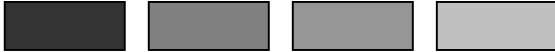




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Literature Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 March 2005

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 28 June 2005



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report provides a context to the assessment of applications submitted to the Literature Board on 15 March 2005. It provides some statistical analysis of the results of the grant round and more general comments made by the Board during the assessment of applications.

The Literature Board's Assessment meeting was held on **9 – 10 June 2005**. Applications were assessed in the Presentation and Promotion and Skills and Arts Development (Individuals) categories.

ATTENDANCE

Six of the Board's seven members attended the June meeting, namely:

(Dr) Peter Goldsworthy (Chair) (SA) is a novelist/poet/librettist whose works have been translated into most major European and Asian languages. Among his many literary awards are the 1982 Commonwealth Poetry Prize and the Australian Bicentennial Literary Prize for Poetry (1988). Other major works include the novel *Maestro*, the novella, *Jesus wants me for a sunbeam* and libretti for the Richard Mills operas, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and *Batavia* which recently won the Helpmann Award for Best New Australian Work (2002). His most recent novel, *Three Dog Night*, won the 2004 FAW Christina Stead Award and was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award (2004).

(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.

Alan Gould (ACT) is a poet, novelist and essayist. He has published ten volumes of poetry, the latest of which is *A Fold in the Light* (Indigo), six novels, the latest of which is *The Schoonermaster's Dance* (HarperCollins) and one collection of essays, *The Totem Ship* (Duffy & Snellgrove). He has won a number of awards including the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Poetry in 1981, the National Book Council Award for Fiction in 1992, the Royal Blind Society Talking Book of the Year in 1998, the Philip Hodgins Medal and Prize for services to Australian Literature in 1999 and *The Courier Mail* Book of the Year Award in 2001 for his novel *The Schoonermaster's Dance*. His fiction has been published in Britain, USA, France and the Netherlands. He has also been poetry editor for *The Canberra Times* and the National Library's *Voices* literary magazine.

Glyn Parry (WA) was born where *Billy Elliott* was filmed. When he was twelve, his family escaped to sunshine and surf. While best known as a writer of fiction for children and young adults, his short fiction for adults has also been widely published. His ten novels for children and teenagers include *LA Postcards* (which won the 1995 WA Premier's Prize and was commended in both the Australian Vogel and Children's Book Council Awards), *Monster Man*, *Radical Take-Offs*, *Spooking the Cows*, *Stoked* and *Scooterboy* (which won the 1999 WA Premier's Prize for Young Adult Books). Glyn serves on the State Library Board of WA and the National Advisory Council of the ABC. He is currently writing the memoir of his youth. His dream is to own a cottage by the sea.

Sophie Masson (NSW) was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, of French parents and came to Australia with her family at the age of five. Her childhood was spent shuttling between France and Australia, and French and English. She lives near Armidale in northern NSW. Sophie has had more than 35 novels published in Australia, for adults, young adults, and children. Several of her novels have also been published in the UK, USA and Germany, and optioned



ABOUT THIS REPORT

by film producers. She has been shortlisted many times for several awards. Her YA fantasy, *The Hand of Glory*, was Best Young Adult Novel in the 2002 *Aurealis* Awards for Science Fiction and Fantasy. She also writes frequently for newspapers, journals and magazines in Australia, the UK and the USA. In 2004, two children's novels were published: a fantasy set in 14th century Brittany, *In Hollow Lands* and *Snow, Fire, Sword*, a modern-day fantasy set in the Sultanate of Jayangan, an imaginary country based on Java. This has also been sold to the USA and to Thailand. It is the first of a series of fantasy adventures set in different countries, based on the modern-day Muslim world. She has also sold another major series for children, *Thomas Trew and the Hidden People*, to Hodder UK—the first will appear in 2006.

Bronwyn Lea (Qld) –Bronwyn Lea 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.

