



## ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



### Literature Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE  
01 October 2006

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL  
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# ABOUT THIS REPORT

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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC DISCUSSION UNTIL 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006

## November 2006

This report provides a context to the assessment of applications submitted to the Literature Board on 1 October 2006. 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 **23-24 November 2006**. Applications were assessed in the Presentation and Promotion, Program, and Skills and Arts Development (Organisations) categories.

## ATTENDANCE

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There are currently seven 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



## ABOUT THIS REPORT

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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.

**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*.

**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.

For this meeting the Board was assisted by **2 Participating Advisers** –

- Stephen House, playwright (SA)
- Mark Macleod, freelance editor, author, past children's publishing editor at Random House (NSW)

The following Literature staff attended this meeting:

Josie Emery	Director
Jill Jones	Program Manager
Nicola Evans	Program Officer
Robyn Tooth	Assistant Program Officer
Brian Purcell	A/Assistant Program Officer
Leighton Elliot	Administrator
Helen Courtalis	Administrative Officer

The following Australia Council staff attended parts of this meeting:

- Ben Strout, Executive Director, Arts Development
- John Baylis, Director, Theatre
- Kurt Olofsson, Client Manager, Literature and Music, Key Organisations
- Margaret Burke, Community Partnerships and Market Development



## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

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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, overseas publication of Australian titles including translations into a number of languages, and professional development programs for writers in a number of literary genres.

The meeting was held over two days. Applications from a number of overseas publishers were a highlight of this meeting, in particular the translation of a number of literary titles into languages such as Swedish, Portuguese, Serbian, Macedonian, Slovenian and Chinese. The Board also welcomed applications from publishers taking Australian titles into English speaking markets in the USA. 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.

Overseas publishers compete for limited funding with emerging and developing Australian literary magazines and this makes for some difficult choices. The Board was also pleased to fund new applicants *Wet Ink* and *The Griffith Review*, two Australian literary magazines with excellent production values and focused marketing plans.

The Board continues to support the major literary festivals along with many smaller, regional festivals. The Board was also pleased to again support two young and emerging writers' festivals – the Newcastle Young Writers' Festival and the Emerging Writers' Festival, both organised by and for young people.

It was also pleased to be able to provide ongoing support to nine established literary magazines which form an essential platform of publication for Australian creative writing in all its vigour and diversity.

On behalf of the Literature Board I would like to congratulate successful applicants and to convey our best wishes to everyone into 2007.

**Imre Salusinszky**



# OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
PROGRAM GRANTS	9	9	100.0%	\$389,000	\$322,000
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)	34	24	70.6%	\$596,878	\$236,694
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)	26	21	80.8%	\$436,783	\$172,000
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - ORGANISATIONS	14	7	50.0%	\$309,798	\$74,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>61</b>		<b>\$1,732,459</b>	<b>\$805,294</b>



## **General**

- Overall, the Board was pleased with the quality of proposals to this grant round, although it noted that some applications were badly expressed so that it was difficult to assess the merits of the proposals. 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.

- In some cases, smaller than requested grants were awarded. In reaching their decisions about awarding lesser amounts, the Board took into account the applicant's scores against the selection criteria and the relative scale of proposed projects.

- The Board noted that a number of applications were based on requests for funding that appeared to be 'ambit' claims rather than realistic requests. The Board does not find such requests helpful when balancing the needs of the sector within its budget constraints. Applicants are encouraged to provide more details in their budget and to consult past assessment reports (available on the Council's website: [www.ozco.gov.au](http://www.ozco.gov.au)) as a guide to the levels of funding the Board offers for various projects.

## **Literary festivals**

The Board reiterated its preference for festivals that provide promotional opportunities for literary writers as opposed to celebrities and non-literary authors and for festivals that place a greater focus on attracting younger audiences as well as including more young and emerging writers in their programs. It noted that it would prefer festival programs to make more use of their featured writers and, overall, to take more risks rather than rely on old formulas for their programs.

## **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.

## **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.



## MAJOR CHANGES TO SKILLS & ARTS DEVELOPMENT 2007

The Literature Board has decided to change the focus for its **Skills and Arts Development category**.

The Board wishes to concentrate on providing for supportive time and space, through residential or studio facilities, for **individual writers**.

Therefore, the Board will no longer be calling for applications from organisations for mentorships, masterclasses, workshops and similar programs through the Skills and Arts Development category, which is normally assessed at the November meeting.

From 2007, individual writers may either apply for the Board's established overseas residencies or for a self-organised Australian or overseas studio residency.

**There will now be only one closing date for the Skills and Arts Development category. In 2007 this will be 15 March.**

The Board has also decided that, from 2007, individual applicants may only place one application each year to the New Work, Fellowships, or Skills and Arts Development categories.

## SUPPORTING SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT

A new national organisation to develop Australian writing for performance - **PlayWriting Australia** - has been created to drive the development, advocacy and diversity of Australian drama and facilitate a national conversation about writing for performance.

