



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Literature Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 May 2007

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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ABOUT THIS REPORT

THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC DISCUSSION UNTIL 26 OCTOBER 2007

September 2007

This report provides a context to the assessment of applications submitted to the Literature Board on 15 May and 15 June 2007. It provides some statistical analysis of the results of the grant rounds and more general comments made by the Board during the assessment of applications.

The Literature Board's Assessment meeting was held on 11-14 September 2007. Applications were assessed in the New Work, Key Organisations: Triennial Grants and Presentation and Promotion grant categories.

ATTENDANCE

There are currently six Board members:

(Dr) Imre Salusinszky, Chair (NSW), has been a journalist with the *Australian* since 2003, and is currently the newspaper's NSW political reporter and a regular columnist. He previously held positions as Associate Professor in English and Head of Department at the University of Newcastle. He has also been a lecturer at Yale University in the USA, and at the University of Melbourne. Dr Salusinszky is the author of many reviews, articles and books. He was also editor of the *Oxford Book of Australian Essays*, published in 1997. In 2003, he was awarded the Centenary Medal for services to Australian society through the study of English and scholarship.

(Dr) Ann Galbally (Vic) is an art historian and writer and is a Professorial Associate at the University of Melbourne. She has published monographs on Arthur Streeton, John Peter Russell and Frederick McCubbin, co-edited *Letters from Smike, The Letters of Arthur Streeton* (1989) and written two biographies, *Redmond Barry, An Anglo-Irish Australian* (1995) and *Charles Conder: The last bohemian* (2002) which won the Age Prize for non-fiction in 2003. Interested in public patronage, Ann published *The Collections of the National Gallery of Victoria* in 1987 and co-wrote and co-curated *The First Collections, The Public Library and the National Gallery of Victoria in the 1850s and 1860s* (1992). She has served on the Board of the State Library of Victoria and is now a member of its Readers and Writers Committee.

(Dr) Jack Hibberd (Vic) has written over 30 plays, including *A Stretch of the Imagination*, which has been produced in the UK, USA, Germany and China (the Shanghai production in 1987 was the first performance of an Australian play in that country). Dr Hibberd has also written three novels including *Memoirs of an Old Bastard*, and poems published in two volumes, *Les Vins des Amants* and *The Genius of Human Perfection*. He regularly reviews plays and books for the media and practices medicine part-time.

(Dr) Bronwyn Lea (Qld) was born in Launceston, grew up in Queensland and Papua New Guinea, and lived in California for twelve years. She is the Series Editor, with Martin Duwell, of the annual *Best Australian Poetry* anthology (UQP) and the author of *Flight Animals*, which won the Wesley Michel Wright Prize for Poetry, the Fellowship of Australian Writers Anne Elder Award, and was shortlisted for a number of other major prizes. She is currently the Poetry Editor at the University of Queensland Press and lectures in Poetics and Narrative at the University of Queensland.

(Dr) Peter Holbrook (Qld) is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Queensland. He graduated with a First Class Honours degree in English and Ancient Greek from the University of Melbourne in 1982, and subsequently won a full scholarship to Yale University, where he earned an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in English. He has a particular interest in



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the poetry, prose and drama of the English Renaissance. His publications include *Literature and Degree in Renaissance England: Nashe, Bourgeois Tragedy, Shakespeare* (University of Delaware Press, 1994) and *The Politics of the Stuart Court Masque* (edited with David Bevington, Cambridge University Press, 1998). His essays and reviews have appeared in a range of publications in Australia and overseas. In 2006 he edited a special issue of *The Shakespearean International Yearbook*, which explored some connections between Shakespeare's works and those of the sixteenth-century French essayist Michel de Montaigne. Dr Holbrook enjoys teaching and writing about many different kinds of literary texts, from ancient to modern.

