ian Potter Foundation was established in 1964 by Australian financier, businessman and philanthropist, Sir Ian Potter (1902 – 1994). The Foundation is now one of Australia's major philanthropic foundations.

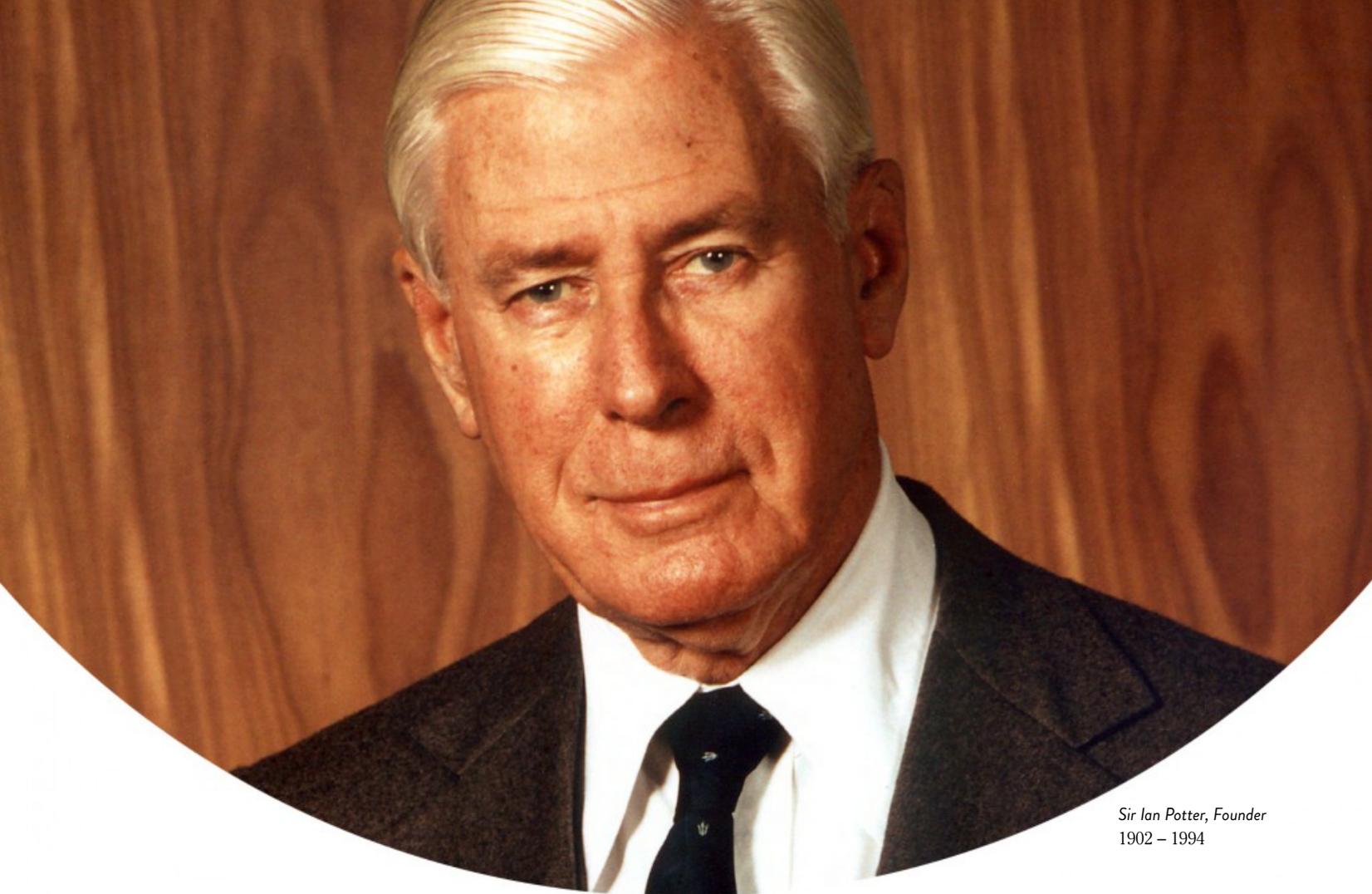
Based in Melbourne, the Foundation makes grants nationally to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors and endeavours. Grants are made through eight program areas which reflect Sir Ian's interest in the arts, and his visionary approach to issues including the environment, science, medical research, education and community wellbeing, as well as the importance of investing in Australia's intellectual capital.

Through its grants, the Foundation seeks to encourage excellence and support Australia's talent: the visionaries, social entrepreneurs, scientists, academics and researchers, artists and teachers, and those who dedicate themselves to bettering our communities for the benefit of all.

Since 1964, The Ian Potter Foundation has contributed over \$250 million to thousands of projects, both large and small. Led by its Board of Governors, the Foundation has a strong track record of funding projects that respond decisively to key issues and develop our creativity and capacity as a nation.

Cover image
Conservation Ecology Centre
Long-nosed potaroo
Published with permission
@Doug Gimesy
www.gimesy.com

CONTENTS	PAGE
Welcome	1
Governors & Staff	2
Chairman's Report	4
CEO's Report	6
Facts & Figures	8
Environment & Conservation Feature	10
Program Areas	12 – 31



*Sir Ian Potter, Founder
1902 – 1994*

Program Areas

The Ian Potter Foundation operates eight program areas: the Arts, Community Wellbeing, Education, Environment & Conservation, Health & Disability, Medical Research, Science, Knowledge & Learning (incorporating Travel, Conference and International Learning & Development), and manages the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift.

Funding Principles

Grant-making across all program areas is underpinned by the following principles:

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

We support organisations, programs and individuals who are outstanding in their field.

A FOCUS ON PREVENTION

To maximise the value of our grants, we try to identify and support projects that address the causes of any problems rather than treat the symptoms. Supporting research is fundamental to this approach.

ENCOURAGE INNOVATION

We seek to fund programs and projects that take a new approach to solving problems, especially those that can be evaluated and have potential for expansion and further development.

POTENTIAL FOR LEVERAGE

Our grants have greater impact when combined with support from other sources. These might include other trusts and foundations, government, business or volunteers. We are happy to be one of a number of supporters of a program.

LONG-TERM THINKING

We try to fund projects that will continue to have an impact well beyond the period of our grant. The long term sustainability of the project is an important consideration, as are opportunities for replication and/or dissemination of learnings.

PARTNERSHIPS

We encourage collaborations and partnerships that facilitate combining knowledge and resources to achieve a shared goal.



Board of Governors

Front: Sir Daryl Dawson AC, KBE;
The Hon Susan Crennan AC, QC; Lady Potter AC, CMRI;
Prof Graeme Ryan AC; Prof Fiona Stanley AC;
The Hon Alex Chernov AC, QC

Rear: Prof Tom Healy AO; Mr Charles Goode AC (Chairman);
Prof Richard Larkins AO; Mr Allan Myers AC, QC;
Sir James Gobbo AC, CVO, QC

Not pictured: Mr Leon Davis AO; Mr Anthony Burgess;
Prof Brian Schmidt AC

LIFE GOVERNOR

Lady Potter AC, CMRI

GOVERNORS

Mr Charles B Goode AC (Chairman)

Mr Anthony Burgess

The Hon Alex Chernov, AC QC

The Hon Susan Crennan AC

Mr Leon Davis AO

The Hon Sir Daryl Dawson AC, KBE, CB

The Hon Sir James Gobbo AC, CVO, QC

Professor Thomas Healy AO

Professor Richard Larkins AO

Mr Allan Myers AC, QC

Professor Graeme Ryan AC

Professor Brian Schmidt AC

Professor Fiona Stanley AC



Staff

*L to R: Louise Arkles; Nicole Bortone; Gail Lewry; Avalee Weir; Faye Watson; Stewart Leslie (back row); Craig Connelly; Cecilia Gason (back row); Sue Wilkinson; Sara Hearn; Alberto Furlan; Squirrel Main
Not pictured: Mairead Phillips; Sally Cliff*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Craig Connelly

SENIOR MANAGER – COMMUNICATIONS

Avalee Weir

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Sara Hearn

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

Dr Alberto Furlan

PROGRAM MANAGERS

Louise Arkles

Nicole Bortone (nee McLeod)

PROGRAM OFFICERS

Cecilia Gason

Mairead Phillips

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION MANAGER

Dr Squirrel Main

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Gail Lewry

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Sue Wilkinson

RECEPTION AND PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE CEO

Faye Watson

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Stewart Leslie

FINANCE MANAGER

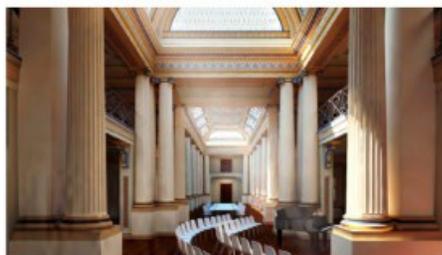
Sally Cliff

Chairman's Report



CHARLES GOODE AC

The Foundation is very well positioned to consolidate on the achievements of past years and to benefit from the strategic initiatives and improvements made in the last 12 months.



Video: A Little History of Queen's Hall courtesy of the State Library of Victoria

In many respects the past 12 months represent a seminal year for the Foundation. We have had a change in senior leadership, appointed additional members to our Board and approved a record level of grants.

After 10 years as Chief Executive Officer we farewelled Janet Hirst, who had led the Foundation through a period of considerable growth and development. Janet left the Foundation well positioned for future success, departing in December 2015 with our sincere thanks and appreciation.

To succeed Janet, we were pleased to appoint Craig Connelly, who with his background in business, finance and community organisations, brings a different perspective to the role of CEO. He has focused on a strategic approach to our grant-giving, more evidence-based planning and assessments and greater leveraging of the data and information available from our evaluation and research programs.

Going forward we will be allocating half our grant budget to major grants. These are substantial grants to major projects many of which transcend a number of our core grant areas and are usually paid over a number of years. These grants are frequently in association with a Commonwealth and/or State Government grant and our grant often provides the private support that allows a project to proceed. In many cases our grant is the foundation funding that encourages further philanthropic support.