For this meeting the Board was assisted by 4 **Participating Advisers** –

Joe Bugden (Tas), Executive Director – Tasmanian Writers' Centre
Delia Falconer (NSW), writer
Morag Fraser (Vic), writer, academic
Rachel Healy (NSW) (one day only), General Manager, Company B, Belvoir Street Theatre

The following Literature staff attended this meeting:

Jill Jones	A/Manager
Nicola Evans	A/Senior Program Officer
Priscilla Gundelach	A/Program Officer
Jane Gillespie	A/Assistant Program Officer
Robyn Tooth	A/Assistant Program Officer
Leighton Elliot	Administrator
Jane O'Sullivan	Administrative Officer

The following Australia Council staff attended parts of this meeting –
Margaret Burke, Books Alive, Visiting International Publishers Program



The Literature Board's first assessment meeting for 2005 dealt with funding decisions for Australian and overseas publishers and festivals and other promotional events, and for overseas studio residencies for Australian writers. Fewer applications were received this year to both the *Presentation and Promotion* and the *Skills and Arts Development (Individuals)* categories.

The Board continues to support the publication of Australian writers in Australia and overseas and is particularly interested in supporting overseas publishers with a proven and demonstrated commitment to publishing Australian literature. We also encourage applications from publishers interested in building a list of Australian writing across literary genres.

At this meeting, the Board was particularly pleased to be able to support two Bulgarian publishers – Zhar Publishers and Perseus Publishing House – for the translation and publication of titles by Peter Carey, Eva Sallis and Tim Winton.

There were considerably fewer applications from Australian publishers to this grant round – 35% less than to the same round last year – which may be attributed to the second, one-off closing date in 2004 for Australian publishing activities. The Board has moved from funding an entire publisher's list to specifying which titles should be supported, based on the quality of the manuscript and support material submitted. The Board wants to reiterate its desire to support excellent writing and has offered support to many high quality titles this year.

A wide range of festivals was supported at this grant round, including the inaugural Kimberley Writers' Festival in the remote northwest of Australia, and the Watermark Literary Muster, in Camden Head, on the mid North Coast of New South Wales, which will celebrate the literature of nature and place. The Board has also offered support to the second Ubud Writers' and Readers' Festival in Bali, which will take place in October this year.

The Board was pleased to support a number of events and activities focusing on poetry, ranging from the Tasmanian Poetry Festival in Launceston, to the International Biennial of Poetry in Belgium.

The Board's international residencies were again highly sought after with a notable increase in the numbers of applications from playwrights and dramaturges. Residencies in Paris, Rome, New York and Ireland are among the most artistically rewarding grants offered by the Literature Board, with Banff playRites Colony in Canada being the most sought after residency.

On behalf of the Literature Board, I congratulate the successful applicants.

Peter Goldsworthy



OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)	26	20	76.9%	\$461,012	\$213,167
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)	33	27	81.8%	\$465,185	\$240,660
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - INDIVIDUALS	37	8	22%	\$344,000	\$83,000
Total	96	55		\$1,270,197	\$536,827



General. As ever, the challenge at the Board meeting was to spread the available funds as widely and equitably as possible across the wide range of activities. Unfortunately, a number of applications which scored highly against the selection criteria were unable to be supported due to budget constraints.

Publishing. The Board noted that the literary quality of a number of titles included in publishers's lists this year was not of a high standard and therefore, did not offer funding for these titles. While the Board encourages publishers to see its funding as assistance for less commercially viable titles, the Board's priority is to support quality writing.

The Board has recently relaxed the eligibility requirements on fiction and non-fiction titles, hoping to encourage publishers to seek funding for a broader range of titles rather than first, second and third works of fiction and literary non-fiction.

While acknowledging it is often difficult for publishers to submit polished and edited work for consideration at this early stage of a book's life, publishers are encouraged to select appropriate support material to submit with their application.

Festivals. The Board welcomes the diversity of festivals and other literary events emerging around the country, especially those in regional Australia.

While unable to support applications from festivals to the amounts requested, the Board was pleased to see that many festivals had addressed the Board's recent concerns for more adventurous and intellectually rigorous planning.