**PlayWriting Australia** is supported by \$330,000 in annual funding from the Australia Council for the Arts, including funding from the Literature Board, with additional support from ArtsNSW. Performing Lines is initially managing the establishment of the new organisation. A reinvigorated national playwrights conference will continue, with the next event in Canberra in July 2007.

**PlayWriting Australia** was created with cooperation between the Australian National Playwrights Centre and Playworks. Their resources have been pooled to create the new organisation.

## THE FUTURE HAS BEGUN

The Literature Board's innovative initiative, **The Story of the Future**, has commenced, with successful seminars held in Melbourne and Sydney in November 2006, delivered by a team of Australian and international experts. A seminar will also be held in Adelaide early in 2007.

**The Story Of The Future** is a partnership with the Australian Film and Television School's Digital Media Department. It will allow writers to develop skills and projects to take their work to a commercially viable level.

**The Story of the Future** will also include an industry seminar for publishers, one-day project development workshops and a five-day residential workshop to further develop projects, all scheduled for the first half of 2007.



# 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: 14738 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2006

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
ASA Editores S.A.	Translation/publication of Taming the Beast by E. Maguire & Twilight of Love by R. Dessaix	O/S	\$15,000.00
Ambo Anthos uitgevers	Translation/publication of The Unknown Terrorist by R. Flanagan & The Secret River by K. Grenville	O/S	\$15,000.00
Angelo Loukakis Pty Limited	Fees for contributors published in the Australian Author in 2007	NSW	\$7,000.00
Chongqing Publishing House	To translate and publish "Journey to the Stone Country" by Alex Miller (Chinese)	O/S	\$4,000.00
Cordite Press Inc	Cordite Poetry Review 2007	VIC	\$5,700.00
Cultural Institution 'Blesok'	To translate and publish "The French Mathematician" by Tom Petsinis (Macedonian)	O/S	\$5,000.00
Dalkey Archive Press	Special Australian issue of the Review of Contemporary Fiction	O/S	\$4,000.00
Damm Forlag AB	To translate and publish "Monster Blood Tattoo. Book 1 The Foundling" by DM Cornish (Swedish)	O/S	\$7,500.00
Ediciones Maeva	To translate and publish "Dark Mirror" & "Blade of Fortiu" by Juliet Marillier (Spanish)	O/S	\$12,000.00
Europa Editions Inc	To publish "Fresh Fields" by Peter Kocan (English)	O/S	\$4,000.00
Going Down Swinging Inc	Going Down Swinging 2007	VIC	\$7,000.00
Griffith University (School of Arts Media & Culture)	Towards fees for contributors published in the Griffith Review in 2007	QLD	\$19,500.00
Il Nuovo Melangolo SRL	To translate and publish "The Philosopher's Dog" by Raimond Gaita (Italian)	O/S	\$5,000.00
Laguna DOO	Translation and publication of "Exotic Pleasures" by Peter Carey (Serbian)	O/S	\$4,800.00
Like Publishing Ltd	To translate and publish "In My Skin: A Memoir" by Kate Holden (Finnish)	O/S	\$5,000.00
MISH Janez Mis s.p. Publishing House	To translate and publish "My Place" by S. Morgan and "Saving Francesca" by M.Marcchetta (Slovenian)	O/S	\$15,000.00



# GRANTS LIST

Literature Board  
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)  
Round Id: 14738 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2006

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
McCarthy & Ellis Literary Agency Pty Ltd (In trust for the Strasser Family Trust)	Towards fees for contributors published in Aurealis in 2007	VIC	\$6,000.00
Perseus Publishing House	To translate and publish "The True History of the Kelly Gang" by Peter Carey (Bulgarian)	O/S	\$5,000.00
Reading Time	Reading Time 2007	NSW	\$10,000.00
Verlag Friedrich Oetinger GmbH	To translate & publish "The Whole Business with Kiffo & the Pitbull" by Barry Jonsberg (German)	O/S	\$5,000.00
Wet Ink	Wet Ink 2007	SA	\$10,500.00
<b>Grants this Round: 21</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$172,000.00</b>



# GRANTS LIST

Literature Board  
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)  
Round Id: 14739 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2006

