



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



LITERATURE BOARD

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 March 2002

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2002

ABOUT THIS REPORT

June 2002

This report provides a context to the assessment of applications submitted to the Literature Board on 15 March 2002. 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 **6-7 June 2002**. Applications were assessed in the Presentation and Promotion category.

ATTENDANCE

All seven Board members were able to attend 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).

(Professor) Philip Ayres (Deputy Chair) (Vic) is the Board's community representative. Associate Professor of English at Monash University, he has taught in several universities and is published widely on the subject of English literature and culture. His published works also include biographies of Malcom Fraser and Douglas Mawson.

Connie Gregory (Vic) is a freelance writer/editor with an extensive background in public relations, marketing and project management. In the Northern Territory from 1983-95, she worked hard to promote writers and literature, acting as representative for the Australian Society of Authors, judge of several literary awards and editor and board member of the liberal arts journal, *Northern Perspective*. She currently lives in Melbourne.

Robyn Sheahan-Bright (Qld) is a freelance writing and publishing consultant whose experience covers a wide range of literary activities including publishing, writing, editing, lecturing, manuscript appraisal and project management. In particular, Robyn has researched and written extensively on children's literature. Her many previous positions include director of Queensland Writers' Centre, founding director of Jam Roll Press, chair of the Writing Assessment Panel, Arts Queensland, vice-chair and board member of Brisbane Writers' Festival and president of the Children's Book Council Queensland Branch.

John Emery (SA) 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. He currently lives in Adelaide where he lectures part-time in media, sociology and literature.

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.

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*.



For this meeting the Board was assisted by one **Participating Adviser** –

John Collins (Tas) with expertise in publishing, festivals and other literary events.

The following Literature staff attended this meeting:

Gail Cork	Manager
Jill Jones	Senior Program Officer
Nicola Evans	Program Officer
Priscilla Gundelach	Assistant Program Officer
Heidi Gregory/Maggie Joel	Administrator
Jane Gillespie	Administrative Assistant
Louise Godley	Administrative Assistant

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

My first grant round proved as challenging as every Board member had promised – but I was struck most by the exacting and exhaustive fairness of the process.

Many local publishing projects of outstanding merit were assessed and offered as much assistance as budget constraints would allow. The Board was particularly impressed by the poetry titles offered by several small presses, in a time when the major publishers have reduced their commitment to the 'senior' discipline. Also impressive and encouraging were the reprints of Australian classics planned by several presses.

The Board continues to back the major Australian literary festivals but the increasing number of smaller festivals, both regional and niche, seeking assistance has necessitated a slight scaling back in some larger grants.

There is, unfortunately, no other way to share the cake.

Several overseas publishing and promotional projects excited interest. Board members were enthusiastic about a range of poetry and fiction titles to be published in Europe and were especially supportive of the promotion of Australian drama and fiction in various Asian countries, an area which will continue to be encouraged.

Peter Goldsworthy



OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
PRESENTATION & PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)	31	21	67.7%	\$414,306	\$219,257
PRESENTATION & PROMOTION (PROMOTION)	24	15	62.5%	\$363,966	\$201,595
Total	55	36	65.5%	\$778,272	\$583,223

In addition to the above applications, the Board considered three submissions for funding of special projects and initiatives. All three submissions were funded, at a total cost of \$14,820.

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 evenly as possible across the wide range of activities proposed.
- 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 rich variety of festivals and other literary events emerging around the country, particularly those in regional Australia and those involving significant participation by young and emerging writers. In deciding which festivals to support and at what level, the Board found it necessary to reduce amounts to some festivals in order to spread available funds evenly across areas of competing priority. Applicants whose funding is slightly lower this year than last year should view this as a reflection not on the quality of their application but rather on the increasing pressures on the Board's limited budget.
- The Board would like to see more small, independent publishers and more poets represented, particularly in major festival programs.
- A lack of detail in some applications was noted. In the context of intense competition for funding, some applicants do themselves a disservice by not providing enough information to give the Board a clear picture of what is proposed.

