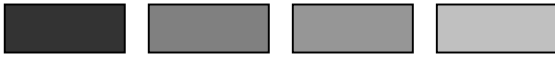




MEETING REPORT



NEW AUSTRALIAN STORIES INITIATIVE

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL **22 JUNE 2005**



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report provides a context to the assessment of the proposals submitted to the New Australian Stories Committee. It provides statistical information about the proposals and more general comments made by the Committee during the assessment of the proposals at its meeting held on 6 May 2005.

ATTENDANCE

The membership of the New Australian Stories Committee is as follows:

Jennifer Bott	(NSW)	Chair CEO of the Australia Council for the Arts
Daryl Buckley	(Qld)	Artistic Director & Musician Elision
Rhana Devenport	(NSW)	Curator & Writer
Wesley Enoch	(Vic)	Director & Writer
Peter Goldsworthy	(SA)	Chair, Literature Board
Lindy Hume	(WA)	Artistic Director, Perth International Arts Festival
Ian McRae	(Vic)	Chair, Theatre Board
Scott Rankin	(Tas)	Playwright & Creative Director

The following members of staff were in attendance:

Ben Strout	Executive Director, Arts Development
Karilyn Brown	Executive Director, Audience & Market Development
Susan Parker	New Australian Stories Initiative Co-Ordinator
Caroline Flood	Administrative Assistant



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Australian Government has made a one-off allocation of \$2 million to the New Australian Stories (NAS) Initiative. This has provided us with a very exciting opportunity to support the creation and presentation of new works, which reflect distinctly Australian stories by artists, writers, composers and choreographers.

On the 6 May 2005 the New Australian Stories Committee met for the first time. It assessed thirty-three (33) proposals, which had been sourced and short listed by eight Boards of Council.

Proposals were considered in stages, depending on whether the request was for seed funding, seed & second stage funding or second stage funding only.

Of the proposals assessed, fifteen (15) were supported – seven (7) will receive seed funding; two (2) will receive seed & second stage funding and eleven (11) will receive second stage funding only. In addition, NAS funds have been set aside to support some of the proposals, which received seed funding, to realise a full production.

It was a very competitive process and each of the proposals demonstrated a vibrancy and imagination in addressing our national identity. The proposals supported represent some of the highest standard of arts practice in Australia and we look forward to the significant contribution they will make both here and internationally.

I would like to thank the members of the New Australian Stories Committee for their wisdom, insight and vigorous review of the applications we received. My appreciation also goes to Ben Strout, Karilyn Brown and particularly, Susan Parker for their outstanding professional support for this new initiative.

Jennifer Bott
Chair
New Australian Stories



OUTCOMES & BUDGET

NEW AUSTRALIAN STORIES INITIATIVE - OUTCOMES

	Received	Applications - Number		Applications - \$Amounts	
		Approved	Success %	Requested	Approved
New Australian Stories Proposals					
Seed Funding	13	7	54%	\$194,000	\$105,000
Seed & Second Stage Funding	9	2	22%	\$1,961,261	\$400,000
2nd Stage Funding	11	6	55%	\$1,814,440	\$930,000
TOTALS	33	15	45%	\$3,969,701	\$1,435,000

NEW AUSTRALIAN STORIES INITIATIVE - BUDGET

Government allocation	\$2,000,000
Administration, Promotion & Contingency	\$170,000
Approved Grants to date	\$1,435,000
Funds remaining	\$395,000



APPROVED PROPOSALS – Seed funding

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	STATE	AMOUNT
Brink Productions	A series of workshops with Hossein Valamanesh and Andrew Bovell inspired by Tim Flannery's book, 'The Future Eaters'. This will result in a performance installation with text-based images integral to the commissioning of a new work by Andrew Bovell.	SA	\$15,000
De Quincey Company	A hybrid performance based on stories and experiences gathered from the Central Desert of Australia. The project will premiere at the Alice Springs Festival in 2007 and involves Australian and international artists, scientists and local Indigenous communities.	NSW	\$15,000
Force Majeure	Creative development of a dance theatre performance based on the lives of 8 Australians of differing age and background. Posing the same questions to each of the subjects, a picture of what it means to be Australian in the 21st Century will emerge.	NSW	\$15,000
IHOS Opera	Creative development of a production which will trace the life of Olegas Truchanas who migrated to Tasmania from Lithuania in 1948 and devoted his life to exploring and photographing the Tasmanian wilderness.	Tas	\$15,000
Kooemba Jdarra Aboriginal Corporation	'Whispers of this Wik Woman' by Fiona Doyle won the David Unaipon Indigenous Australian Writers Award in 2003. It tells the story of Doyle's grandmother's fight for rights, identity and land. Using an all Indigenous creative & production team, Kooemba Jdarra aims to adapt this novel for staged presentation in 2008.	Qld	\$15,000
La Boite Theatre	In partnership with Derby Playhouse, La Boite aims to adapt David Malouf's novel, 'Johnno' as a musical theatre play with a premiere performance scheduled for the Brisbane Festival in July 2006.	Qld	\$15,000
Sydney Children's Choir	Creative development of a musical theatre work based on the stories and events in the lives of the Choir, their families and forebears. 'Heritage in Song' will highlight the richness and diversity of our society whilst exploring the essence of a shared human experience from the perspective of young Australians.	NSW	\$15,000



APPROVED PROPOSALS – Seed & 2nd Stage funding

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	STATE	AMOUNT
Arena Theatre Company	A collaborative production between Arena & Malthouse Theatres that will explore notions of modern humanity, desensitisation, duty of care, guilt & justice, in response to the factual events of the tragic murder of Joe Cinque.	Vic	\$200,000
Australian Art Orchestra	'Bloodstream' explores the parallel histories of Ruby Hunter and the Murray River, on whose banks she was born. The Australian Art Orchestra hopes to create new ways of story telling - integrating film and projected imagery with original music developed with Ruby Hunter & Archie Roach.	Vic	\$200,000
Australian Dance Theatre	Using an ecosystem as a metaphor in which robotic machines and humans co-exist, 'What God Hath Wrought' is a contemporary dance production, which investigates the relationships between technology, environment and our place within it.	SA	\$200,000
Lucy Guerin	"Explode" - an exploration of the physical, structural and emotional implications of a collapsing bridge with motion graphics designer, Michaela French.	Vic	\$60,000
Museum of Contemporary Art	A new body of work by Ricky Maynard, to be launched as part of the 'Focus on Australian Contemporary Art' exhibition at the MCA. The work will consist of photographs of Tasmania's physical and social landscapes some of which will be exhibited in large-scale format across the Sydney metropolitan area. A separate exhibition of a selection of the artists' work will also tour regionally and nationally.	NSW	\$200,000
Opera Australia	To commission and produce a new Australian opera based on Peter Carey's novel, 'Bliss' for presentation on the main stage in 2008. 'Bliss' received the Miles Franklin Award and NSW Premier's Literary Award in 1981 and the National Book Council Award in 1982.	NSW	\$200,000
Perth International Arts Festival	To create an iconic, contemporary work of art by 10 senior Noongar artists representing the many families and areas of the south west of Australia. As the centrepiece of the 2006 Perth International Arts Festival, the project aims to foster greater community, national and international understanding of Noongar culture.	WA	\$70,000
Stalker Stilt Theatre	A physical theatre work, which explores the experience of young Indigenous and Asian-Indigenous Australians and the duality of their semi-traditional and contemporary lives.	NSW	\$200,000