The Board was particularly pleased to support well thought out and quality activities for children and young adults in regional areas.

Individuals. The Board noted that many applicants had demonstrated a meaningful connection between the location of the residency and their project. However, the Board advises that applicants need to demonstrate clearly how a residency will contribute to their professional development, as this is one of the main aims of this category.

Banff playRites Colony. Two dramaturges and two playwrights have been shortlisted for Banff playRites Colony.

Overseas publishing. The Board was impressed with the quality of applications from overseas publishers. Many of these publishers are steadily building lists of Australian titles and the Board continues to be very supportive of this.



NEW LITERATURE BOARD PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

The Board is actively pursuing several initiatives and collaborative projects which advance current priorities. They include: the Board's two programs supporting young and emerging writers, which were again offered for 2005. The programs, offered concurrently, but with different aims, were assessed by the Literature Board in March.

Young and Emerging Writers 2005

After much discussion about the effectiveness of its current young and emerging writers' programs, the Board decided once again to offer two separate initiatives in 2005.

The **Write in Your Face** initiative is aimed at one-off projects which do not fit within the Board's eligibility guidelines. It is intended to foster young writers' engagement with the creative process. A separate assessment report for Write in Your Face 2005 is available on the Australia Council website.

Young and Emerging Writers 2005

The Young and Emerging Writers' Initiative is offered via invitation to organisations providing mentorships or professional development programs for young and emerging writers under the age of 30. This year, there were 19 submissions and, of these, 12 were supported. The majority were mentorships run by professional organisations. A list of funded applicants is attached to this report.

Promotional initiative in regional Queensland

In partnership with Arts Queensland, a consultant has been appointed to research a promotional campaign to showcase outstanding books and writers from Tropical Queensland. The promotion will involve regional tours and will forge partnerships with key stakeholders and sponsors.

Poetry Development Strategy Stage 2

A consultant has been appointed to develop the Literature Board's poetry development strategy. The strategy aims to explore options for a cooperative poetry development strategy and to develop a framework for implementation, including details of how the existing 'industry structure' can best be used and industry partnerships identified. The report will be considered by the Board in early 2006.

Small to Medium Business Development – Export Skills Training for Small to Medium sized Australian Publishers

The Literature Board is currently working with the Australian Publishers Association to develop a rights sales and export skills training and support program for small to medium size Australian publishers. The aim of this initiative is to increase the skill level and knowledge of small to medium sized publishers in the area of rights sales and export. The training workshops will be held in Sydney and Melbourne and will include a mentorship arrangement for each participant. Workshops will take place in Sydney and Melbourne in August 2005.



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 in the Handbook 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.

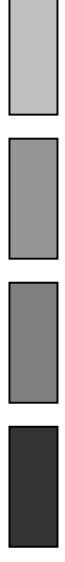
**Staff do not make funding decisions. Staff provide information and advice to Council, Boards and advisory bodies to assist their determination of policy and assessment of grant applications. Staff also provide information to potential grant applicants and administer the Australia Council's grant programs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



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)
 Round Id: 14354 Closing Date: 15-MAR-2005

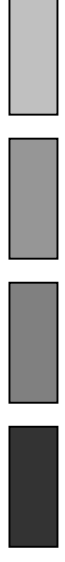
Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
AGRA Publications	"Gould's Book of Fish" by Richard Flanagan (Greek translation)		\$10,000.00
Allen & Unwin Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 - 2006	NSW	\$8,000.00
Ammann Verlag	A selection of poems by Les Murray (German translation)		\$10,000.00
Athenaeum-Polak & Van Gennep	"Stargazer: The History and Times of the Telescope" by Fred Watson (Dutch translation)	NSW	\$10,000.00
Australian Scholarly Publishing Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 - 2006	VIC	\$8,000.00
Black Dog Books t/u Andrew Kelly Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 - 2006	VIC	\$8,000.00
Brandl and Schlesinger Pty Limited	Book Publishing Grant 2005 -2006	NSW	\$8,000.00
Central Queensland University Press	Book Publishing Grant 2005 -2006	QLD	\$8,000.00
Currency Press Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 -2006	NSW	\$24,000.00
Five Islands Press Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 - 2006	VIC	\$10,000.00
Flood Editions NFP	"New Poems" by Robert Adamson (US edition)		\$3,500.00
Fremantle Arts Centre Press	Book Publishing Grant 2005 - 2006	WA	\$8,000.00
Giramondo Publishing Company Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 -2006	NSW	\$8,000.00
Houtekiet N.V	"Secret Scribbled Notebooks" by Joanne Horniman (Dutch translation)		\$4,560.00
Interactive Publications Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 - 2006	QLD	\$8,000.00
Island Press Co-operative Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 - 2006	NSW	\$2,500.00
Local Consumption Publications	Book Publishing Grant 2005 - 2006	NSW	\$8,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)
Round Id: 14354 Closing Date: 15-MAR-2005

