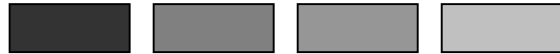


ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



LITERATURE BOARD

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 March 2004



Australian Government



AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 2 JULY 2004

ABOUT THIS REPORT

June 2004

This report provides a context to the assessment of applications submitted to the Literature Board on 15 March 2004. 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 **10 - 11 June 2004**. Applications were assessed in the Presentation and Promotion categories.

ATTENDANCE

All seven Board members attended the meeting. The membership of the Literature Board at the time of the meeting was as follows:

(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*, was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award (2004).

Judith Beveridge (NSW) has been writing poetry since 1974 and is highly respected nationally and internationally. She has published two volumes of poetry which have won between them, the Dame Mary Gilmore Award, the NSW and Victorian Premiers' Awards and the Wesley Michel Wright Award. Her poetry has been translated into many languages and has been studied as part of the NSW high school syllabus. Her most recent work is *Wolf Notes*.

Andrew Bovell (SA) writes for the stage and screen. His plays have been produced throughout Australia and in England, Ireland, New Zealand and Bulgaria. His numerous stage credits include *Who's Afraid of the Working Class*, *Confidentially Yours* and *Distant Lights from Distant Places*. He also wrote the screenplay for the highly acclaimed film, *Lantana*, based on his award-winning play, *Speaking in Tongues*.

John Emery (NSW) has published four novels and also written a number of screenplays, working with such directors as Philip Noyce and Scott Hicks. He has served as chair of Adelaide Writers' Week and the South Australian Writers' Centre and has also taught literature, film studies and creative writing at all of South Australia's major tertiary institutions. John is co-Head of Scriptwriting at the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

(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 in the north east of England and grew up in the town 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** –

Rowena Lennox, freelance editor and writer
Marcus Westbury, Artistic Director, Next Wave Festival

The following Literature staff attended this meeting:

Jill Jones	Manager
Nicola Evans	Senior Program Officer
Priscilla Gundelach	Program Officer
Virginia Fay	Program Officer
Jane Gillespie	Assistant Program Officer
Maggie Joel	Administrator
Robyn Tooth	LOTE Coordinator
Rebecca Geach	Administrative Officer
Peter Volich	Administrative Officer

Note: Literature Board Manager, Gail Cork, is currently acting as Manager, Music Board. Due to this move, some Literature staff are currently acting in higher roles, which are reflected in the above list.

The following Australia Council staff attended parts of this meeting –

Gail Cork, Acting Manager, Music Board
Ben Strout, Executive Director, Arts Development
Kim Hanna, Senior Program Officer, Theatre
Margaret Burke, Books Alive



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

This Board meeting was mainly concerned with funding decisions for Australian and overseas publishers and festivals and other promotional events. During our discussion of applications a number of important issues were raised.

While we continue to support the publication of Australian writers overseas, and the Board receives increased numbers of applications from overseas publishers to every grant round, we are especially supportive of publishers with a proven and demonstrated commitment to publishing Australian literature. We encourage applications from publishers interested in building a list of Australian writing, and in all literary genres.

In addition to this, we have decided to seek further information from overseas publishers on the performance of Australian writing overseas in relation to sales and readership of subsidised books. This will help us to assess more readily the effectiveness of such publishing ventures in promoting Australian titles and Australian literature in general in overseas markets.

For Australian publishers, the Board is now moving towards supporting the publication of specific titles on a publisher's list, rather than funding an entire program. This will ensure that the not-so-commercially viable titles will be published. This funding makes a great difference to the smaller independent publishers who rely on this funding to publish a book.

In relation to the promotion of Australian writers overseas, the Board continues to support writers to travel overseas to attend festivals, conferences, readings and launches where there is a strong commitment on behalf of the publisher or host organisation to promoting the writer.

In considering its support for Australian literary festivals, the Board again noted that the increasing number of smaller festivals, both regional and niche, seeking assistance has necessitated a slight scaling back in some grants to larger festivals. This has enabled three innovative projects to be supported in this grant round: The Red Room Company Ltd for the creation of original Australian poetry online and through CD/radio; the Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism Association Inc for Australian writers to participate in the Two Fires/Judith Wright Festival of Arts in Braidwood NSW in March 2005; and to Yayasan Seni Saraswati, for Australian writers to participate in Ubud Writers' and Readers' Festival, Bali, in October 2004.