The other half of the grant budget will be spread over our core areas of the Arts, Community Wellbeing, Medical Research, Health & Disability, Environment & Conservation, Education, Science and Knowledge & Learning, as well as The Ian Potter Cultural Trust grants.

We have put our program managers at the centre of our organisation with other roles supporting and facilitating their activities. There is an increased importance placed on our staff making more frequent contact with grant seekers and grantees, visiting projects more often and developing a deeper understanding of the sectors in which they are recommending grants. There has also been continued improvement in the efficiency of the office and the use of technology. We are placing more emphasis on evaluating the outcomes of grants made, and we are fortunate to have Dr Squirrel Main as our Research and Evaluation Manager.

The Foundation's capacity has been further enhanced by three significant appointments this year to our Board of Governors. We are very pleased to welcome renowned astrophysicist, Vice Chancellor of Australian National University, Nobel Laureate Professor Brian Schmidt AC, who joined in August 2015. His extraordinary knowledge and achievements in science and education are of great value in our deliberations. In April 2016, the former Governor of Victoria, The Hon Alex Chernov AC, QC who has a tremendous knowledge of not-for-profit community organisations, and Professor Fiona Stanley AC, former Australian of the Year and leading expert in epidemiology, public health and education, accepted our invitation to join the Board. We are honoured that these eminent Australians have joined our Board and the depth and breadth of their knowledge and



*The Hon Steve Herbert MP, Victorian Minister for Training and Skills, and Vice-Chancellor of Monash University
 Prof Margaret Gardner AO with Lady Potter AC, CMRI and Mr Charles Goode at the launch of the Ian Potter
 Performing Arts Centre at Monash University*

experience has already been of benefit to our grant-making decisions.

In 2015-16 the Foundation distributed \$24.6 million in grant payments and approved 267 new grants totalling \$36 million. The largest single grant was \$10 million to the State Library of Victoria to restore Queen's Hall to its former glory and update it for the demands of the 21st century. This major grant is the third largest the Foundation has ever made.

Other major grants approved during the year include \$5 million to The University of Melbourne to create a new home for The Melbourne Conservatorium of Music at Southbank, and \$5 million to Monash University towards the refurbishment and expansion of the Alexander Theatre. The project at Monash University will provide a state of the art multi-venue performing arts facility for students and the community of Melbourne's fast growing south-east corridor.

In September 2016 we will farewell our Senior Communications Manager of eight

years, Avalee Weir, who moves on to a new role at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre. Avalee took us into the 21st century in our communications and our websites are a testimony to her professionalism. We will miss her calm, competent style of handling our communications and organising our functions.

The Foundation is very well positioned to consolidate on the achievements of past years and to benefit from the strategic initiatives and improvements made in the last 12 months.

I wish to thank my fellow Governors for their counsel and commitment to the Foundation, and to our excellent staff for their dedication, and the high level of professionalism and skill they bring to their roles.

CHARLES GOODE AC

GRANTS PAID (DISTRIBUTIONS) 2015-16



NUMBER OF GRANTS



VALUE OF GRANTS

Chief Executive Officer's Report



CRAIG CONNELLY

Eight months into the job and writing my first annual report as Chief Executive Officer, I feel confident that the work done over the past year has strengthened the Foundation's ability - and our resolve - to deliver strategic, well informed philanthropy to benefit the Australian community.

Our work over coming years will focus on making well-considered, highly strategic grants aimed at taking concrete steps towards our vision of a vibrant, healthy and fair Australia.

— **CRAIG CONNELLY**

The Foundation's decision to participate in the US-based Centre for Effective Philanthropy's Grantee and Declined Applicant benchmarking surveys in 2015 provided rich information about the Foundation's strengths as well as areas where we needed to improve and a clear direction for our work this year. The message that came from these surveys was that strong funder-grantee relationships – characterised by high quality two-way interactions and constructive, consistent communications – are fundamental to high-performing, respected philanthropic foundations.

To elevate our capability in this area, my focus this year has been to analyse our internal work practices in all operating areas, assess the resource allocation to program management and reduce the administrative workload on our program managers. Freed from time-consuming administrative tasks, the program management team have been challenged to be more proactive in seeking out potentially strategic and impactful grants. I have also spent time understanding the capability of our IT systems, hoping

to better utilise existing functionality to streamline our processes and minimise duplication of information handling and reporting.

The program management team is now positioned to engage more fully and effectively with the Not-For-Profit (NFP) sector. Our Research & Evaluation Manager Dr Squirrel Main has driven the integration of programmatic research and evaluation into every aspect of our grant making process. We now consider the 'end-game' from the beginning and through every stage, from better structured applications, to clearly articulated Key Performance Indicators for all new grantees, through to regular check-ins with grantees throughout the period of their grant.

We have also commenced a formal outreach program, targeting relevant and effective engagement with grantees, other funders, community organisations and all levels of government. This outreach includes initiatives such as subject matter forums inviting experts to share knowledge in a particular area, or an information session for potential grantees to learn



Video: Chief Executive Officer's Report 2016

about The Ian Potter Foundation. In addition to our improved regular contact with grantees, we are also offering formal evaluation and dissemination workshops for grantees. Whatever the motivation, I am very keen that The Ian Potter Foundation promotes and demonstrates effective philanthropy to all stakeholders.

As a result of our analysis of effective past grants and feedback from the sector, the Foundation is also raising the minimum value of grants in many of our program areas. We are also using evidence-based reviews of historic grants in each of our main program areas to reference our funding objectives. Essentially, we are focusing in on areas where our research indicates that we have an opportunity to shift the dial, and then awarding larger grants to organisations we believe will deliver great outcomes. Combined with our existing Expression of Interest process, this refined grant making approach should provide clearer guidance to grant-seekers, reduce the high number of applications program managers have to review and we hope, enhance the sustained positive impact of our grant making.

This Annual Grants Report also reflects increased transparency and engagement with the NFP sector, for the first time publishing numbers of Expressions of Interest (EoI) received, full applications and grants awarded. We hope this provides grant applicants with some context and understanding of the scope and scale of the consideration process.

The Board of Governors has also agreed to introduce a Major Grants stream to our grant making program, sitting outside the funding objectives for our program areas. This protects funding allocations for the core program areas while ensuring that our tradition of large, catalytic grants for major projects can continue to assist the delivery of key projects in the community.

Given my finance and financial markets background, when I started as CEO it was natural for me to analyse the Foundation's forward grant commitments, particularly given the large number of significant grants approved by the Board in the preceding few years. It became clear that the Foundation had already committed up to 80 per cent of its

estimated distributions for the financial years 2016–17 and 2017–18. This resulted in some changes to our funding rounds in 2016 and 2017, closing applications in some program areas for some rounds and finding ways to work with reduced funds in others. This will lead to fewer applications being presented to the Board over this period. This time will now be used to build on our learning and knowledge to ensure that future grants presented to the Board for consideration are well considered, highly strategic grants aimed at taking concrete steps towards our vision of a vibrant, healthy and fair Australia.

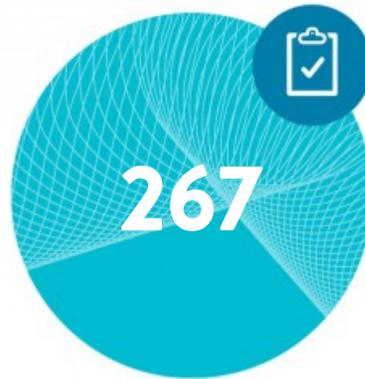
CRAIG CONNELLY

Facts and figures 2015–16

GRANTS



FULL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



GRANTS APPROVED



VALUE OF GRANTS APPROVED

GRANTS APPROVED BY PROGRAM AREA 2015–16

PROGRAM AREA	GRANTS	AMOUNT
Arts	24	\$7,345,000
Community Wellbeing	37	\$3,775,000
Education	11	\$10,988,000
Environment & Conservation	15	\$6,414,933
Health & Disability	30	\$2,487,700
Medical Research	17	\$1,912,500
Science	12	\$2,440,000
Knowledge and Learning	122	\$465,971
Alec Prentice Sewell Gift	1	\$240,000
Total	267	\$36,069,104

GRANT MANAGEMENT & OUTREACH



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS 2010-16

\$10,000

\$10,000,000



Environment & Conservation



Video: Environment & Conservation Program Area Review 2016

Environment & Conservation grants were a key focus of the Foundation's strategic planning and grant-making this year. This feature story looks at the history and the future of this critical area...

The Foundation's early education, science and travel grants reflect an awareness of the importance of environmental conservation, but it wasn't until the early 1980s that the issue gained real traction. The direction was set for the Foundation's future environment

and conservation funding by a \$1million grant in 1982 to enable the Potter Farmland Plan. This visionary grant focused on sustainable farm management practices that ultimately contributed to the creation of Australia's Landcare movement.

The underlying principles of the Potter Farmland Plan grant still underscore much of what the Foundation seeks to support: visionary, preventative, high impact grants that will have sustained impact beyond the period of our funding.

Since 2010, the Foundation has focused its attention on efforts to preserve biodiversity in the face of land degradation, limited water resources and climate change. It also continues to support landscape-scale protection projects for areas of high conservation value.

As debate continues on how to best combat climate change, it is increasingly clear that the long-term health of Australia's land,

water and biodiversity can't be achieved without meaningful conversations between scientists and policymakers, and from there into practical effective measures and solutions for government, business, agriculture and the wider community.

Over the past decade, the Foundation has approved approximately 105 Environment & Conservation grants with a total value in excess of \$22 million.

The list of key grants on the opposite page highlights just a few of the high value multi-year grants supporting established, quality organisations and the talented individuals working within them.

As highlighted in the Environment & Conservation program area review (overleaf), in 2015 the Foundation established new funding objectives that build on the legacy of past contributions to the environment sector and proactively identify the best opportunities to make an impact in the future.