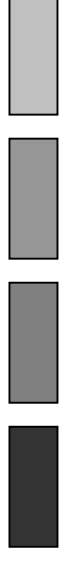
Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Marcos Y Marcos	"The Dragon Man" by Garry Disher (Italian translation)		\$6,000.00
Mongrel Jazz Pty Ltd trading as Black Pepper	Book Publishing Grant 2005 -2006	VIC	\$14,500.00
Nakladatelství Triton	Three volumes of "The Keys to the Kingdom" series by Garth Nix (Czech translation)		\$7,200.00
Perseus Publishing House	"Oscar and Lucinda" by Peter Carey (Bulgarian translation)		\$7,000.00
Text Publishing	Book Publishing Grant 2005 - 2006	VIC	\$4,000.00
University of Queensland	Book Publishing Grant 2005 -2006	QLD	\$19,000.00
VAGA Publishers Ltd	"Looking for Alibrandi" by Melina Marchetta & the "Tashi" series by A & B Fienberg (Lithuanian)		\$8,900.00
Vihora International Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 -2006	QLD	\$9,500.00
Wakefield Press Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2005 -2006	SA	\$11,000.00
ZHAR Publishers	"Fire Fire" by Eva Sallis and "Dirt Music" by Tim Winton (Bulgarian translation)		\$7,000.00
Grants this Round: 27			\$240,660.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)
 Round Id: 14355 Closing Date: 15-MAR-2005