Sophie Masson (NSW) was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, and came to Australia with her family at the age of five. A dual citizen of Australia and France, she lives permanently in Australia and has published more than 35 novels for adults, young adults, and children. Several of her novels have also been published in the UK, USA and Germany, and optioned by film producers. Her Young Adult fantasy, *The Hand of Glory*, was Best Young Adult Novel in the 2002 Aurealis Awards for Science Fiction and Fantasy. Sophie writes frequently for newspapers, journals and magazines in Australia, UK and USA. She is also an editorial adviser for the Australian literary magazine, *Kalimat*.

For this meeting the Board was assisted by **six participating advisers** –

- Fiona Capp, novelist and non-fiction writer, freelance journalist (Vic)
- Christopher Cheng, children's writer (NSW)
- Nigel Krauth, novelist and academic (Qld)
- Mike Ladd, poet and broadcaster (SA)
- Angelo Loukakis, novelist, editor, and publishing consultant (NSW)
- Maryanne Lynch, playwright, dramaturge, director (Vic)

The following Literature staff attended this meeting:

Josie Emery	Director
Jill Jones	Program Manager
Nicola Evans	Program Officer
Robyn Tooth	Assistant Program Officer
Priscilla Gundelach	LOTE Coordinator
Brian Purcell	A/Assistant Program Officer
Christopher Cyrill	Section Coordinator
Willo Drummond	Administrative Officer
Amanda Muscat	Administrative Officer

The following Australia Council staff attended parts of this meeting:

- Atul Joshi, Director, Key Organisations
- Susan Parker, Client Manager, Literature and Music, Key Organisations
- Amanda Macri, Divisional Administrator, Arts Development, Australia Council



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

We were successful this year in holding the meeting over four days, instead of the usual five days for this assessment round. As always, the pre-meeting reading was enormous, totalling more than 4000 pages. Added to this is the support material, mainly in book and manuscript form, from New Work and Fellowship applicants, and business and financial data from Triennial organisations. While the workload at this annual meeting is always daunting for Board members and advisers, it is also a privilege and a pleasure to witness the extraordinary range of literary endeavour taking place in Australia.

It was also a pleasure to welcome six participating advisers who assisted the Board's decision-making on this occasion. Participating advisers are invited to Board meetings on the basis of their specialist knowledge of particular genres. Their contribution to this meeting was invaluable and resulted in some robust and stimulating discussions dealing with creative work by individual writers and also the quite diverse programs of our triennially-funded organisations. I thank them all for their hard work, good sense, knowledge and insight, and their willingness to balance a necessary enthusiasm with an equally necessary spirit of compromise. All who attended showed a tremendous dedication to Australia literature.

Board members were impressed with the quality of applications across all genres, in particular applications for new works of poetry, and children's and young adult writing. It did, however, notice a reduction in the number of applications for writing for performance projects.

The Board was pleased to support an application from the People's Literature Publishing House in China, which will publish translations of *Theft* by Peter Carey and *The Red Thread* by Nicholas Jose. Expanding the overseas market for Australian literature remains a strong priority for the Board and this publisher is building a very good list of Australian titles.

I am also delighted to announce a new Languages Other than English (LOTE) Publishing Initiative which will see the work of more LOTE writers published in English in Australia. This Initiative will assist LOTE writers to find readers for their work, which has been a long-term goal of the Literature Board.

Limited funds always mean tough decisions and there were still many excellent New Work projects that the Board would have liked to support but was unable to. It is always difficult to deliver disappointing news to so many applicants. I would urge those who missed out this year to keep writing and apply again –writers who miss out in one year are often successful another year. To those whose applications succeeded in this hotly contested grant round, on behalf of the Board I congratulate you and wish you every success with your project.