Sowing seeds for environmental conservation

KEY ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION GRANTS 2006-16



Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

\$5m in 2006 to support the development of the award winning Australian Garden

Kimberley Foundation

Two grants totalling \$1.55m supporting the development of the Kimberley Foundation Australia's Kimberley Region human and environmental history program (2007-2009)



Australian Wildlife Conservancy

\$1.2m to enable AWC to improve Australia's natural capital by developing an ecological return on investment measurement in protected areas (2013)



Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network

\$450,000 in grants supporting the important facilitation work of the AEGN (2011 & 2014)



Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists

\$900,000+ supporting Wentworth Group to develop their environmental accounts program (2014 & 2016)



Greening Australia

– \$1m to assist strategic restoration to conserve, buffer and link remnants in the threatened bioregion of the Tasmanian North Midlands (2011 & 2014)

– \$1m to a pilot project to restore Great Barrier Reef Wetlands and Coastal Ecosystems working with landowners to test cost-effective repair techniques to reduce sediment and pollution run-off into the reef (2016)



Climate Works

\$3m to help translate the research report 'Pathways to Deep Decarbonisation in 2050' into targeted projects to enable Australia's transition to a zero net carbon economy (2016)

To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.

Environment & Conservation

PROGRAM MANAGER: **LOUISE ARKLES**



OBJECTIVES

Making grants that have meaningful impact in the complex area of Environment & Conservation is a challenging but important aspect of the Foundation’s philanthropy. We focus our efforts on supporting urban and rural communities to better manage our natural resources and preserve biodiversity in the face of challenges such as land degradation, limited water resources and climate change.

We aim to support the development and promotion of frameworks and strategies to preserve and foster Australia’s future biodiversity and water/land management.

Projects that have a strong volunteer component, work with multiple stakeholders, promote sustainable approaches to agriculture and/or incorporate a strong science underpinning are prioritised.

REVIEW

2015–16 has been an exciting year in our Environment & Conservation program, with the award of \$3 million to ClimateWorks – the second largest grant we have made in this program area – contributing to our largest ever annual commitment in the Environment & Conservation program area.

In September 2015 we conducted a comprehensive review of the Environment & Conservation program, which assessed the efficacy and impact of our previous

grants. The findings of this review resulted in two changes: a strategic move to support only large grants of \$100,000 and over; and the refinement of our funding objectives with the addition of a new focus area – water.

Given Australia’s challenging climate, compounded by the unfolding impacts of climate change, water is a critically important national issue. While the cycles of drought and flood see the subject move in and out of public and political consciousness, land managers and researchers, agricultural workers and environmental agencies are acutely aware of the need to conserve and manage our finite water resources for the long-term. These issues were highlighted at our first Water Forum held at Griffith University in July, at which invited experts shared their knowledge, opinions and ideas on key aspects of fresh water management, informing our strategy and ideas for making a substantive impact in this complex area.

KEY THEMES

This new focus on water, both freshwater and marine, brought some outstanding projects to the Foundation – from Greening Australia’s focus on water quality in the Great Barrier Reef, to the University of Tasmania’s pilot trial of a novel water stewardship approach at sub-catchment scale.

Our biodiversity theme has remained strong, but seen a gradual transition from projects centring around one flagship species to projects which are place-based, focusing on a specific geographic area or ecosystem and supporting the myriad of inter-dependent species that live within or migrate through this location. The work undertaken by the Conservation Ecology Trust in the Otways region in Victoria, featured right, is a prime example of this place-based approach.

On a national level, our support for BirdLife Australia’s project to develop a Threatened Bird Index highlights the importance of ongoing monitoring and reporting of threatened species, and the value of developing robust conservation performance indicators.

LOOKING FORWARD

We anticipate that our updated Environment & Conservation objectives will attract applications from all over the country, from land management groups to researchers and collaborative initiatives. What they are likely to share is a strategic, long-term approach; a focus on monitoring and evaluating for a strong evidence-base; and a commitment to working collaboratively with people on the ground and in the various agencies that manage our environmental resources.



EXEMPLAR GRANTS

The Conservation Ecology Trust, VIC

\$368,000 over three years

Endangered Species Surveillance Network in the Otways

This project enables critical research for wildlife conservation with the dual aims of reversing the decline in native wildlife in the Otway Ranges and preventing a cascade of extinctions. The grant will purchase equipment, support the employment of a research assistant, and assist with expenses for volunteer interns, whose contributions are vital to the success of the project. Initially the project will map the distribution of three threatened species: Tiger Quolls, Long-nosed Potoroos and Long-nosed Bandicoots.



Monash Sustainability Institute – ClimateWorks, VIC

\$3 million over four years

Facilitating Australia’s transition to a zero carbon future

This major grant will allow ClimateWorks to translate their ground-breaking research, Pathways to Deep Decarbonisation in 2050, into targeted projects to raise awareness across business, government and investors, unblock barriers and catalyse the policy and investment changes required to enable Australia’s transition to a zero net carbon economy. The Institute’s Pathways research shows that Australia can, and must, move to zero net emissions by 2050 in order to play our role in limiting global warming to two degrees. ClimateWorks takes a progressive approach to demonstrating how the Australian economy can grow and prosper in a carbon-constrained world.

Main: Taking steps towards a zero carbon future, Melbourne skyline photo courtesy of ClimateWorks

Inset: Conservation Ecology Centre is working to protect threatened fauna in the Otway Ranges. Tiger quoll, photo by Doug Gimesy.

The Nature Conservancy, VIC

\$347,000 over three years

Local economic frameworks for mapping and valuing Australia’s Great Southern Seascapes

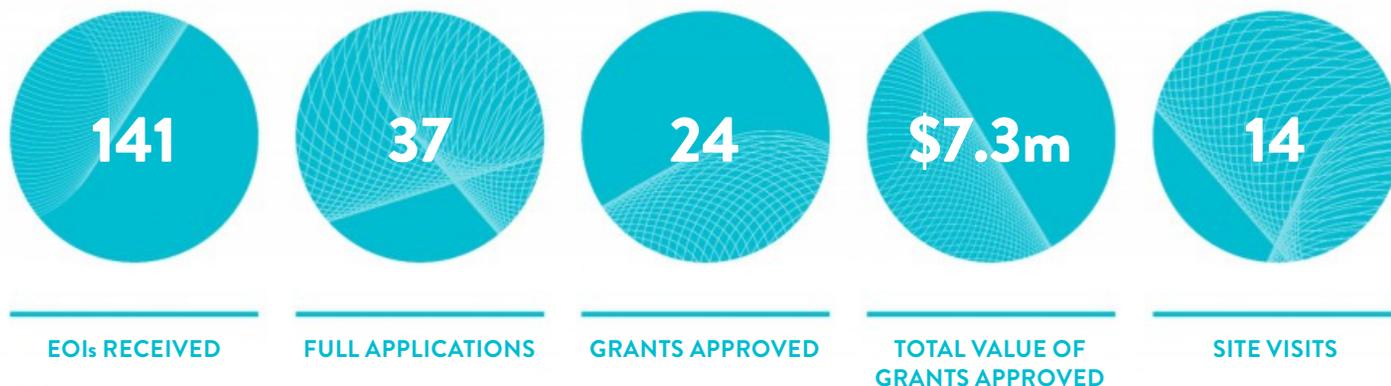
Nearly a third of Australian estuaries are considered to be degraded, resulting in declining fish populations, poor water quality and diminished coastal aesthetics. The loss of these ecosystem services is partially as a result of continued under-appreciation of the value and services provided by marine habitats.

This three year place-based project aims to improve coastal conservation and management by developing the economic framework and tools to quantify the ecosystem services (e.g. fish production, recreational value, carbon storage, nitrogen removal) provided by two estuaries in southern Australia – Port Phillip Bay in Victoria and the Richmond River Estuary in NSW. These tools will be promoted to governments, environmental agencies and NGOs, agricultural organisations, land owners and managers, and local communities – to encourage them to make better informed decisions regarding riparian land use and conservation strategies.

To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.

Arts

PROGRAM MANAGER: **LOUISE ARKLES**



OBJECTIVES

A dynamic and well-resourced arts sector is central to a culturally-rich and vibrant society. The Foundation is interested in building the calibre and capacity of arts organisations and supporting them to raise the bar of aspiration and achievement. We look for well-considered programs that work strategically to achieve this. The Foundation also seeks to foster appreciation for the arts and facilitate accessibility for all Australians.

Our grants support cultural institutions and organisations in Australia which are distinctive in artistic achievement, imagination and innovation and seek to extend cultural opportunities to regional centres, encouraging the development of arts programs at a local level.

REVIEW

Combined with the Foundation’s other commitments, a number of very substantial, multi-year Arts grants made during the past year and a half – including \$5 million to Queensland Ballet – reduced the pool of available funds for the core grants program. As a result we closed applications in two rounds and assessed a reduced number of applications overall.

Our Arts funding rounds in 2015, attracted a strong field of contenders, with an impressive mix of art forms from a wide range of arts organisations across the country. These projects included an

exhibition at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (MADE) of Australian jewellery made from ‘digger’s gold’ from the Central Victorian Goldfields, and an Emerging Artists Initiative in the Hunter region of NSW to provide a program of supported development pathways for young artists.

KEY THEMES AND INFLUENCES

The turbulent arts funding climate has attracted much attention in national and sector media and a corresponding surge in enquiries at the Foundation. We anticipate that the next round will be very competitive! We are often asked what makes an application stand out. The answer to that is two-fold:

- A well-articulated strategic rationale: why the project is necessary, what impact it will have on the problems at hand, and how it will be sustained over the long term.
- A ripple effect of multiple benefits: organisations/people beyond the applicant will benefit, across art forms, geographic regions and/or time frames.

Even with the bar set high, many applications present compelling projects and we always wish we could fund many more than our budget allows. When hard choices must be made, we look at the geographic spread of our grants and consider the balance of grants to different art forms. In the past year we have

supported Arts projects in all states and territories except the ACT. Although Arts organisations from Victoria and NSW still account for the majority of applications, our national footprint is steadily growing as awareness spreads.

