



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Literature Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
01 October 2007

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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ABOUT THIS REPORT

THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC DISCUSSION UNTIL 21 DECEMBER 2007

November 2007

This report provides a context to the assessment of applications submitted to the Literature Board on 1 October 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 27-28 November 2007. Applications were assessed in the Program Grants and Presentation and Promotion grant categories.

ATTENDANCE

Six Board members attended this meeting.

(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) 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) 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 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.

Nicholas Jose (SA) lives in Adelaide and has held the Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide since 2005. He was Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy, Beijing and Shanghai from 1987-1990 and President of Sydney PEN from 2002-2005. He is the General Editor of the Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature.

His most recent novel, *Original Face* was published in 2005. His memoir, *Black Sheep: Journey to Borroloola*, appeared in 2002. His other books include *The Red Thread* (2000),



ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Custodians (1997), *The Rose Crossing* (1994), *Avenue of Eternal Peace* (1989), *Paper Nautilus* (1987; new edition, 2006) *Rowena's Field* (1984), *The Possession of Amber* (1980) and *Feathers or Lead* (1986), and *Chinese Whispers*, *Cultural Essays* published in 1995.

Nicholas Jose co-translated *The Finish Line* by Sang Ye (1994) and *The Ape Herd* by Mang Ke (included in *Poems for the Millennium*, 1998). He also co-edited Picador *New Writing 4* (1997). His play, *Dead City*, was performed at Belvoir Street Theatre and the Q Theatre, Penrith in 1994. He acted as curatorial advisor to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney on the exhibitions *Mao Goes Pop* (1993) and *ARTTAIWAN* (1995) and co-edited *Arttaiwan* (1995).

(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.

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 **two participating advisers** –

- Delys Bird (WA), Co-editor, *Westerly*
- Meredith Curnow (NSW), Publisher, Random House Australia

The following Literature staff attended this meeting:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Jill Jones | Acting Manager |
| Nicola Evans | Acting Program Manager |
| Priscilla Gundelach | Program Officer |
| Robyn Tooth | Program Officer |
| Christopher Cyrill | Section Coordinator |
| Willo Drummond | Administrative Officer |
| Brian Purcell | Administrative Officer |

The following Australia Council staff attended parts of this meeting:

- Mei-Lin Bastian, Client Manager, Literature and Music, Key Organisations
- Sandra Bender, Director, Market Development, Community Partnerships and Market Development Division



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Once again, the range and diversity of activities supported by the Literature Board is particularly in evidence at this November assessment meeting. Applications for local and international writers' festivals and promotional events are assessed alongside literary magazines, and the overseas publication of Australian titles including translations into a number of languages.

The meeting was held over two days. The Board was assisted by two participating advisers who are invited to Board meetings on the basis of their specialist knowledge of particular areas, in particular literary magazines, publishing and promotions of Australian literature.

Applications from eight established literary magazines were considered and the Board was pleased to be able to provide ongoing support to these magazines which form an essential platform of publication for Australian creative writing in all its vigour and diversity.

The Board also approved project funding to a number of excellent magazines, including *Griffith Review* and *Wet Ink*, and for the new online magazine, *Mascara Poetry*.

Applications from a number of overseas publishers were a highlight of this meeting, in particular the translation of a number of literary titles into many languages. The Board approved support for the Italian translation of *Home* by Larissa Behrendt, the Ukrainian translation of *Carry Me Down* by MJ Hyland, the French translation of *Breath* by Tim Winton, a Japanese translation of an anthology of Australian Short Stories, as well as the English-language publication of the Miles Franklin Award winner, *Carpentaria* by Alexis Wright. Expanding the overseas market for Australian literature remains a high priority and the Board continues to encourage the opening up of overseas markets in both English-speaking and non-English speaking territories.