Imre Salusinszky



OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
FELLOWSHIPS	8	2	25.0%	\$800,000	\$200,000
KEY ORGANISATIONS TRIENNIAL	1	1	100.0%	\$114,000	\$68,000
NEW WORK - EMERGING WRITERS	72	19	26.4%	\$940,000	\$255,000
NEW WORK - DEVELOPING WRITERS	167	30	18.0%	\$3,520,000	\$690,000
NEW WORK - ESTABLISHED WRITERS	113	19	16.8%	\$4,310,000	\$760,000
Total	361	71		\$9,684,000	\$1,973,000

One out of-time application was considered

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (OUT-OF-TIME)	1	1	100.0%	\$15,630.00	\$10,000
Total	1	1		\$15,630.00	\$10,000



- **General (New Work and Fellowships).** As ever, the challenge at the meeting was to decide among many worthwhile New Work and Fellowship applications over a number of genres. Unfortunately, a number of applications that scored highly against the selection criteria were unable to be supported due to budget constraints.
 - **Project descriptions.** Applicants need to take into consideration that their project description enables the Board to assess whether the writer has the capacity and, where applicable, the resources to complete the project. Project descriptions should argue the creative substance of the project. The Board is interested in projects driven by ideas rather than issues.
 - **Poetry.** Poets with non-theme-based projects should provide in their project descriptions an artistic rationale and details about their poetic practice, if possible. Extracts from CVs should not be included to supplement a project description.
 - **Editing/Mentoring costs.** Applicants should be applying for assistance for their own work and not to pay fees to mentors or editors for the project. The emphasis should be on the applicant's creative abilities rather than the professional assistance required to complete the project.
- The Board is interested in supporting applications that are clearly written, with particular reference to grammar and style. The Board noted that, in some instances, the quality of the writing in the project description was not very high and encouraged all applicants to have their application proofread before submitting.
 - **Children's literature.** The Board expressed interest in supporting new books by children's writers instead of funding a sequence of work in a series or trilogy.
 - **Support material.** Applicants are reminded that they must provide the necessary support material with their application for it to be eligible. It cannot be sent separately.



LITERATURE BOARD PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

Australian book publishers are now eligible to apply to the Literature Board for support to reprint works by writers who are no longer living. Publishers can apply to the Literature Board's Presentation and Promotion category, which has an annual closing date of 15 March.

Frankfurt Book Fair

The Australia Council, through the Literature Board and Community Partnerships and Advocacy Division, has formed a three-year partnership with the Australian Publishers Association and Austrade to increase Australia's presence at the overseas bookfairs, beginning with the Frankfurt Book Fair from 9-14 October 2007. The Australia Council has worked with the partners to improve the visibility of exhibiting Australian publishers and to distribute a promotional brochure at Frankfurt Book Fair. Dr Wendy Were, the Director of the Sydney Writers' Festival, will attend the Fair on behalf of the Australia Council.

Australian Literary Review

The Australia Council has agreed to partner the *Australian* newspaper for a second year to publish the *Australian Literary Review*. It is published on the first Wednesday of every month as a supplement to the *Australian*. The Literature Board's Director, Josie Emery, is a member of the *Review*'s editorial advisory board.

Asher Literary Award

The winner of the 2007 Asher Award is Brenda Walker for *The Wing of the Night*. The Asher Literary Award is a biennial literary award which is offered in collaboration with the Australian Centre at the University of Melbourne. This award has been made possible by a generous bequest from Mrs Helen Waltraud Rosalie Asher. Mrs Asher's request specified that the bequest be directed to a literary work by a female author which carries an anti-war message or theme.

Languages Other than English (LOTE)

From 2008, the Literature Board will be supporting LOTE applications of high literary merit through a partnership between the writer, translator and publisher. Publishers in Australia will be eligible to apply to the **LOTE Publishing Initiative** for support to pay the writer and translator, with some support for production expenses. Writers must have had some work published in book form to be eligible and publishers must be registered with the Literature Board.



STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

BEFORE THE MEETING

Staff check eligibility and register applications on Council's computer database. You will receive a letter acknowledging your application with an application number and staff contact for your reference. Staff analyse the statistical information provided by applicants to help Council measure the effectiveness of its grant programs. Staff prepare applications and support material for the Board assessment meeting. Applications are made into booklets and sent to Board members. Peers are invited to participate as advisers to the Board at the meeting bringing additional expertise and perspectives to the assessment process. Staff also check and manage any conflicts of interest that Board members and peers have with applications and study the applications in order to provide information to the Board as required (see below *).

AT THE MEETING

ASSESSMENT

Board members assess your application against the published selection criteria. Board members may examine support material at the meeting or by prior arrangement.

Board members may also take into account information from other sources such as:

- their attendance at performances and other events;
- reports from members of the Register of Peers who may be asked to provide formal assessments of designated works;
- reviews, videos and recordings, referee reports and other material;
- any previous Australia Council grant acquittal reports and performance agreements you may have had; and
- communication with State and Territory agencies.

Boards may decide not to fund the application at the level requested. While your application may meet the stated selection criteria, this does not guarantee you a grant. The Australia Council receives many more applications than it can support. The success of your application must rest ultimately on the merits of your proposal against published criteria and in competition with all the other applications considered for funding.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

All applicants will be notified of the Board's decision by mail during the month indicated on the Australia Council's website www.ozco.gov.au and the application forms. Information about grant decisions will not be released over the phone.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will receive a letter of agreement offering you a grant. This letter outlines the terms and conditions of the offer. Payment of a grant will not be made until you have accepted the conditions by signing and returning the letter of agreement.

ACQUITTAL OF GRANTS

Acquittals are the artistic and financial reports that you must provide after completing your project. Acquittal reports enable the Council to fulfil its obligations of accountability as well as allowing us to learn about the success or otherwise of your project. These reports are a valuable way for you to contribute to the policy development work at the Australia Council.

**Staff do not make funding decisions. Staff provide information and advice to Council, Boards and advisory bodies to assist their determination of policy and assessment of grant applications. Staff also provide information to potential grant applicants and administer the Australia Council's grant programs to enable a simple, fair and efficient assessment of applications.*



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - DEVELOPING WRITERS
Round Id: 15490 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Andrew Lindsay	Literary non-fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
Anne Kellas	Poetry	TAS	\$10,000.00
Britain, Ian	Literary non-fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Castles, Belinda	Fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
Charlton, James	Poetry	TAS	\$25,000.00
Susan Hampton	Poetry	ACT	\$25,000.00
Fullerton, Susannah	Literary non-fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
Heather Potter	Children's literature	VIC	\$25,000.00
Holohan, Amanda	Young adult literature	NSW	\$25,000.00
Hopkins, Susan	Literary non-fiction	QLD	\$25,000.00
Howell, Simone	Young adult literature	VIC	\$25,000.00
Hyland, Adrian	Fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Jen Storer	Young adult literature	VIC	\$15,000.00
Kayat, Fadeel	Fiction/non-fiction/poetry (in Arabic)	NSW	\$25,000.00
Kershaw, Graham	Fiction	WA	\$25,000.00
MacDonald, Helen	Literary non-fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
McLennan, Wayne	Literary non-fiction	O'seas	\$25,000.00
Nayman, Shira	Fiction	O'seas	\$25,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - DEVELOPING WRITERS
Round Id: 15490 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Newling, Phillipa (Pip)	Literary non-fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Norman, Sarah-Jane	Fiction	NSW	\$10,000.00
Rod Howard	Literary non-fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Schwarz, Michelle	Literary non-fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Sparrow, Rebecca	Young adult literature	QLD	\$25,000.00
Stafford, Andrew	Literary non-fiction	QLD	\$25,000.00
Subramani, Professor	Fiction (in Fiji Hindi)	NSW	\$25,000.00
Turner Goldsmith, Jane	Fiction	SA	\$25,000.00
Verma, Surendra	Young adult literature, Literary non-fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
White, Trudy	Children's literature	VIC	\$25,000.00
Williams, Jane	Poetry	TAS	\$15,000.00
Young, Denise	Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Grants this Round: 30		Amount Approved:	\$690,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - EMERGING WRITERS
Round Id: 15491 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2007