LOOKING FORWARD

Given the levels of instability in small to medium arts organisations, we are likely to focus on moderate-cost high-impact projects to support Arts groups to deliver programs, nurture and employ artists, strengthen art forms and contribute to their communities. We support a broad range of approaches – including capacity building and core costs where they pertain to projects – across a broad range of art forms. Enquiries from co-operatives and peak bodies, community groups and collectives, education and performance institutions are all welcome. Continuing our commitment to supporting excellence and innovation in the Arts we look forward to finding and supporting projects that will truly add to the vibrancy and depth of art and culture in Australia.





EXEMPLAR GRANTS

Darwin Symphony Orchestra, NT

\$210,000 over two years

Darwin Symphony Orchestra Development

Darwin Symphony Orchestra (DSO) is an important cultural institution in the Northern Territory and an excellent fit with the Foundation's Arts program objectives with the DSO's distinctive approach to their remote location and strong relationship to the NT community. The project supports DSO's capacity building program, contributing to their artistic excellence, audience development, sustainability and musician support. The funds will go towards the replacement of ageing instruments and performance infrastructure, increased marketing and communications expertise to engage new audiences, and activities that relieve the financial burden on the voluntary DSO musicians who donate all of their services to the NT community.

West Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra, WA

\$30,000 over two years

Young Women in Jazz Workshops

The Young Women in Jazz Workshops will inspire women to play, study and pursue a professional career in jazz. The program of six workshops will include small group mentoring sessions, collective jam sessions, and one-on-one advice delivered by some of Australia's leading women jazz performers. Addressing a world-wide dearth of women jazz musicians, WAYJO is proactively attracting and supporting young women musicians, offering opportunities to be mentored by practising female jazz artists. The program aims to help develop the skillset, confidence and networks of aspiring jazz musicians to assist their professional careers, while strengthening and diversifying the jazz music scene.

Australian Book Review, National

\$60,000 over three years

Arts Update: ABR's freely available online cultural commentary

Arts Update is a significant extension of Australian Book Review's engagement with Australian culture, offering free online reviews of plays, films, operas, concerts, popular music, cultural events and art exhibitions across Australia. The grant enables publication of eighty reviews annually. Through Arts Update, ABR is seeking to address the decline in quality and quantity of reviews of performances and cultural events in the mainstream press. Importantly, the benefits will extend across arts organisations, practitioners and audiences. Australia's cultural life is facing constriction in terms of funding and public accessibility, so by freely publishing well-written critiques by arts experts, Arts Update contributes to a vibrant national arts sector – a key objective of the Foundation's Arts program.

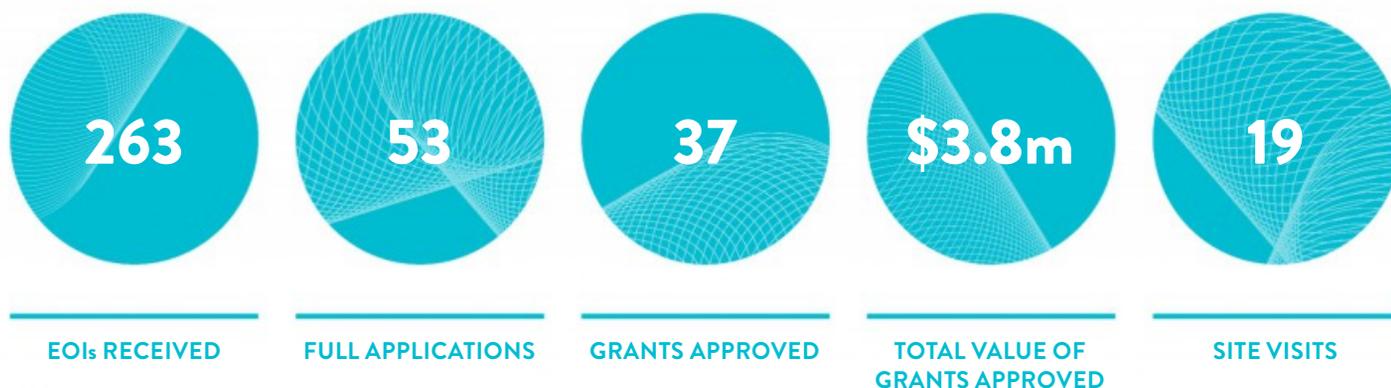
Main: Photo courtesy of West Australian Jazz Orchestra

Inset: Photo courtesy of Darwin Symphony Orchestra

To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.

Community Wellbeing

PROGRAM MANAGER: **DR ALBERTO FURLAN**



OBJECTIVES

The overarching objectives of the Community Wellbeing area are to help alleviate disadvantage and promote the general wellbeing of the community. Prevention of homelessness remains a major focus of the large grants stream, in particular early intervention programs that aim to derail the cycle of disadvantage that can lead to homelessness.

We support successful organisations with proven track records, and blend this with investments in well-considered innovations and ideas, such as social enterprises, that provide new and sustainable ways of tackling entrenched problems. The Foundation particularly encourages applications that have a strong volunteer component.

REVIEW

Prevention of homelessness continued to be the focus of our large grants in the Community Wellbeing program area for the fifth consecutive year.

Given the complexity of the homelessness issue, historically this area of funding has taken a large-scope approach, however this year we targeted early intervention and disadvantaged groups that are often overlooked, such as women over 50 years of age, ex-prisoners and individuals with mental health issues living in rural areas.

Through our smaller grants we sought to build the capacity of smaller organisations working in the community sector, with strategic funding directed to organisation development. We also explored new funding opportunities in critical areas such as gambling support.

KEY THEMES

There is a growing trend towards programs that bring together complementary resources from community, corporates and governments to address and ultimately solve, long standing issues and achieve common goals.

We have supported several projects that started as pilots a few years ago, which have subsequently sought funding to consolidate and expand their reach. It is rewarding to see promising projects – several of which received initial funding by the Foundation - achieving their goals and benefiting more people in the community.

Over the year, a few key themes emerged among the grants awarded including support for volunteer engagement in rural and remote areas; increased efficiency through digitisation of time-consuming operations; employment pathways and support for disadvantaged groups; early intervention with young families, and law and youth leadership.

Social enterprise continues to be a major interest for the Foundation. Encouraged by the continued success of the early grants we made in this area, this year we supported six new social enterprise projects.

LOOKING FORWARD

Evaluation and research are now embedded in our grant making and review processes. Increasingly, the information we glean from this will be used to guide our grant making strategy and to support grantees to develop strong, evidence-based programs that are sustainable, scalable and offer opportunities for state or nation-wide dissemination.

As we refine our priorities and guidelines, the Community Wellbeing program area will be directing its focus to supporting multi-year projects that are based on partnership and early intervention. Priority will be given to successful programs that seek to expand their impact.

EXEMPLAR GRANTS



YWCA NSW, NSW

\$300,000 over three years

Pathways to Independence - supporting older women displaced from their homes

This program offers intensive support to older women, assisting them to find housing and to remain housed in appropriate accommodation, avoiding eviction or rental arrears. The support includes increasing their financial literacy and learning to confidently navigate government and other support systems.

The issue of women becoming entrenched in homelessness at an older age has been an emerging issue for some time. ABS figures point to the fact that the number of older women (55+) living alone in rental accommodation has increased by 50 per cent between 2006 and 2011. These are women that often experience homelessness for the first time. This project will work specifically with this cohort to find secure accommodation and capacity to maintain the tenancy to prevent the women entering the cycle of homelessness. After three years of this pilot project, YWCA will have clear, measured and evaluated evidence of the effectiveness of the program that will be employed to inform government policy.

Photos courtesy of the grantees



CareerSeekers New Australian Internship Program Ltd, NSW

\$300,000 over three years

Start up and Capacity Building of CareerSeekers Program

The program is based on the successful CareerTrackers model which has now provided pathways into employment for over 300 young Indigenous university students through internships with major Australian corporations.

In the CareerSeekers format, the program will be replicated for new migrants and refugees. The issues around migration and unemployment are quite stark: 84 per cent of refugees remain unemployed for more than 18 months after being granted the right to enter Australia under the humanitarian program. Some of the many employment barriers faced by refugees include language and limited networks. CareerSeekers will create an entry point into corporate Australia and support them to complete an internship and gain employment.



Karinya Young Women's Service Inc, TAS

\$114,000 over three years

Karinya Young Mums 'n' Bubs Program

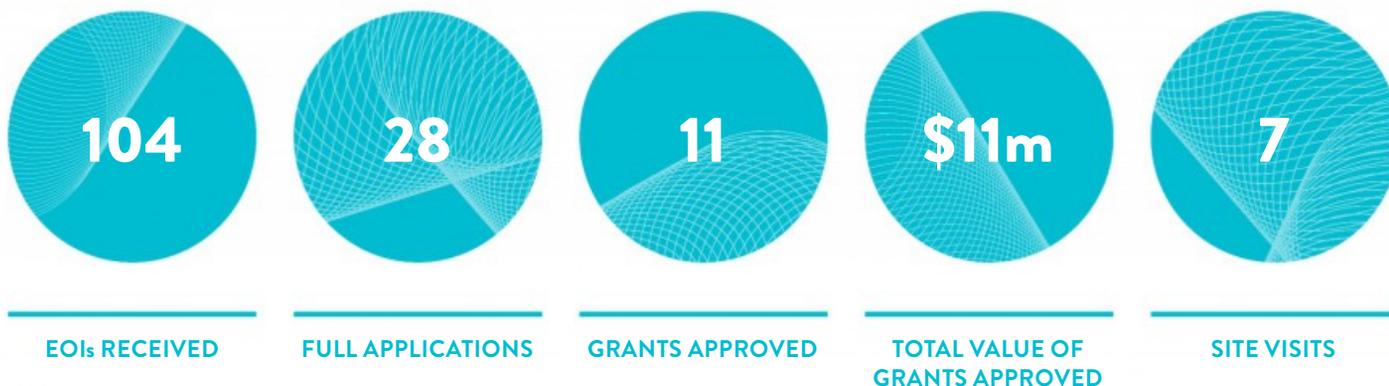
Karinya identified that a critical gap in support existed for young women expecting babies and experiencing homelessness. With over 100 babies born each year to teenage mothers in Northern Tasmania, these young people remain a special target group for attention and support, needing an early intervention approach to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Young dads also need specialised targeted support that will enhance their capacity to be a successful young parent and to have a positive and healthy relationship with their child.