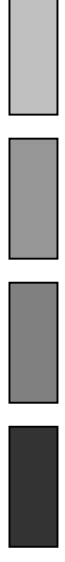
Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Adelaide Festival of the Arts	Towards fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers to participate in Adelaide Writers' Week	SA	\$50,000.00
Children's Book Council of Australia (WA) Inc	Towards fares, fees and expenses for James Roy to tour WA as part of Book Week 2005	WA	\$5,000.00
Editions Phebus	Towards fares, fees & expenses for Steven Carroll to participate in promotional activities in Europe		\$6,000.00
Feast Adelaide Lesbian & Gay Cultural Festival	Towards fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers to participate in the Feast Literary Program	SA	\$4,900.00
Fondation Les Forges Inc	Towards fares & expenses for Martin Langford to participate in Festival International de la Poesia		\$4,536.00
Fremantle Children's Literature Centre Inc	Towards fares, fees and expenses for Interstate Artists in Residence Program, 2005-2006	WA	\$20,000.00
Ipswich East State School	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in Ipswich Festival of Children's Literature	QLD	\$8,000.00
Just Us Theatre Ensemble	Towards expenses for Australian theatre professionals to participate in JUTE Playwrights' Conference	QLD	\$7,969.00
Kununurra Community Library (Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley)	Towards fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers to participate in Kimberley Writers Festival	WA	\$7,000.00
Maison Internationale de la Poesie asbl	Towards travel costs for John Kinsella to participate in the 24th International Biennial of Poetry		\$2,298.00
Melbourne Poets Union Inc.	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in Across the Margins Panel Discussion Forum	VIC	\$2,500.00
Melbourne Writers' Festival Inc	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in The Age Melbourne Writers' Festival	VIC	\$25,000.00
NT Writers' Centre Inc	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in WordStorm and the NT Writers' Train	NT	\$30,000.00
New Zealand International Festival of the Arts	Towards expenses for Helen Garner to participate in 2006 Writers' and Readers' Week		\$3,464.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)
 Round Id: 14355 Closing Date: 15-MAR-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Poets Union Incorporated-NSW	Towards fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers to participate in Poetry Week activities	NSW	\$5,000.00
Tasmanian Poetry Festival Incorporated	Towards fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers to participate in Tasmanian Poetry Festival	TAS	\$2,500.00
The Big Book Inc	Towards expenses for 6 Australian writers to participate in Big Book Club events in South Australia	SA	\$10,000.00
Vancouver International Writers Festival	Towards expenses for Larissa Behrendt to participate in three Canadian literature festivals in 2005	BC	\$4,500.00
Watermark Literary Society	Towards fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers to participate in Watermark Literary Muster	NSW	\$7,500.00
Yayasan Saraswati (Saraswati Foundation for the Arts)	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in Ubud Writers and Readers Festival	BALI	\$7,000.00
Grants this Round: 20			\$213,167.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - INDIVIDUALS
 Round Id: 14357 Closing Date: 15-MAR-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Brennan, Michael	Six-month residency at the Keesing Studio, Paris, 1 August 2006 - 31 January 2007		\$16,000.00
Ellis, Benjamin	Six-month residency at the Keesing Studio, Paris, 1 February - 31 July 2006	VIC	\$15,000.00
Hyland, Maria	Six-month residency at the BR Whiting Library, Rome, 1 August 2006 - 31 January 2007	VIC	\$15,000.00
Compton, Jennifer	Six-month residency at the BR Whiting Library, Rome, 1 February - 31 July 2006	NSW	\$16,000.00
Neal, Robbi	Two-month residency at Ledig House International Writers' Colony, Omi, New York, 2006	VIC	\$3,000.00
Sell, Penelope	Six-week residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Ireland, between May and September 2006	VIC	\$4,000.00
Tolhurst, Hugh	Three-month residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, 1 April - 30 June 2006	VIC	\$10,000.00
Vu, Chi	Six-week residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Ireland, between May and September 2006	VIC	\$4,000.00
Grants this Round: 8			\$83,000
Total Grants: 55			\$536,827.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 YOUNG AND EMERGING ARTISTS
 Round Id: 14369 Closing Date: 15-DEC-2004

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
ACT Writers Centre Inc	Mentorship program for one ACT writer	ACT	\$1,500.00
Australian National Playwrights Centre Inc	'In the Hot Spot' mentorship program for two young and emerging playwrights	NSW	\$8,000.00
Express Media Inc	National mentorship program for four young and emerging writers	VIC	\$9,500.00
Fantastic Queensland Inc	Mentorship program for one Queensland writer of speculative fiction	QLD	\$5,000.00
Griffith University	Mentorship program for editor, Marni Cordell, with the Griffith REVIEW	QLD	\$7,500.00
Just Us Theatre Ensemble	'Enter Stage Write' playwright development program for young and emerging Indigenous writers	QLD	\$13,000.00
May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust	Mentorship program for a regional children's writer and a South Australian children's illustrator	SA	\$10,000.00
NT Writers' Centre Inc	Mentorship program for one young and emerging NT writer with Voiceworks magazine	NT	\$4,000.00
Platform Youth Theatre Inc	Mentorship program for two young and emerging playwrights	VIC	\$8,000.00
Poets Union Incorporated-NSW	One Fellowship for a young and emerging poet	NSW	\$5,000.00
The Australian Society of Authors Limited	Mentorship program for young and emerging writers and illustrators, including two Indigenous writers	NSW	\$9,000.00
The Eleanor Dark Foundation Ltd	'Longlines Under 30' mentorship program for young and emerging writers	NSW	\$8,400.00
Grants this Round: 12		Amount Approved:	\$88,900.00
Total Grants: 12		Total Amount Approved:	\$88,900.00