In recognising the benefit of the international promotion of Australian writing, the Board continues to support the promotion and attendance by Australian writers at overseas and Australian festivals and to this round was pleased to support the Hong Kong International Literary Festival and Wordfest: Banff-Calgary International Writers' Festival. In Australia, the Board was impressed with the vitality and diversity of a large number of Australian literary and writing festivals taking place and was pleased to support the Queensland Poetry Festival, the Northern Territory Writers' Centre's WordStorm 2008 and the Hunter Writers' Centre's collaborative digital writing project.

On behalf of the Literature Board I would like to congratulate successful applicants and to convey our best wishes to everyone into 2008.

Imre Salusinszky



OUTCOMES

| Program Title | Application (Number) | | Success % | Application (Amounts - \$) | |
|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| | Received | Approved | | Requested | Approved |
| PROGRAM GRANTS | 8 | 8 | 100.0% | \$384,360 | \$327,000 |
| PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION) | 30 | 22 | 73.3% | \$645,981 | \$213,780 |
| PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION) | 39 | 20 | 51.3% | \$503,044 | \$147,720 |
| Total | 77 | 50 | | \$1,533,385 | \$688,500 |



General

Overall, the Board was pleased with the quality of proposals to this grant round. As ever, the challenge at the meeting was to spread the available funds as widely and equitably as possible across the broad range of activities this grant round encompassed.

Unfortunately, a number of applications which scored highly against the selection criteria were unable to be supported due to the budget constraints.

Amounts requested

The Board noted that a number of applications were based on requests for funding that appeared to be 'ambit' claims rather than realistic requests, given the Board's limited resources. The Board does not find such requests helpful when balancing the needs of the sector within its budget constraints. Applicants are encouraged to consult past assessment reports (available on the Council's website: www.australiacouncil.gov.au) as a guide to the levels of funding the Board offers for various projects and to note the budget for the grant category.

Salaries

Applicants are reminded that the Board does not fund salaries or personnel costs.

Literary festivals

Where possible, literary festivals should submit confirmed lists of participating writers. It is often very difficult for Board members to assess applications when participating writers are either unnamed or unconfirmed. The Board appreciates the difficulty for clients with projects that are a long way off but where possible, program and participant updates should be provided closer to Board meeting dates.

Overseas promotions

The Board considers its support of the promotion of Australian writers into overseas markets, both English-speaking and non-English speaking, to be an important aspect of its programs and the quality of many applications was high this year. However, due to budget constraints, the Board was able to offer support for international airfares for writers only at this meeting.

Literary magazines

The Board continues to recognise the importance of literary journals and magazines as both a contribution to the development of Australian literature and as offering the initial way for many writers to gain publication and recognition. It believes it is important to support a diversity of voices in the literary sector.



INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

LITERATURE BOARD PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

Story of the Future

In 2007 *Story of the Future* emerged as a vital platform for the Literature Board to engage with writers, artists, publishers and the digital content industry. Sixteen teams participated in the *LAMP: Story of the Future Residential Labs*, where experienced digital media professionals mentored participants on project development, writing interactive story worlds, gameplay design and business opportunities. Each team presented their properties to VIPs from new media companies, broadcasters, mobile carriers and funding bodies. The initiative enters its *Making for Market* phase in 2008, which will include development grants and workshops for writers.

It will also continue to further the Australian digital publishing agenda, building on the success of the publishing seminar, held in July, which brought together over 100 publishers to examine the future role of the publisher.

Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Publishing Initiative

Australian publishers who are registered with the Literature Board are eligible to apply for assistance to translate and publish work by living Australian writers writing in languages other than English. Publishers can apply to the 26 September 2008 closing date for up to \$15,000 per title towards writers' and translators' fees and production costs.

Grant categories in 2008

Applicants are advised that from 2008, the Presentation and Promotion grant category will be called the **Publishing and Promotion** grant category. The 15 March and 1 October closing dates are unchanged.

Residencies replaces the Skills and Arts Development category and the closing date remains 15 March.