- **Publishers** The Board commented on the generally high quality of publishers' lists of proposed titles, although it was noted that some lists seemed 'padded' in order to raise the number of titles to the maximum allowable. An increasing number of journalistic style works was noted in several lists. While acknowledging popular interest in this style of work, the Board would also like to encourage more substantial works of literary non-fiction.
- The Board was particularly impressed with the standard of poetry titles proposed at this grant round. The Board commends the achievement of smaller publishers in ensuring a continuing place for this commercially endangered genre in the Australian market
- Board members commented that publicity material is not particularly helpful as support material for proposed titles. More helpful, if available, are short excerpts of proposed works and/or copies of readers' reports.
- As a result of discussion arising from this grant round, the Board will consider reducing the maximum number of titles per application and increasing the level of subsidy per title at its next meeting in September.



PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

NEW LITERATURE BOARD PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

The Board is actively pursuing several collaborative projects which advance current priorities. They are;

Japanese publishing joint venture Literature Board: \$25,000

The Board has committed funds towards translation of three Australian crime fiction titles which will be published by the large Japanese publishing house, Bunjei Shunju. The Australian writers involved are Marele Day, Shane Maloney and Phil Doyle. Marketing and promotion of the Australian crime fiction series will be jointly supported by the Australia Council's Audience and Market Development Division, the Australia Japan Foundation and the Australian Embassy in Tokyo. Publication of the first title in the series is scheduled for later this year.

Asialink supported writer tours Literature Board: \$25,000 in Year 1

Since September 2001, the Literature Board, in collaboration with the Audience and Market Development Division, has been negotiating with Asialink to make a concerted push into the Asian literature market with a program of accompanied writer tours to targetted countries. In the first year of this three year program, selected writers will tour Korea, China and India. The tours are being planned to coincide with major bookfairs, festivals and other literary events. The aim is for these high impact tours to open new doors for Australian literature in the vast but traditionally difficult Asian book market.

Indigenous writers' and publishers' strategy

Literature Board: \$10,000

The Literature Board is supporting a strategy developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board (ATSIAB) to support the development of Indigenous writing and publishing. The Literature Board is jointly funding ATSIAB's residency program for Indigenous writers and publishers which will take place at Bundanon, NSW in August 2002. The program comprises three main components, namely,

- A week of masterclasses for selected writers
- Two industry fora looking at Indigenous and mainstream publishing, and
- A roundtable to discuss future directions for Indigenous literature.

Other Initiatives

June 14 was the closing date for submissions to the Board's *Write in your Face* program of grants to young writers. The Board is delighted to note that interest in the program has exceeded all expectations. Submissions are being reviewed and winners will be announced in late August.

Two further initiatives are in the early planning stages. The first is a collaborative project with New Media Arts Board, designed to develop and showcase excellence in writing for new media. The second involves translation into English and publication of the works of selected Australian writers in languages other than English. Further details will be reported later this year.



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 : 12278 Closing Date : 15-MAR-2002

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Allen and Unwin Australia Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2002 -2003	NSW	\$15,500.00
Biblioteka Telgte Wydawnictwo	Writers', editor/ translators' fees - Aust. Poetry Anthology ed. Shapcott (Polish-English)		\$5,000.00
Brandl and Schlesinger Pty Limited	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	NSW	\$7,500.00
Currency Press Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	NSW	\$17,500.00
Fazi Editore srl	"Cloudstreet" by Tim Winton (Italian translation)		\$8,950.00
Fine Art Publishing Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2002-2003	NSW	\$6,000.00
Five Islands Press Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2002-2003	NSW	\$15,000.00
Fremantle Arts Centre Press	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003 and two promotional author tours	WA	\$21,090.00
Gail Patricia Hannah trading as Black Pepper	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	VIC	\$7,000.00
Halstead Press Publishers Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	NSW	\$3,000.00
Houtekiet/Fontein Publishers	Publication of "Thursday's Child" by S. Hartnett; "Wolf on the Fold" by J.Clarke (Dutch translation)		\$7,217.00
Institute for Aboriginal Development Inc	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	NT	\$7,500.00
Interactive Publications (T/U David Philip Reiter)	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	QLD	\$3,000.00
Penguin Books Australia Limited	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	VIC	\$19,500.00
Pluto Press Australia (T/U Social Change Aus. P/L)	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	NSW	\$10,000.00
Random House Australia Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	NSW	\$3,000.00
Spinifex Press Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2002 -2003	VIC	\$8,000.00