This Board meeting marked the completion of the terms of Judith Beveridge and John Emery. Judith has served on the Board for three years and John has served as Deputy Chair for four years. Both members have been highly enthusiastic supporters of Australian writers and in the advancement of Australian writing both here and overseas. Judith and John have brought a real breadth and depth of knowledge, empathy and appreciation, which was of invaluable assistance to the Board in its deliberations over the past three years. We wish Judith and John well in their future endeavours.

Peter Goldsworthy



OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
Presentation & Promotion (Presentation)	45	30	66.6%	\$623,722.49	\$256,100.00
Presentation & Promotion (Promotion)	23	16	69%	\$316,433.00	\$155,976.00
Totals	68	46	67.6%	\$940,155.49	\$412,076.00

A full list of approved grants is attached.



FEEDBACK

- **General.** Overall, the Board was pleased with the quality of applications to this grant round. As ever, the challenge was to spread the available funds as widely and equitably as possible across the wide 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 budget constraints.
 - **Festivals.** The Board welcomes the diversity of festivals and other literary events emerging around the country, particularly those in regional Australia.
 - The Board was especially pleased to support well-thought out and quality activities for children and young adults in regional areas.
 - The Board welcomes a broad representation of literary genres on major festival programs and encourages festivals to think about new ways in which they can incorporate less commercially viable members of the writing community, including small independent publishers, into their programs.
 - The Board reiterated its preference for festivals that provide opportunities for robust critical debate and the exchange of ideas. The Board encourages festivals to be more adventurous and intellectually rigorous in their programming.
 - The Board would like festival organisers to be much clearer in their applications about how their specific event makes a significant contribution to Australian literary culture.
- **Overseas promotion.** The Board considers its support of the promotion of Australian writers overseas as an important aspect of its programs and the quality of many applications was high this year. However, some applications still did not satisfy the Board that the 'reach' of the promotional activity represented the best value for money in extending the readership of Australian writers in different world markets.
 - **Publishing.** This year the Board requested Australian publishers to submit manuscript samples or a reader's report for each title in their application. This extra information enabled the Board to make a more informed decision on the literary merit of each title and, in particular, to which titles it would prefer its funding to be directed. As there was a slight increase in the number of applications from Australian publishers, and in the number of titles seeking assistance, the Board was particularly concerned to direct its publishing subsidies to high quality literary titles.
 - **Overseas Publishers** As the number of applications from overseas book publishers continues to increase, the Board intends in future to seek more information from overseas publishers on sales figures of supported Australian titles, distribution arrangements and promotion/marketing plans for titles.



PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

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 were again offered for 2004. The programs, offered concurrently but with different aims, were assessed by the Board in separate teleconferences in March and April.

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 2004 is available on the Australia Council website.

Young and Emerging Writers 2004

The Young and Emerging Writers' Initiative is offered via invitation to organisations providing mentorships or similar development programs, or presentation and promotion activities for young and emerging writers.

This year, there were 26 submissions and, of these, 13 were funded. The majority were for mentorships run by professional organisations. While still generally supporting the concept of mentorships, the Board preferred to support more innovative proposals where the focus was quality, rather than the size of the mentorship program. A list of funded applicants is attached to this report.

Promotional initiative in regional Queensland

In partnership with Arts Queensland, the Literature Board has agreed to support a promotional campaign to showcase outstanding books and writers from Tropical Queensland. A consultancy brief is currently being prepared. The promotion will involve regional tours and will forge partnerships with key regional stakeholders and sponsors.

Asialink Touring Program

With tours planned to China, Taiwan, India and Japan in the second year of this successful touring program, Asialink continues to work closely with the Australia Council to make the best opportunities for touring writers. Titles by Sonya Hartnett and Raimond Gaita will be published in China to coincide with their visit to the country in August.

India Publishing Project

The Board's publishing initiative with an Indian publisher will see the publication of three titles by Australian writers in India in November 2004. This project is being developed in conjunction with the Asialink Literature Touring Program which is jointly funded by the Literature Board and Audience & Market Development Division of Council.