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.australiacouncil.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
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)
Round Id: 15685 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2007

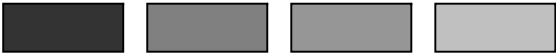
| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|---|--|-------|-------------|
| American Association of Australian Literary Studies Inc | Journal costs - Antipodes 2008 | MO | \$4,000.00 |
| Angelo Loukakis Pty Limited | Towards fees for literary contributors published in the Australian Author in 2008 | NSW | \$10,000.00 |
| Australian Poetry Centre | Towards fees for contributors published in issues of Blue Dog: Australian Poetry in 2008 | VIC | \$10,000.00 |
| Baldini Castoldi Dalai Editors | Translation and publication of 'Home' by Larissa Behrendt (Italian) | | \$5,000.00 |
| Calvaria Publishing House Foundation | Translation and publication of 'Carry Me Down' by MJ Hyland (Ukranian) | | \$5,000.00 |
| Constable & Robinson Limited | Publication of 'Carpentaria' by Alexis Wright (English) | | \$4,000.00 |
| Cordite Press Inc | Contributors' fees and production costs for two issues of Cordite Poetry Review in 2008 | VIC | \$7,220.00 |
| Editions Payot & Rivages | Towards translation fees for the publication of 'Breath' by Tim Winton (French) | | \$5,000.00 |
| Europa Editions Inc | Publication of 'The Treatment and The Cure' by Peter Kocan (English) | NY | \$4,000.00 |
| Gendaikikakushitsu Publishers Ltd | Towards fees to Australian writers published in the anthology of Australian short stories (Japanese) | | \$10,000.00 |
| Griffith University | Towards fees for contributors published in Griffith Review in 2008 | QLD | \$25,000.00 |
| MISH Janez Mis s.p. Publishing House | Translation and publication of 'Conditions of Faith' by Alex Miller (Slovene) | | \$5,000.00 |
| Mascara Poetry Incorporated | Towards fees for Australian contributors published in Mascara Poetry in 2008 | NSW | \$2,500.00 |
| McCarthy & Ellis Literary Agency Pty Ltd (In trust for the Strasser Family Trust) | Towards fees for contributors and production costs for issues of Aurealis published in 2008 | VIC | \$6,000.00 |
| Reading Time | Towards fees for literary contributors published in Reading Time in 2008 | NSW | \$10,000.00 |



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)
Round Id: 15685 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Tendency Incorporation | Fees to Australian writers and translation costs for Aust. issue of "Tendency" (English & Chinese) | MA | \$5,000.00 |
| Text Publishers Ltd | Translation & publication of 'Twilight of Love: Travels with Turgenev' by Robert Dessaix (Russian) | | \$5,000.00 |
| Verlag Antje Kunstmann | Translation fees for the publication of 'Last Drinks' by Andrew McGahan (German) | | \$5,000.00 |
| Verlag Friedrich Oetinger GmbH | Translation and publication of 'It's Not All About You, Calma!' by Barry Jonsberg (German) | | \$5,000.00 |
| Wet Ink | Towards fees for contributors and printing costs for Wet Ink in 2008 | SA | \$15,000.00 |
| Grants this Round: 20 | | Amount Approved: | \$147,720.00 |