APPROVED GRANT LIST

Literature Board

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Uitgeverij Atlas	Publication of "Too Many Men" by Lily Brett (Dutch Translation)		\$10,000.00
University of Queensland Press (T/U University of Queensland)	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	QLD	\$21,500.00
Vietnam Theatre Publishing House	Translator's fee, author's airfare - publication of "Salt" by P. Murray (Vietnamese Translation)		\$8,000.00
Wakefield Press Australia Pty Ltd	Book Publishing Grant 2002 - 2003	SA	\$15,000.00
		Total No. of Grants: 21	Total Amount Approved:
			\$219,257.00

APPROVED GRANT LIST
Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)
Grant Round Id : 12279 Closing Date : 15-MAR-2002

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Australian Festival for Young People Inc	Fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers participating in Allwrite! Literature Festival 2003	SA	\$25,000.00
Brisbane Writers Festival Association Inc.	Fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers participating in 2002 Brisbane Writers' Festival	QLD	\$30,000.00
Centre Contemporary Culture Barcelona	Fares, fees & expenses for 3 writers to attend the Kosmopolis International Festival of Literature		\$10,000.00
Fremantle Children's Literature Centre Inc	Fares, fees & expenses for Australian writers/illust participating in Interstate Residency Program	WA	\$25,000.00
International Shakespeare Globe Centre Ltd	Fares, fees and expenses for Alana Valentine to take up Artistic Fellowship at Globe Theatre		\$6,000.00
Just Us Theatre Ensemble	Towards fares, fees etc for theatre professionals participating in 2002 JUTE Playwrights' Conference	QLD	\$8,000.00
Melbourne Writers' Festival Inc	Fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers participating in Age Melbourne Writers' Festival	VIC	\$30,000.00
Octapod Association Inc	Fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers participating in National Young Writers' Festival	NSW	\$20,000.00
Poets Union Incorporated	Fares, fees & expenses for Australian poets participating in Sydney Poetry Network readings/seminars	NSW	\$5,000.00
Stichting Dichter aan huis	Fares, fees and expenses for Robert Gray to participate in Literair Paspoort 2002		\$4,595.00
Sydney 2002 Gay Games Ltd	Fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers participating in "Word is Out" 2002	NSW	\$10,000.00
Tasmanian Poetry Festival Incorporated	Fares, fees and expenses for Australian poets participating in 2002 Tasmanian Poetry Festival	TAS	\$2,000.00
Unionsverlag	Fares, fees and expenses for Garry Disher to tour Germany, Switzerland and Austria		\$7,500.00
University of Tasmania (School of English)	Fares, fees & expenses for Australian writers participating in TAS Readers' and Writers' Festival	TAS	\$16,000.00
Vancouver International Writers Festival	Fares, fees and expenses for Tim Flannery to participate in Vancouver International Writers Festival		\$2,500.00
	Total No. of Grants: 15	Total Amount Approved:	\$201,595.00

APPROVED GRANT LIST
Literature Board
OTHER INITIATIVES
Grant Round Id : 12398 Closing Date : 15-MAR-2002

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Art Omi International Arts Center	Residency for one Australian writer at Ledig House, New York	NY	\$10,000.00
Dymocks Sydney	Leasing of shop window space for 2 weeks to display titles published by independent imprints	NSW	\$2,750.00
The Cameron Creswell Agency Pty Ltd	One-off project assistance for Ruby Langford Ginibi	NSW	\$2,070.00
Total No. of Grants: 3		Total Amount Approved:	\$14,820.00