Through a partnership with Housing Tasmania, the project will provide two bedroom units in the community for the young people to create a stable home environment where pregnant young women can settle and prepare for the birth. They will also be supported with integrated wrap-around services that ensure access to core health and intensive support for this hard-to-reach group. It is anticipated that approximately 120 young mums, dads and babies will be able to access the program over the next three years.

To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.

Education

PROGRAM MANAGER: **NICOLE BORTONE**



OBJECTIVES

There is a significant gap between Australia’s highest and lowest performing students. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are consistently achieving educational outcomes lower than their peers (as reported by David Gonski in his review of school funding in 2011). Closing this gap in education across Australia is essential to delivering equitable education for all.

Based on the findings of a comprehensive evaluation of past education grants, our program now targets initiatives that engage parents and the wider community in their children’s education and support strong school leadership to improve education outcomes for children.

We recognise that schools alone are not responsible for ensuring every child meets their educational potential. Effective school leadership, and parental and community engagement in children’s education are essential in order to strengthen students achievements and lifelong opportunities and outcomes. When parents, teachers and the wider community work together and are engaged and involved in children’s learning, students have improved academic achievement, well-being and productivity. This is a key focus of our grant making in this program area.

REVIEW

In late 2015, the Education program area objectives were repositioned with the aim of targeting projects that were most likely to effectively address the issue of educational disadvantage. The focus moved away from research and individual learning support programs, towards larger scale multi-year programs that seek to reduce educational disadvantage and improve academic outcomes through effective school leadership and parental and community engagement in early childhood centres and schools.

KEY THEMES

As a result of the change to guidelines mid-way through the financial year there was considerable diversity in the applications and grants awarded in 2015–16. Prior to the change in guidelines and the introduction of our new Major Grants stream (as outlined in the CEO’s report, p 7) several large grants were made through the Education program this year including \$10 million to the State Library of Victoria for the refurbishment of Queen’s Hall, and \$240,000 to the Sir John Monash Foundation which provides funding for one Ian Potter Foundation John Monash scholarship to be offered from 2017–2019. This scholarship will enable the recipient to study overseas, develop their skills, and contribute back to the Australian community.

A large number of applications this year aimed to assist children with special needs perhaps indicating that there is greater investment and research needed in this space.

Several of the grants awarded this year seek to deliver funding and services into regional communities, highlighting need and demand for educational improvements beyond the metropolitan centres.

LOOKING FORWARD

Our Education program is committed to identifying and supporting strategic projects that will significantly shift the dial for disadvantaged children and young people in Australia. We are looking for larger scale initiatives that encourage parental and community engagement, improve collaboration and promote leadership in schools. Future grants will emphasise the long term impact for children and families and prospects for the sustainability of the project.

Main image: Students from SVA Bright Spots Schools Connection Powerhouse school, Merrylands East Public School

Inset right: One of six schools participating in UNSW School of Education’s Culture, Community and Curriculum Project

Inset far right: Teach for Australia’s associate teachers working to boost education outcomes in Kalgoorlie



EXEMPLAR GRANTS

Social Ventures Australia (SVA), Multistate

\$118,000

The Bright Spots Schools Connection

The SVA Bright Spots Schools Connection is a five-year program that aims to capture and disseminate the work, insights and knowledge of schools located in communities that are considered disadvantaged, yet are providing exceptional education opportunities for their students. The program builds sustainable collegial learning networks to share effective practice between schools and drive improvements in educational outcomes.



University of NSW, NSW

\$120,000 over three years

UNSW Culture, Community and Curriculum Project

The University of NSW and Matraville High School have entered into a reciprocal partnership to establish the UNSW Community and Curriculum Project: a holistic, community-based education model that builds social cohesion and educational outcomes in a disadvantaged community.

The project matches teachers with members of the local Aboriginal community to develop teachers' ability to integrate Indigenous perspectives across the curriculum as well as to increase the visibility and influence of Aboriginal community members in schools.

This funding will support a smaller component of this larger project engaging Indigenous parents and carers in their children's schooling, training teachers and equipping families with the skills to work collaboratively with schools to ensure their children's success.

Teach for Australia, WA

\$150,000 over three years

Reducing Education Inequity in Kalgoorlie

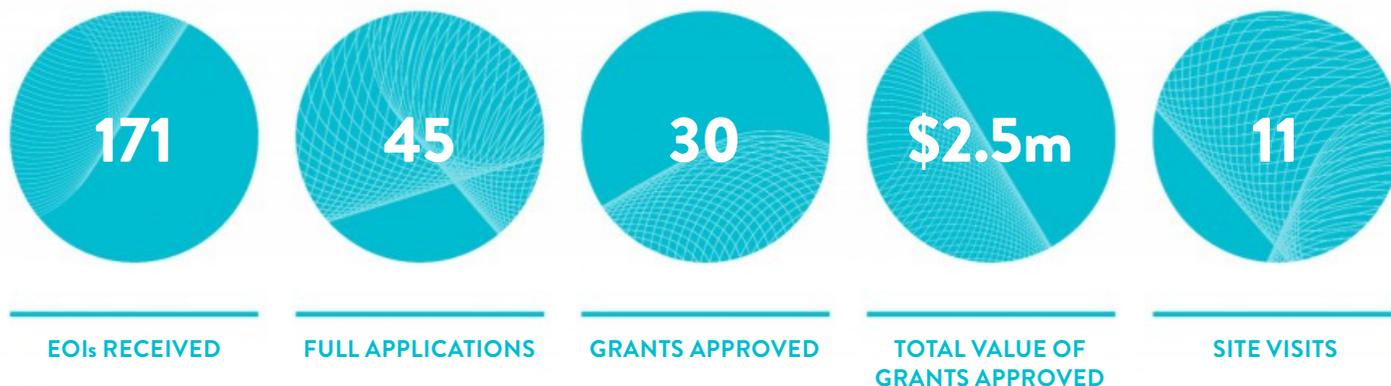
This project aims to build the leadership capacity of existing schools in Kalgoorlie in West Australia by recruiting, training and supporting Associates (pre-service teachers) for placement in these schools to drive enhanced teaching and learning practices, community and parental engagement and, ultimately, improve student outcomes.



To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.

Health & Disability

PROGRAM MANAGER: DR ALBERTO FURLAN



OBJECTIVES

Our Health & Disability funding seeks to respond to the tremendous need and scope for innovation in health service delivery and preventative health and medicine. Our grants target programs that help improve quality of life for those in our community living with disability or illness and support programs that focus on the prevention of diseases.

The main priorities of the program are to promote good health for all Australians and improve outcomes for people living with disability. Research and development in public health and preventative medicine initiatives are an important part of this program.

The Foundation prioritises funding for innovative programs that enhance the lives of people with disability or chronic illness and/or promote the health of the community.

REVIEW

The Health and Disability area of funding continues to focus on supporting strong organisations to increase their reach and enhance the lives of people with disabilities and/or health conditions.

Increasingly, this reach is achieved through the use of digital platforms which allow organisations to support individuals in a more effective, timely and personalised way. Examples of this include our support

for the delivery of an online program to address depression in young people and young mothers, a program to support young people to self-manage chronic pain, and an online education program for teachers who interact with young people with cystic fibrosis.

This year we also provided grants to foster collaborations and build the organisational capacity of expanding organisations, including an online hub for researchers focusing on spinal injuries, the expansion of an employment program for people with profound disabilities and the implementation of a tele-health program for children with hearing impairments.

KEY THEMES

The roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) across Australia is having a profound impact on the disability sector. Organisations are undergoing a critical re-structure of their services. We have seen the consolidation of the social enterprise model in the disability sector as organisations seek alternative sources of funding.

LOOKING FORWARD

Over the past year the guidelines and priorities for the Health & Disability program area have been refined to heighten our impact in this sector. Going forward we will be focusing on public health initiatives that seek to

improve health outcomes for the Australian community and on programs that provide pathways to employment for individuals with disabilities. As in our other program areas, we will be encouraging larger scale multi-year projects.

'Baby Coming – You Ready?' project team, photo courtesy of Murdoch University





Bushlink team members (from left) Natalie, Adrian, Kieran, Robert taking a break from bush regeneration work at Arranounbai School, Allambie Heights

EXEMPLAR GRANTS

Murdoch University, WA

\$220,000 over two years

‘Baby Coming – You Ready?’: Digitising and piloting a culturally safe mental-health rubric for Aboriginal parents

The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) is current Australian protocol to screen for depression during pregnancy and after the birth. There is no evidence it is effective, accurate or culturally safe with Aboriginal women. Midwives report using the EPDS is fraught with barriers, its language being confusing for many Aboriginal women.

The project will trial the dissemination of a more culturally appropriate perinatal mental health screening tool for young Indigenous mothers and fathers, as well as educate health providers, developing their skills in this area. A visual assessment methodology delivered through mobile technology will allow the health provider to generate a management plan in real time in order to tackle the mental health issues that have been identified.

Northside Enterprise Inc., NSW

\$200,000 over two years

Bushlink Schools Inclusion project

People with disability continue to be significantly excluded from employment and are more socially isolated than their non-disabled peers. The supported employment model (in which employees are supported in daily work activities within an open employment in a commercially competitive enterprise) has proved successful in providing disadvantaged individuals with skills and experience to access and sustain meaningful employment.

The Bushlink Schools Inclusion project will expand the Bushlink program into a sustainable social enterprise where financial return will be generated by ground-maintenance contracts in schools. This project works on two levels, providing meaningful training and employment of young individuals with intellectual disabilities while offering schools an opportunity to develop a culture of inclusion. Working together with the school students, Bushlink teams use their specialist environmental skills to transform specific areas of a school’s grounds or an external site.