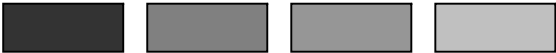
Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Allington, Patrick	Fiction	SA	\$10,000.00
Besser, Nathan	Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Billingham, Craig	Poetry	NSW	\$15,000.00
Fitzgerald, Michael	Fiction	NSW	\$5,000.00
Goldsworthy, Anna	Fiction	VIC	\$10,000.00
Jamieson, Trent	Children's literature	QLD	\$15,000.00
Jeremy Fisher	Literary non-fiction	NSW	\$10,000.00
Johnson, Katherine	Fiction	TAS	\$10,000.00
Jones, Emma	Poetry	NSW	\$15,000.00
Looby, Mic Keir	Fiction	VIC	\$15,000.00
Mason, Prudence	Children's literature	QLD	\$15,000.00
McLaren, Greg	Poetry	NSW	\$15,000.00
Messiah, Eytan	Poetry	NSW	\$15,000.00
Neil, Linda Christine	Literary non-fiction	QLD	\$15,000.00
Perry, Georgina T	Fiction	VIC	\$15,000.00
Rosie Dub	Fiction	TAS	\$15,000.00
Snowden, Betty	Literary non-fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Xenia Hanusiak	Writing for performance (theatre or radio)	VIC	\$15,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - EMERGING WRITERS
Round Id: 15491 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Tranter, Kirsten	Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Grants this Round: 19		Amount Approved:	\$255,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - ESTABLISHED WRITERS
Round Id: 15492 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Aitken, Adam	Poetry	NSW	\$20,000.00
Annear, Robyn	Literary non-fiction	VIC	\$40,000.00
Cribb, Reginald	Writing for performance	WA	\$30,000.00
Day, Sarah	Poetry	TAS	\$30,000.00
Gardner, Scot	Young adult literature	VIC	\$60,000.00
Gould, Alan	Fiction	ACT	\$60,000.00
Gray, Robert	Poetry	NSW	\$60,000.00
Gwynne, Phillip	Fiction, Young adult literature	NSW	\$40,000.00
Herrick, Steven	Young adult literature	NSW	\$40,000.00
Jean Kent	Poetry	NSW	\$30,000.00
Kinsella, John	Fiction, Poetry	WA	\$60,000.00
Langford, Martin	Poetry	NSW	\$40,000.00
Lomer, Kathryn	Poetry	TAS	\$30,000.00
Phillip Neal Cummings	Children's literature	SA	\$40,000.00
Reeves, Melissa	Writing for performance	VIC	\$20,000.00
Riddle, Tohby	Children's literature	NSW	\$40,000.00
Rogers, Gregory	Children's Literature	QLD	\$60,000.00
Shearston, Trevor	Fiction	NSW	\$30,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - ESTABLISHED WRITERS
Round Id: 15492 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Yu, Ouyang	Poetry (in Chinese and English)	VIC	\$30,000.00
Grants this Round: 19		Amount Approved:	\$760,000.00
Total Grants: 72		Total Amount Approved:	\$2,005,000.00



Literature Board
FELLOWSHIPS
Round Id: 15489 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Lohrey, Amanda Frances	Fellowships 2007	TAS	\$100,000.00
Tranter, John	Fellowships 2007	NSW	\$100,000.00
Grants this Round: 2		Amount Approved:	\$200,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Key Organisations
KEY ORGANISATIONS LITERATURE TRIENNIAL
Round Id: 15263 Closing Date: 15-JUN-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
ACT Writers Centre Inc	Key Organisations Literature Triennials 2008-2009	ACT	\$68,000.00
Grants this Round: 1		Amount Approved:	\$68,000.00
Total Grants: 1		Total Amount Approved:	\$68,000.00