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)
Round Id: 15686 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|--|--|-------|-------------|
| Children's Book Council of Australia (Executive Branch) | Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 9th CBCA children's lit. conference | SA | \$12,000.00 |
| Emerging Writers' Festival Inc | Towards expenses for interstate writers to participate in the 2008 Emerging Writers' Festival | VIC | \$5,000.00 |
| Festival Franco-Anglais De Poesie | Towards travel expenses for Philip Hammial to participate in 2008 Festival franco-anglais de poesie | | \$2,750.00 |
| German Association for Australian Studies | Towards travel expenses for Gail Jones to undertake a promotional tour of Germany & Austria | | \$2,750.00 |
| Hong Kong International Literary Festival Ltd | Towards travel expenses for G Jones & C Kremmer to participate in HK International Literary Festival | | \$5,500.00 |
| Hunter Writers' Centre | Towards poets' fees only for a collaborative digital writing project with flash designers | NSW | \$4,000.00 |
| Indian Association for the Study of Australia (IASA) | Towards travel expenses for Bruce Dawe and Alexis Wright to undertake a promotional tour of India | DELHI | \$5,500.00 |
| Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival Incorporated | Towards fees and expenses for Australian writers to participate in 2008 Mildura Writers' Festival | VIC | \$12,500.00 |
| NT Writers' Centre Inc | Towards expenses for interstate writers to participate in WordStorm 2008 | NT | \$15,000.00 |
| Northern Rivers Writers' Centre | Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2008 Byron Bay Writers' Festival | NSW | \$17,500.00 |
| Perth International Arts Festival (t/u University of WA) | Towards fares, fees & expenses for Australian writers to participate in 2008 Perth Writers' Festival | WA | \$15,000.00 |
| Poets Union Incorporated-NSW | Towards expenses for Australian poets to participate in the 2008 Australian Poetry Festival | NSW | \$13,530.00 |
| Queensland Poetry Festival | Towards expenses for Australian poets to participate in the 2008 Queensland Poetry Festival | QLD | \$9,000.00 |
| Radio Adelaide (t/u University of Adelaide) | Towards writers' fees for the 2008 series of 'Writers Radio' | SA | \$7,000.00 |



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)
 Round Id: 15686 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Random House Group UK | Towards travel expenses for Michelle de Kretser to promote UK edition of 'The Lost Dog' | | \$2,750.00 |
| Somerset College Ltd | Towards fees for Australian writers to participate in the 2008 Somerset Celebration of Literature | QLD | \$5,000.00 |
| State Library of Victoria | Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in 2008 program of the Centre for Youth Literature | VIC | \$24,000.00 |
| Sydney Writers' Festival Ltd | Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2008 Sydney Writers' Festival | NSW | \$20,000.00 |
| The National Young Writers Festival | Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the National Young Writers' Festival 2008 | VIC | \$12,500.00 |
| The Red Room Company Ltd | Towards expenses for Australian poets to be featured in 2008 Red Room showcase events | NSW | \$7,000.00 |
| Wordfest: Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival arts@work | Towards travel expenses for two Australian writers to participate in Wordfest 2008 | ALBERT | \$5,500.00 |
| | Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in 2008 Tasmanian Living Writers' Week | TAS | \$10,000.00 |
| Grants this Round: 22 | | Amount Approved: | \$213,780.00 |



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
PROGRAM GRANTS
Round Id: 15687 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Australian Book Review Inc | Publication of ten issues of Australian Book Review in 2008 | VIC | \$100,000.00 |
| English Association Sydney Inc | Publication of three issues of Southerly in 2008 | NSW | \$25,000.00 |
| Express Media Inc | Contributors' fees and production costs for four issues of Voiceworks published in 2008 | VIC | \$12,000.00 |
| Giramondo Publishing Company Pty Ltd | Publication of three issues of Heat in 2008 | NSW | \$45,000.00 |
| Island Magazine Incorporated | Publication of four issues of Island in 2008 | TAS | \$30,000.00 |
| Meanjin Company Limited | Publication of four issues of Meanjin in 2008 | VIC | \$35,000.00 |
| Overland Magazine | Publication of four issues of Overland in 2008 and public lectures program | VIC | \$50,000.00 |
| Quadrant Magazine Co Inc | Towards fees for literary contributors published in Quadrant in 2008 | NSW | \$30,000.00 |
| | Grants this Round: 8 | Amount Approved: | \$327,000.00 |
| | Total Grants: 50 | Total Amount Approved: | \$688,500.00 |