Cancer Council Victoria, Vic

\$150,000 over two years

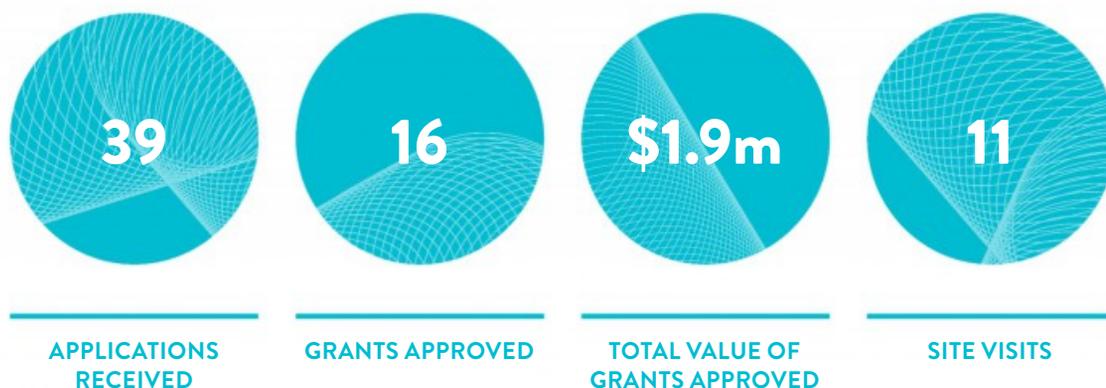
Promotion and awareness of cancer clinical trials (PACCT)

Cancer Council Victoria has supported clinical trials since 1976. Clinical trials are the accepted paradigm for assessing whether new treatments or treatment combinations are better than standard care. People with cancer are living longer, with a better quality of life, due to treatments and practice changes resulting from clinical trials. For many people they offer hope, control of their condition and the opportunity to contribute to improving cancer care. However, only about six per cent of all Victorian cancer patients participate in clinical trials. Barriers to participation are compounded by Australia’s low health literacy rate and include patient awareness of clinical trials and complex medical terminology. Through provision and promotion of accessible, user-friendly literature, this project aims to increase patient awareness of clinical trials and reduce the patient-level barriers leading to improved patient access to cancer clinical trials.

To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.

Medical Research

PROGRAM MANAGER: **DR ALBERTO FURLAN**



OBJECTIVES:

The Foundation has a long-established commitment to supporting innovation and excellence in medical research and a proud history of investing in Australia’s leading medical research institutes.

Our Medical Research program area prioritises support for world class biomedical research to bring new preventative medicine and cures closer to reality through the use of new technology, innovative practices and knowledge sharing. Many of our grants support major initiatives by leading Australian research institutes, universities and teaching hospitals in ground-breaking biomedical research, the anticipated benefits of which are likely to advance the research outcomes of the institution as a whole. We also place emphasis on research into major diseases.

Our grants assist the provision of equipment and capital infrastructure to support outstanding research groups, with priority for projects that encourage cross-institutional collaboration.

REVIEW

Maintaining a track record of supporting the purchase of major medical research equipment to facilitate key research projects continued to be the priority this year. Precedence has been given to projects that are positioned to lead to significant breakthrough discoveries and increase the operational capacity of the organisation or collaboration.

At a time when new technology is driving a rapid upsurge in medical research outcomes, it is critical that researchers have access to the necessary equipment. This is often highly specialised and expensive, making it more important than ever that these research facilities are shared between research laboratories and often between institutions.

KEY THEME

Grants this year have supported a range of advances in technology that allow medical research initiatives to provide faster and more targeted preventative and curative medicine services to the community.

LOOKING FORWARD

We are watching with interest the promising advances in treatment of disease stemming from proteomics. This research goes beyond genomics to identify the proteins associated with disease at a molecular level. The analysis of these proteins offers opportunities for

monitoring and treating the progression of disease in individual patients and the chance to find new drugs to modify the effects of the proteins involved. As genetic differences among individuals are found, researchers expect to use these techniques to develop personalised drugs that are more effective for the individual.

The Foundation will maintain its focus on investments in equipment, collaboration and innovation, and supporting excellence in medical research. Following our analysis and review of effective grants, from 2017 the minimum grant amount will be \$100,000.

CYNTHIA BANHAM BURN INJURY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Cynthia Banham Burn Injury Research Fellowship is a joint initiative between the Foundation and Cynthia Banham, to support clinical research by an early-career researcher under the guidance of renowned burns specialist, Dr Fiona Wood at Royal Perth Hospital. The \$40,000 Fellowship, which is awarded bi-annually, aims to support Dr Wood’s world-leading work and to encourage the next generation of burns research expertise in Australia. The funds assist an early career researcher to undertake research which has direct clinical applicability to improving patient care and outcomes in burn injury.

This year the Cynthia Banham Burn Injury Research Fellowship was awarded to Dr Casey White who will investigate associations between an individual’s neuroplasticity and functional recovery after burns injury in older adults.

EXEMPLAR GRANTS



Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, Vic

\$200,000

Reducing heart failure among Aboriginal people in Central Australia

This grant will enable the purchase of an Acuson SC2000 echocardiography machine to support the development of a new disease prevention program specifically targeted to reduce heart failure and admission costs in Central Australia, a region characterised by a significant Indigenous Australian and remote population. The program will be tested in a clinical trial and the cost effectiveness of the intervention evaluated and compared against primary and hospital-based health care. The Baker IDI team will incorporate the evidence into existing policies, protocols and procedures for chronic disease prevention and management in the Northern Territory and elsewhere in regional and remote Australia.

Artist Max Levi Frieder with local children painting a mural on the Baker IDI clinic wall



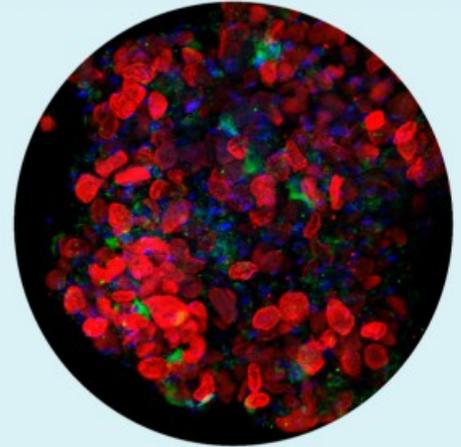
Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QLD

\$108,000

Determining the genetic causes of mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is an incurable and aggressive cancer principally caused by inhaling asbestos fibres. There are more than 15,000 cases each year worldwide, the incidence is increasing and Australia currently has the world's highest incidence. This grant will enable researcher Dr John Pearson from the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute to explore the genomics of mesothelioma. The grant has enabled the purchase of high performance computing equipment which will be used by QIMR Berghofer researchers and collaborators from National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases in Western Australia, to assemble and analyse the largest ever mesothelioma genomic dataset. This work is important as a detailed understanding of the genomic mutations underlying mesothelioma will enable new therapeutic approaches to be identified.

Dr John Pearson with the computer equipment that will help analyse the largest ever mesothelioma dataset.



The Heart Research Institute Ltd, NSW

\$44,000

Bioprinting of human cardiac patches for heart regeneration using spheroids from human pluripotent stem cells

This grant will support the purchase of a bio-printer to explore bio-printed cardiac 'patches' as a potential novel treatment for heart attack.

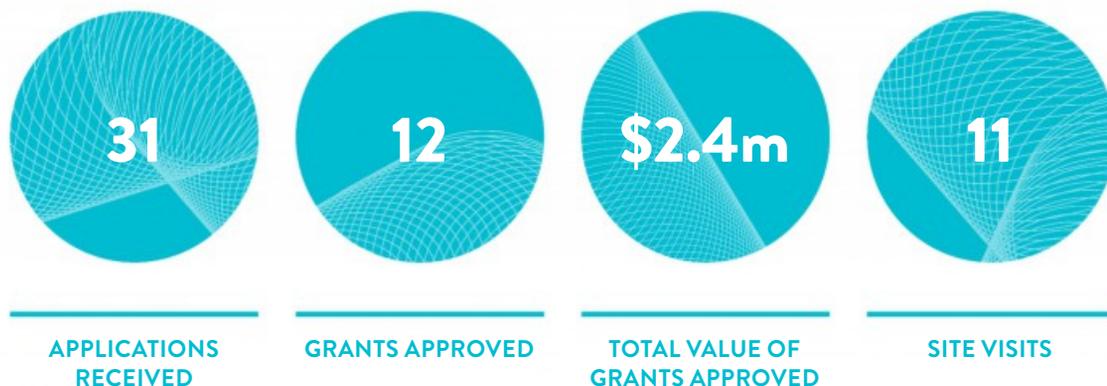
Dr Carmine Gentile, research fellow at the HRI and world leader in 3D tissue culture, has developed 3D aggregates of living human heart muscle cells ('cardiac spheroids') in test tubes from stem cells. These spheroids can be used as 'bio-ink' to 'print' the patches by using the bio-printer to transfer the cardiac spheroids to a biocompatible hydrogel to form the cardiac patches. In animal models the patches will be grafted on to the heart after a heart attack, aiming to promote cardiac muscle regeneration and improve cardiac function.

Microscopic image of a mouse cardiac spheroid. Photo courtesy of the Heart Research Institute

To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.

Science

PROGRAM MANAGER: **NICOLE BORTONE**



OBJECTIVES

Science and research will play a key role in Australia's future and this program aims to strengthen Australia's research profile and capacity.

The central focus of our Science program is support for exceptional and visionary early career and established scientific researchers, with the aim of making a long term contribution to thinking and knowledge in Australia.

The Foundation prioritises support for collaborative projects where there are multiple partners involved and where there is strong financial support from the applicant organisation among other funding partners (including the Australian Research Council, other philanthropics and industry).