Residential Editorial Program

The Board was very pleased with the resounding success of the third biennial Residential Editorial Program (REP), held in late March/early April. The program aims to identify and develop the professional skills of good editors, raise their profile in the literary community, and enhance their abilities to foster literary talent whilst working within their publisher's business expectations. This report will also be available on the Australia Council's website. The Board has agreed to fund the next REP in 2006.

Rough Magic Theatre Company, Dublin

In partnership with the Australia Council's Theatre Board, the Literature Board has agreed to support an initiative with the Rough Magic Theatre Company, one of Ireland's leading contemporary theatre companies, which will see a series of staged readings of three Australian plays presented during the Dublin Fringe in 2004. This is an opportunity to promote Australian plays overseas as well as to build up an international understanding of Australian writing for the theatre.



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

A letter notifying you of the decision will be posted to you 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 offering you a grant. This letter of agreement 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.*



APPROVED GRANT LIST
 Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)
 Grant Round Id : 13909 Closing Date : 15-MAR-2004

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Allen & Unwin Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	NSW	\$4,000.00
Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	ACT	\$8,000.00
Australian Scholarly Publishing Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	VIC	\$4,000.00
Brandl and Schlesinger Pty Limited	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	NSW	\$6,500.00
Cicero Konyvstudio Kft	'Goat Boy' by Peter McFarlane & '48 Shades of Brown' by Nick Earls (Hungarian translation)	O/S	\$12,000.00
Crossing Press t/u JGM Group Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	NSW	\$6,000.00
Currency Press Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	NSW	\$10,000.00
De Bezige Bij	"Seven Types of Ambiguity" by Elliot Perlman (Dutch translation)	O/S	\$8,000.00
Ediciones SAFO	Talking to Neruda's Question' by MTC Cronin (Spanish/English edition)	O/S	\$7,300.00
Editions Nota bene (Alto)	Miles McGinty' by Tom Gilling (French translation).	O/S	\$6,000.00
Editions Payot & Rivages	'Cloudstreet' by Tim Winton (French translation).	O/S	\$10,000.00
Edizioni Frassinelli	Fly Away Peter' by David Malouf (Italian translation)	O/S	\$4,500.00
Five Islands Press Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	NSW	\$12,500.00
Fremantle Arts Centre Press	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	WA	\$16,000.00
Gail Patricia Hannah trading as Black Pepper	Book Publishing Grant 2004 - 2005	VIC	\$5,000.00
Giramondo Publishing Company Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	NSW	\$13,000.00
Institute for Aboriginal Development Inc	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	NT	\$10,000.00
Island Press Co-operative Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	NSW	\$5,000.00



APPROVED GRANT LIST
Literature Board

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Le Fil Invisible (Editions)	Lilian's Story' by Kate Grenville (French translation)	O/S	\$8,000.00
Lettre International GMBH	Translation & publication of D. Malouf's Boyer Lecture series in German journal Lettre International	O/S	\$2,200.00
Lythrum Press	Book Publishing Grant 2004 -2005	SA	\$6,500.00
MISH Janez Mis s.p. Publishing House	'Unreal' and ' Unbearable' by Paul Jennings (Slovenian translation)	O/S	\$6,000.00
Owl Publishing	Book Publishing Grant 2004 -2005	VIC	\$6,500.00
Penguin Books Australia Limited t/u Pearson Australia Group Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	VIC	\$8,000.00
Playlab Inc	Book Publishing Grant 2004 -2005	QLD	\$4,000.00
RBA Libros S.A	'Sabriel' by Garth Nix (Spanish & Catalan translations)	O/S	\$8,500.00
S.C. Humanitas S.A.	Remembering Babylon' by David Malouf (Romanian translation)	O/S	\$6,600.00
The Text Publishing Company Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	VIC	\$20,000.00
University of Queensland Press	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	QLD	\$20,000.00
Wakefield Press Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2004-2005	SA	\$12,000.00
Total No. of Grants: 30			Total Amount Approved: \$256,100.00



APPROVED GRANT LIST
Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)
Grant Round Id : 13910 Closing Date : 15-MAR-2004