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
ACT Writers Centre Inc	Fares, Fees & Expenses for Australian writers to participate in Canberra Readers & Writers Festival	ACT	\$5,000.00
Associazione Culturale Embrio	Towards expenses for three Australian writers to participate in 'Embrio Live Literature', Rome 2007	O/S	\$6,000.00
Auckland Writers & Readers Festival	Towards expenses for Tim Winton and Kate Grenville to participate in Auckland Writers & Readers Festival	O/S	\$6,344.00
Children's Book Council of Australia (WA) Inc	Towards expenses for Doug MacLeod to participate in Children's Book Week activities/functions	WA	\$5,000.00
Emerging Writers' Festival Inc	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2007 Emerging Writers' Festival	VIC	\$5,000.00
Festival Franco-Anglais De Poesie	Towards expenses for Martin Harrison to participate in the 30th Festival Franco-Anglais De Poesie	O/S	\$5,000.00
Hong Kong International Literary Festival Ltd	Towards expenses for C Vaite and A O'Connor to participate in the Hong Kong & Shanghai International Literary Festivals	O/S	\$4,000.00
Kununurra Community Library	Towards Fares, Fees and Expenses for Australian writers to participate in The Kimberley Writers Festival	WA	\$7,500.00
Melbourne Poets Union Inc.	Towards fees and expenses for four Australian poets to participate in the Lost & Found workshops and readings	VIC	\$3,000.00
Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival Incorporated	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2007 Mildura Writers' Festival	VIC	\$12,500.00
NT Writers' Centre Inc	Towards Fares, Fees and Expenses for Australian writers to participate in Eye of the Storm Festival	NT	\$10,000.00
Northern Rivers Writers' Centre	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2007 Byron Bay Writers' Festival	NSW	\$17,500.00
Octapod Association Inc	Towards Fares, Fees and Expenses to stage the National Young Writers Festival in Newcastle 2007	NSW	\$17,500.00
Perth International Arts Festival (t/u University of WA)	Towards Fares, Fees and Expenses for Australian writers to participate in Writer's Week at Perth International Arts Festival	WA	\$12,500.00



# GRANTS LIST

Literature Board  
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)  
Round Id: 14739 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2006

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Poetry Australia Foundation Inc	Towards fares, fees & expenses for Australian writers to participate in the Kolkata Book Fair, India	VIC	\$8,000.00
Radio Adelaide (t/u University of Adelaide)	Towards writers' and producer's fees and podcast costs for the 2007 series of 'Writers Radio'	SA	\$7,500.00
Sleepers Publishing	Towards Fares, Fees and Expenses for Australian writers to participate in Sleepers Salon 2007	VIC	\$5,000.00
Somerset College LTD	Towards Fares, Fees and Expenses for Australian writers to participate in the Somerset Writer's Festival	QLD	\$5,000.00
State Library of Victoria	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the CYL's 2007 program including Reading Matters	VIC	\$32,000.00
Sydney Writers' Festival Ltd	Towards Fares, Fees & Expenses for Australian writers participating in the 2007 Sydney Writers' Festival	NSW	\$20,000.00
The Big Book Club Inc	Towards Expenses for six Australian writers to participate in BBC events in SA & Qld, Jan-Jun 2007	SA	\$7,500.00
University of Melbourne through Asialink Centre	Fares,fees, expenses for Aust. writers/publishers to participate in Taipei Int'l Book Exhibition	VIC	\$16,500.00
Watermark Literary Society	Towards Fares, Fees and Expenses for Australian writers to participate in Watermark Literary Muster	NSW	\$7,500.00
Wordfest: Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival	Fares, Fees & Expenses for Celestine Hitiura Vaite & Roger McDonald to participate in WordFest 2007	O/S	\$10,850.00
<b>Grants this Round: 24</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$236,694.00</b>



# GRANTS LIST

Literature Board  
PROGRAM GRANTS  
Round Id: 14740 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2006

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Australian Book Review Inc	Publication of ten issues of Australian Book Review in 2007	VIC	\$100,000.00
English Association Sydney Inc	Southerly 2007	NSW	\$20,000.00
Express Media Inc	Voiceworks 2007	VIC	\$12,000.00
Giramondo Publishing Company Pty Ltd	Publication of three issues of Heat Magazine in 2007	NSW	\$40,000.00
Hecate Press Pty Ltd	Hecate 2007	QLD	\$6,500.00
Island Magazine Incorporated	Publication of four issues of Island in 2007	TAS	\$28,500.00
Meanjin Company Limited	Publication of four issues of Meanjin in 2007	VIC	\$35,000.00
Overland Magazine	Overland 2007	VIC	\$50,000.00
Quadrant Magazine Co Inc	Towards fees for literary contributors published in Quadrant in 2007	NSW	\$30,000.00
<b>Grants this Round: 9</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$322,000.00</b>



# GRANTS LIST

Literature Board  
 SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - ORGANISATIONS  
 Round Id: 14741 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2006

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Five Islands Press Pty Ltd	Wollongong poetry workshop 11-18 January 2007	VIC	\$12,000.00
Fremantle Children's Literature Centre Inc	Towards professional development seminars for authors & illustrators of children's/young adult books	WA	\$20,000.00
IHOS Opera	National workshop on writing libretto conducted by Willem Bruls	TAS	\$5,000.00
Interplay	Towards fees & expenses for Festival Director & Australian tutors at 2007 World Interplay Festival	QLD	\$15,000.00
National Institute of Dramatic Art	Towards 2007 Playwright's Studio for six selected new or emerging playwrights	NSW	\$4,600.00
Tasmanian Writers' Centre Inc	Towards expenses for mentorships, workshops and residencies for Australian writers	TAS	\$8,000.00
writingWA Inc	Towards cost of illustration workshops in Broome & Perth focusing on Indigenous artists/illustrators	WA	\$10,000.00
<b>Grants this Round: 7</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$74,600.00</b>
<b>Total Grants: 61</b>		<b>Total Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$805,294.00</b>