REVIEW

In 2015, we undertook a comprehensive review of past grants and found that our most successful Science grants have been larger scale long term grants. As such, the focus of future Science grants will be multi-year strategic projects that seek to develop Australia's research capacity through infrastructure, fellowships and large-scale strategic and collaborative research.

KEY THEMES

The majority of applications received and projects funded have been related

to environmental research. We saw a spike in our Environmental and Science enquiries and applications received this year in response to the reduction in federal funding in these areas.

Of the 12 grants supported this year, 10 relate to environmental research with many investigating how to mitigate the effects of climate change and improve conservation and management practices.

Under the previous guidelines, the majority of grants awarded in 2015 were for amounts less than \$50,000. Following a review of the guidelines, all future applications must now be over \$100,000. There were three larger grants awarded in 2015. The largest grant awarded was to the Australian National Botanic Garden (ANBG) in Canberra to establish The Ian Potter National Conservatory. This is the first time the Foundation has funded the ANBG and is the largest philanthropic grant the ANBG have received to date. We are excited to see the project come to life.

LOOKING FORWARD

In early 2017 the Science program will reopen for applications under the new guidelines, seeking strategic multi-year projects that aim to make a substantial contribution to our scientific knowledge.

The exemplar grants (right) are examples of the types of projects we will seek to support.



Top: Blowfly pollinator on mango flower. Photo courtesy of UNE

Bottom: Craig Connelly, Senator Zed Seselja and Peter Byron, General Manager of the Australian National Botanic Garden at the announcement of the Ian Potter National Conservatory, Canberra



Ian Potter Biodiversity Fellow Dr Karen Rowe with a Speckled Boobook. Photo by W. Longmore, courtesy of Museum Victoria

EXEMPLAR GRANTS

Australian National Botanic Garden (ANBG), ACT

\$1.5m over three years

The Ian Potter National Conservatory

ANBG is an internationally renowned botanic garden and national institution. It is the only institution to focus solely on Australian plants, and its collections, knowledge base and research are of national and international significance. The living collection of Australian native plants is one of the most comprehensive in the world represented by 78,000 plants from all parts of the country – one third of all Australian flowering plant species. When the architect-designed Ian Potter National Conservatory opens in 2017, visitors will have the opportunity to step into the fascinating world of Australia's tropical and sub-tropical plant life, completing the journey around our nation's flora offered at ANBG.

Importantly, The Ian Potter National Conservatory will also be used to increase the capacity of ANBG's education programs and to facilitate local, national and international botanical research and collaboration.

Museum Victoria, Vic

\$300,000 over three years

The Ian Potter Fellowships for Biodiversity Research

This three year Fellowship will enable a talented early career researcher to undertake pioneering biodiversity research and play an integral role in the success of the recently opened Ian Potter Australian Wildlife Biobank facility at Melbourne Museum, which was supported in 2015 with a 50th Anniversary Commemorative grant.

This is the third fellowship the Foundation has supported at Museum Victoria. The two previous fellowships were successful with the two researchers employed still working at the Museum. Their fellowships are featured as a case study on the Foundation's website.

University of New England, NSW

\$140,000 over three years

Quantifying the role of wild insect pollinator biodiversity in the provision of pollination ecosystem services

Worldwide, insect pollinators significantly contribute to biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services within agricultural systems. The yield and quality of three-quarters of global food crops benefit to varying degrees from animal pollination with a global value of insect pollination services estimated to be between \$US200 and 600 billion.

This project will investigate the efficiency of bee and non-bee pollinators across a range of crops, including melon, blueberry and mango. The outcomes of the research will be shared with the wider community, industry and school groups helping to improve pollinator biodiversity management in Australia.

Dr Romina Rader is an impressive early career researcher who is working collaboratively with farmers and industry, with supportive backing from her university. Given the current environmental threat to honey bees her research has the potential to become even more significant in the future.

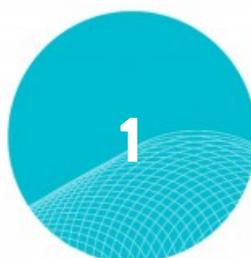
Knowledge & Learning

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT: **CECILIA GASON** (TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE)
DR ALBERTO FURLAN (INTERNATIONAL LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT)

International Learning & Development



APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



GRANTS APPROVED



TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS APPROVED

EXEMPLAR GRANT

OVERVIEW

Aiming to build the capacity of the not-for-profit (NFP) sector through enhancing knowledge and skills, this new program offers senior staff of not-for-profit organisations the opportunity to spend a period of time overseas visiting like-minded organisations. These NFP leaders have the chance to learn international best practices in their area of operation then disseminate their learnings throughout their sector in Australia.

Suicide Prevention Australia

\$12,000

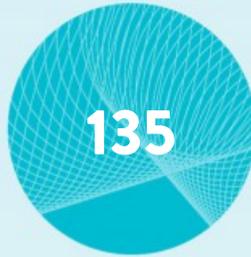
Collaborating on international lessons learned in communications and stakeholder management

In April 2016, Suicide Prevention Australia Deputy CEO and Head of Communications Kim Borrowdale, received the first International Learning and Development grant. Kim travelled to the UK where she spent time with Government, NFPs, charity alliances and community organisations to learn stakeholder engagement and communications lessons within the context of suicide prevention. This included time with the England and Scotland Departments of Health, National Health Service (NHS) Trusts, National Suicide Prevention Alliance, the Alliance of Suicide Prevention Charities, Rethink Mental Illness and the Samaritans. Kim took a multimedia approach to sharing lessons learned including the use of video/audio interviews and the publication of a number of blogs throughout her study tour which can be found at www.suicidepreventionaust.org.au.

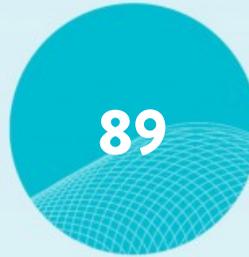
On her return Kim presented findings at the Australia and New Zealand Communication Association Annual Conference and National Suicide Prevention Conference. These presentations highlighted opportunities and areas for consideration and review in the Australian context. She was also able to share the positive responses from international peers to Australian initiatives that clearly indicated that Australia's work in this area is on par with international best practice.



Grant recipient Kim Borrowdale, Deputy CEO and Head of Communications, Suicide Prevention Australia



APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED



GRANTS APPROVED



TOTAL VALUE OF
GRANTS APPROVED

Travel

OVERVIEW

One of few philanthropic organisations to offer a travel grants program, the Foundation has had a steadfast commitment to this initiative, dating from the Foundation's establishment in 1964.

The program enables promising early-career academics and researchers to present their work at international conferences and exchange knowledge with their peers through participation in professional development opportunities.

Supporting early career researchers to attend conferences and training enhances the researchers' professional development, and develops their research through valuable feedback from and collaboration with contemporaries in their field. Ultimately, these benefits filter through to the wider community through their research and the investment in Australia's best and brightest minds. While most Travel grants are awarded to university-based researchers, they are also available to TAFE staff and indeed the staff of any eligible organisation that may have similar potential and opportunity.

To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.

EXEMPLAR GRANTS

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

\$2,000

Dr Laura Dagley, Systems Biology and Personalised Medicine Division to attend the 64th Conference on Mass Spectrometry and Allied Topics, San Antonio, Texas, USA, 5–9 June 2016

This grant assisted Dr Laura Dagley of WEHI's Systems Biology and Personalised Medicine Division to attend the 64th Conference on Mass Spectrometry and Allied Topics, San Antonio, Texas. Dr Dagley had the opportunity to network with fellow mass spectrometrists from around the world and network with a number of individuals who work at large biotech/pharmaceutical companies.

University of Queensland: Faculty of Health and Science

\$2,000

Dr Liesbeth Weijs to attend the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, North America 36th Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, USA, 1–5 November 2015

This grant assisted Dr Liesbeth Weijs from the National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology to attend the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, North America 36th Annual Meeting. Dr Weijs presented her research and was offered an invitation to present at a conference about animals from the Arctic and Antarctic regions which will be held in Canada later in 2016.

Menzies School of Health Research

\$2,243

Dr Emma McMahon, to attend and present at the 12th Federation of European Nutrition Societies European Nutrition Conference, Berlin, Germany, 20–23 October 2015

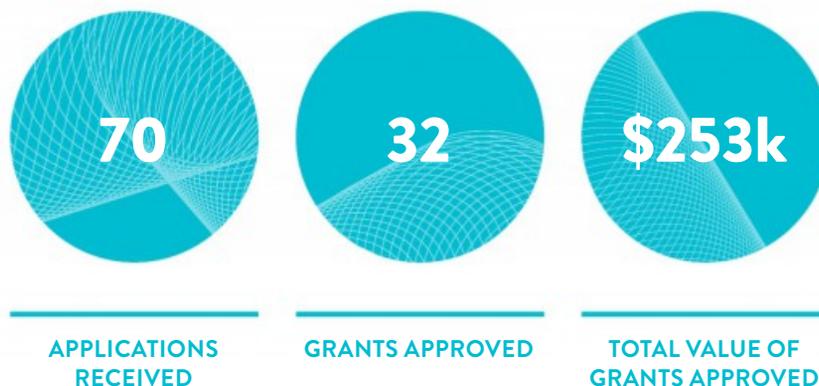
This grant enabled Dr Emma McMahon, from Menzies' Wellbeing and Preventable Chronic Disease Division to attend and present at the 12th Federation of European Nutrition Societies European Nutrition Conference, Berlin. Dr McMahon researches nutrition and Indigenous health and presented a paper on kidney disease and the relationship to dietary sodium intake at the conference. She also had the opportunity to learn emerging research methods as well as establish new collaborations for her ongoing work.



Dr Laura Dagley, WEHI

To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.

Conference



EXEMPLAR GRANTS

OVERVIEW

The sharing, exchange and dissemination of knowledge is another aspect of the Foundation’s contribution to building capacity within Australia’s not-for-profit sector. This unique program assists organisations to bring keynote speakers of international renown to Australia. The speakers impart their knowledge and expertise to conference delegates in Australia to inspire new thinking and foster learning.

Conference grants demonstrate how relatively small sums can have a significant impact. The ripple effect of a new approach or way of thinking can make a significant difference to a not-for-profit organisation, and inspire new ways of working, spark new research and create networks and knowledge-sharing frameworks.

Grants made through this program area assist with the travel and accommodation costs of hosting an international keynote speaker.

The Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network (Randwick and Westmead) Incorporating The Royal Alexander Hospital for Children, NSW

\$10,000

To bring two keynote speakers, Dr Tom Scruggs and Dr Margo Mastropieri to The Power and Progress of a Health–Education Partnership – a 20 year celebration CHERI conference, Sydney, 10–11 September 2015

The two day conference presented current research and evidence-based strategies relating to the interface between health and education. The conference developed collaborative approaches between education and health, and promoted the wellbeing and development of all children. The speakers raised the awareness of the effectiveness of mnemonics (systems for assisting memory) improving the learning and recall of content for students, including those with learning difficulties. The speakers introduced the concept of mnemonics to attendees and demonstrated their efficacy compared to other strategies.

Council on the Aging VIC

\$12,630

To bring two keynote speakers, Professor Marie Beaulieu and Dr Jacqueline (Jackie) Berman to the 4th National Elder Abuse Conference, Pullman on the Park, Melbourne, 24–25 February 2016

The conference theme was Aging, Rights and Innovation, showcasing new knowledge to use in the practice, raising awareness more broadly of elder abuse and influencing system change. Professor Beaulieu’s presentation detailed an awareness raising campaign involving television advertisements. Dr Jacqueline Berman presented on a mental health intervention (PROTECT) that has been trialled in New York City for the last two years that investigates the relationship between depression and elder abuse. Australia does not have a similar mental health program and delegates were given a detailed insight into the program including data detailing the results from the intervention.

During their visit Professor Marie Beaulieu was interviewed on Radio National and both Professor Beaulieu and Dr Jacqueline Berman presented at the Seniors’ Forum, and attended a high-level cross sector meeting of government, policy-makers and other agencies.



Scenes from Menzies School of Health Research, World Indigenous Cancer Conference, Brisbane 2016

Menzies School of Health Research, NT

\$12,000

To bring three keynote speakers, Professor David R. Williams, Dr Judith Salmon Kaurand, and Associate Professor Diana Sarfati to the World Indigenous Cancer Conference (WICC), Brisbane, 12–14 April, 2016

This conference brought together local and international delegates to identify international research priorities and findings, and shared knowledge and information about indigenous peoples living with cancer on a global scale. The conference also provided a forum to discuss cancer care and prevention activities. The three funded speakers brought their local knowledge and expertise to share in an international forum.



The Alec Prentice Sewell Gift

PROGRAM MANAGER: **NICOLE BORTONE**



OBJECTIVES

Grants made through the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift aim to improve the opportunities available for disadvantaged children and lay the foundations for future positive health, social and educational outcomes. These grants are made through several program areas including the Arts, Community Wellbeing and Education, reaching children of varying ages and circumstances. The common thread of the grants is that they support education and encourage an interest in the environment, or the arts and literature, to create opportunities for personal development and assist children to overcome barriers that may limit their achievement.

REVIEW

As this is a bequest, the objectives of the program remain unchanged in 2015–16. The focus is on improving literacy skills and or encouraging children to engage with the environment in line with Mr Sewell's interests. The first grant awarded through the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift was in 2004, since that time \$3.88m has been awarded through this sub-fund in support of Australian children and young people.

KEY THEMES

The Foundation continues to receive more interest in the Alec Prentice Sewell (APS) Gift demonstrating that there are a growing number of programs seeking to cater for children and young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged. The APS Gift is not a program area of the Foundation but a sub-fund that we manage. Applications submitted through our Education, Environment & Conservation and Arts programs may be considered for funding through the APS Gift, and some applications may be invited directly. Much of the funding through the APS Gift is already committed in multi-year grants. Commitments this year continued to the 100 Story Building, Centennial Parklands and Kids Thrive. As a result of these previous commitments only one grant was awarded this year.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Foundation already has several applications in the pipeline for 2016–17 and will not be accepting any further applications in the near future.





Discovering the joy of writing and reading at The Grand Imaginarium. Photos courtesy of Kids Own Publishing

EXEMPLAR GRANT

Kids Own Publishing, Vic

\$240,000 over three years

The Grand Imaginarium

The Grand Imaginarium is an artist led pop-up space that provides creative storytelling workshops and programs for children and families and is based out of Abbotsford Convent in the inner-Melbourne suburb of Collingwood.

There are two programs as part of the project. The social enterprise public program provides workshops and programs for a fee over school holidays. The access program will provide in-school programs free of charge to disadvantaged schools and early learning centres as well as providing subsidised places for disadvantaged children/families in the school holiday programs.

The Grand Imaginarium meets well with the objectives of the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift. The Abbotsford Convent Precinct, which has an established community of local visitors, is a perfect environment to pilot an arts-based learning initiative that engages at risk and socially and economically disadvantaged children and their parents in creating books.

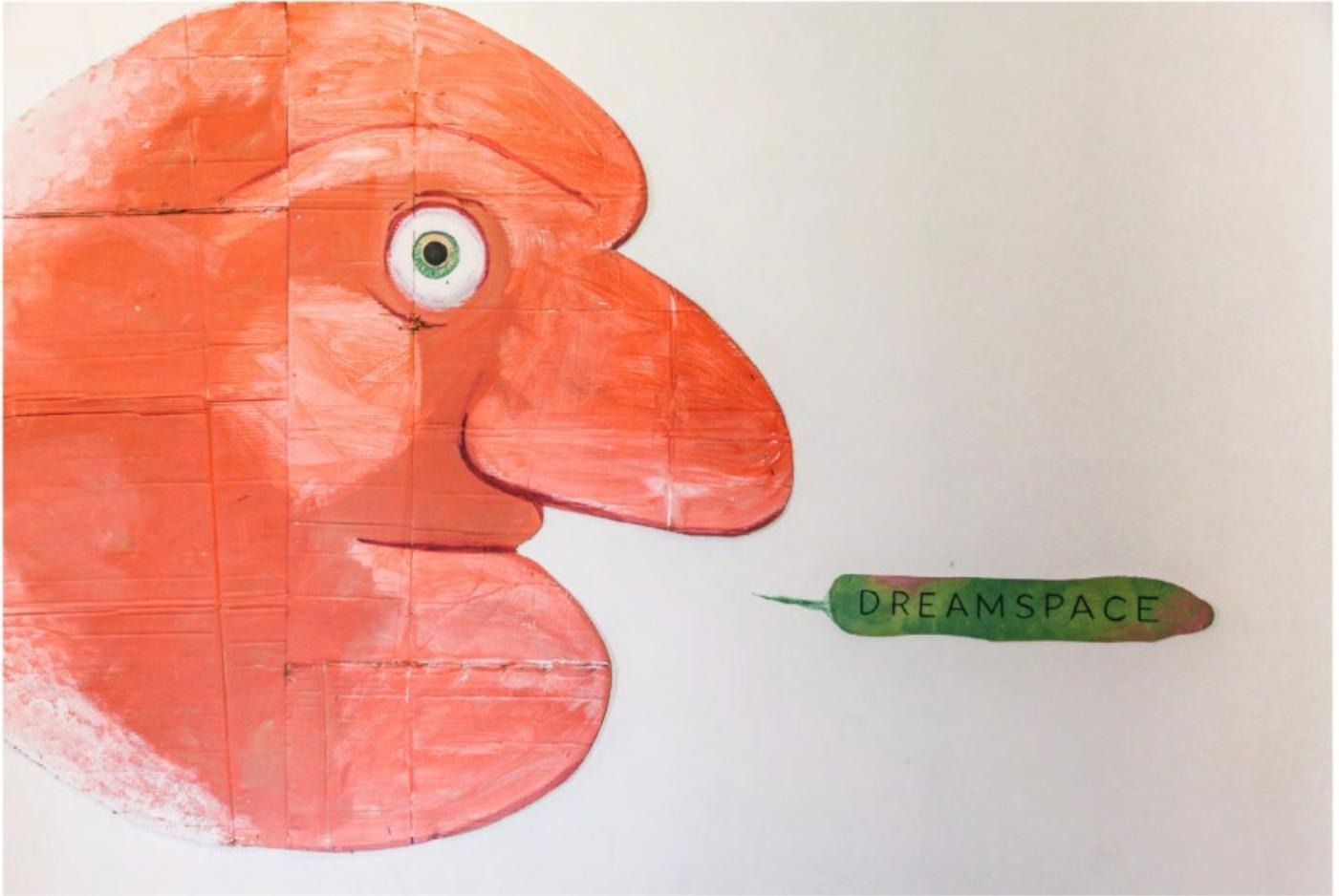
In the neighbouring suburbs of Richmond and Collingwood 24 per cent of children starting school are developmentally vulnerable. The Victorian average is 19.5 per cent, according to The Australian Early Development Index 2012). Additionally 23 per cent of residents in the City of Yarra have English as an additional language.

Children's community publishing is a proven way of creatively and holistically engaging children (and their parents) who might otherwise never discover the joy of reading.

Kids' Own Publishing introduced the concept of children's community publishing to Australia in 2004 and are now one of the leading organisations in Australia in this space.

In the first year of the program Kids Own Publishing expects more than 1800 children and parents to visit the Grand Imaginarium and participate in its programs.





*The Grand Imaginarium,
photo courtesy of Kids Own Publishing*



Protecting Australia's biodiversity is a key focus of the Foundation's Environment & Conservation program area. Photo courtesy of Australian Wildlife Conservancy (grantee 2013).

**THE IAN POTTER
FOUNDATION**

Level 3, 111 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia

03 9650 3188

admin@ianpotter.org.au

ABN 42 004 603 972

ianpotter.org.au



**The Ian Potter
Foundation**