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Arc Publications UK	Towards travel costs & allowances for Anthony Lawrence to promote Arc publication of Selected	O/S	\$3,813.00
Australian Festival for Young People Inc	Towards travel costs, fees & allowances for writers to participate in Regional & Metro Allwrite!	SA	\$25,000.00
Brisbane Writers Festival Association Inc.	Towards travel costs, fees & allowances for Aust. writers to participate in 2004 BWF	QLD	\$25,000.00
Carl Hanser Verlag	Towards airfare and accommodation for Margaret Wild to attend Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2004	O/S	\$3,000.00
Children's Book Council of Australia (WA)	Towards travel costs, fees & allowances for Leonie Norrington to tour regional & metropolitan WA	WA	\$8,450.00
Fremantle Children's Literature Centre Inc	Towards travel costs, fees & allowances for the Interstate-Artists-in-Residence program '04-'05	WA	\$20,000.00
Hong Kong International Literary Festival Ltd	Towards travel costs & allowances for two writers to participate in HK Inational Literary Fest.	O/S	\$5,450.00
Just Us Theatre Ensemble	Towards travel costs, fees & allowances for theatre professionals to attend JUTE Playwrights' Conf.	QLD	\$7,263.00
Lange Hill Marketing Pty Ltd	Towards travel expenses for 5 writers to participate in Big Book Club events in regional & metro SA	SA	\$4,800.00
Melbourne Writers' Festival Inc	Towards travel costs, fees & allowances for Australian writers to participate in 2004 MWF	VIC	\$25,000.00
Poets Union Incorporated	Towards travel costs & fees for Australian poets to participate in Sydney Poetry Network events	NSW	\$5,000.00
Projectes Poetics Sense Titol - Propost	Towards travel costs and allowances only for Amanda Stewart to participate in the Proposta Festival	O/S	\$4,200.00
The Red Room Company Ltd	Towards writers' fees only for the creation & promotion of original Australian poetry online & radio	NSW	\$5,000.00
Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism Association Inc	Towards travel costs, fees & allowances for writers to attend Two Fires/Judith Wright Festival	VIC	\$5,000.00
W W Norton and Company Incorporated	Towards travel costs/allowances for Christine Balint to promote her novel, Ophelia's Fan, in the US	O/S	\$4,000.00



APPROVED GRANT LIST
Literature Board

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Yayasan Seni Saraswati	Towards travel costs, fees & allowances for Aust. writers to attend Ubud Writers & Readers Festival	O/S	\$5,000.00
Total No. of Grants: 16		Total Amount Approved:	\$155,976.00



APPROVED GRANT LIST

Literature Board

YOUNG AND EMERGING ARTISTS

Grant Round Id : 13934 Closing Date : 13-FEB-2004

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Australian Festival for Young People Inc	Hip Hop Monologues	SA	\$10,000.00
Australian National Playwrights Centre Incorporated	In the Hot Spot - Four mentorships for young and emerging playwrights	NSW	\$10,000.00
Australian Society of Authors Ltd (The)	Nine mentorships for young and emerging writers and picture book illustrators.	NSW	\$9,000.00
Australian Writers Guild Ltd	Mentorship program for five young and emerging theatre writers	NSW	\$6,000.00
Express Media Inc	2004 National Mentorship Program for six young writers	VIC	\$10,000.00
F.D.E. Pty Ltd (t/a Spinach 7)	To promote Spinach 7 and to create a database of young and emerging writers	VIC	\$8,000.00
Griffin Theatre Company Limited	Mentorships and professional development for five young and emerging playwrights	NSW	\$12,000.00
NT Writers' Centre Inc	Mentorship program for eight young and emerging NT writers	NT	\$7,500.00
Poets Union Incorporated	2004 Young Poets Fellowships	NSW	\$6,150.00
Queensland Writers Centre Association Inc	Residential Mentorship for four emerging writers	QLD	\$9,000.00
Sydney Theatre Company Limited	Blueprints Writers' Assembly for young and emerging writers	NSW	\$12,000.00
The Eleanor Dark Foundation Ltd	Varuna Firsts - Editorial mentoring and publication of two new books by young/emerging writers	NSW	\$10,000.00
Victorian Writers' Centre Inc	Mentorship program for young and emerging writers and a Publishing Forum.	VIC	\$9,000.00
Total No. of Grants: 13		Total Amount Approved:	\$118,650.00

