



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

Patron: Jessica Dames AM



*Lainie Anderson (right) in conversation with Sandy Verschoor,
Special Fundraising Event, September 2024*

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Board Matters

IAF Chair's Report July 2023 - June 2024



The year 2023-2024 was a successful year of fundraising events. In addition to the regular film nights and literary dinners, we held several special events with the use of the Osmond Terrace Function Centre enabling us to accommodate large audiences. The room is carpeted and provides good acoustics, and a stage and sound system enable us to present musical events with professional lighting and sound.

Highlights included the Keith Conlon Trio performing to a full house of over 140 guests in July 2023. This musical event was so popular that we hope to invite the Trio back to entertain members on another occasion.

In September 2023, we hosted, *Life is a Cabaret*, organised with the assistance of Laurence Nobes who is himself a cabaret artist. His alter ego, Helga Handful, was Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening and performed several songs. Other performers included singers David Gauci, Alison Kimber, comedian Jax Grayson and lip-synching drag queen Crimsin.

We also held two special literary events over 2023-2024. The first was organised by Helen Onopko and Jill Argent, with Pip Williams, author of *One Summer in Italy*. The other was, *The Bookbinder of Jericho* and *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, in conversation with Sandy Vershoor. The format was extremely successful and will be considered for future special literary events.

Taking advantage of the potential for wide promotion, we held another literary event in May 2024 as part of History Month, featuring Dr Kiera Lindsey, author of *The Convict's Daughter* and *Wild Love: The Ambition of Adelaide Ironside, the first Australian Artist to Astonish the World*. This was designed to be Dr Lindsey in conversation with Professor Penny Edmonds but sadly Professor Edmonds contracted COVID-19 just a few days before. With little notice, Dr Lindsey was able to pivot and prepared a fascinating presentation.

In the lead up to Christmas 2023, Carol Maelzer and Mary Odlum organised a special movie event with a showing of *Napoleon* at the Regal Cinema and a meal afterwards at the Marryatville Hotel.

Thank you to all of the Board members and the other volunteers who have organised events and assisted in various ways throughout the year especially Cheryl Appelkamp, Marg Jude and Jill Argent.

I would also like to say a special thanks to Cheryl Appelkamp who, after many years as a Board member, had to step down after the AGM in November 2023 due to the six-year maximum term as a Board member, as determined by the IAF Constitution. Cheryl has in fact served many more years than this in two separate stints on the Board. She continues to organise and host the

literary dinners as a member volunteer, playing a key role in the delivery of our program of regular events.

Mary Odlum and Helen Onopko had also served more than six years and so initially were also to step down at the AGM in Nov 2023. However, the terms of the Constitution allowed for the six-year limit to be waived in 'exceptional circumstances'. The Board members unanimously agreed that this should be applied to both, as they were key position holders (Mary as Treasurer, and Helen as Secretary and Archivist). It should be noted, however, that after several years in these roles both Mary and Helen would welcome the opportunity to step down, if a new Treasurer and Secretary can be found.

In October 2023, the Board welcomed another new member, Merinda Edwards PhD. As Marketing and Development Manager and currently Interim CEO of Guildhouse, we looked forward to her applying her expertise to assist the Board with promoting and raising the profile of the IAF and its grants program. Merinda, Tracy Crisp and Josh White began that process and later submitted draft proposals for marketing and rebranding for the Board's consideration.

One of the key areas of work of the Board during the first half of 2024 was to draft out the IAF Strategic Plan in order to provide direction and basis for developing other policies and procedures including marketing, sponsorship and event planning and to assist the Board in reviewing the grants program. The Board held a planning meeting and then a team of three - Margaret Lynch, Josh White and Merinda Edwards - worked on initial drafts.

During the first few months of 2024, we had seven members out of a possible nine, but struggled to have a quorum for Board meetings for which five are required to attend in person or online. This meant that we could discuss matters but not pass any resolutions. In June 2024, Josh White, a Melbourne-based marketing specialist who joined the Board in mid-2023, resigned due to work and family pressures.

We ended the 2023-24 year, recognising that the Board must recruit more individuals so that we had a quorum for most meetings, to spread the workload, and to ensure that the IAF is a sustainable organisation that will grow in membership, audiences, funds raised, and grants disbursed. This was to be a priority for the start of the new financial year and the lead up to the 2024 AGM and gave us a clear plan to new Board members who could fill specific gaps in the skill set of the existing Board, particularly in areas such as marketing and communications, philanthropy, fundraising, and graphic design. For this reason, it was agreed that completion of the strategic plan should be paused until after the AGM to enable new Board members to be involved in that process and work together to set the future direction for the IAF.

Moira G. Simpson, PhD.
IAF Chair (2023-2024)

Board Changes 2023-2024

Prior to the AGM, held on Tuesday 22nd October 2024, three Board members, Josh White, Tracy Crisp (Secretary), and Carol Maelzer resigned. We thank them for their valuable contributions. Their absence however, reduced the Board to five members and we decided to seek not only new Board members, but those with skills to bolster the governance of the IAF. The Board was thrilled with the response and we are very happy to introduce you to our 2024-2025 Board members:

Board Members 2024-2025

Jane Angel (Chair)

Peter Burdon (Deputy Chair)

Mary Odium (Treasurer)

Helen Onopko (Archivist and Secretary)

Margaret Lynch (Chair of Grants Committee)

Felicity Ern 

Kathy Darling-Brookes

Merinda Edwards

Moira Simpson

Public Officer: John Holmes

Introducing new IAF Board Members



Jane Angel – Chair

Jane is currently CEO of a peak leadership body in a role that intersects the academic and cultural sectors; she has expertise in leading membership organisations, with significant experience in strategic leadership, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, project, resource and events management.



Peter Burdon – Deputy Chair

Peter is well known to the IAF from the SA Critics Circle and an enthusiastic supporter of the arts in all its forms. He is an arts researcher, writer and critic and brings to the Board strategy and vision, event planning, grant management, and valuable networks and connections to the arts community.



Felicity Ern  – Board Member

Felicity Ern  is an artist and educator and combines her love for visual arts with a strong focus on mental health and community support. She is passionate about making art something everyone can connect with and believes creativity has a place in everyone's life.



Kathy Darling-Brookes – Board Member

Kathy is deeply involved in event management and fundraising. She is Vice-President of The Commonwealth Club and is on the Speakers Committee. Kathy is also a member of Legacy where she is Deputy Chair for Race Day.

Continuing IAF Board Members



Dr Merinda Edwards PhD – Board Member

Merinda completed a PhD at the University of South Australia and with extensive teaching and academic experience, has taken on a variety of roles such as directing her own festivals, marketing management in the arts, private sectors and state government to running live music venues, galleries and leading large-scale arts activations.



Margaret Lynch – Chair of Grants Committee

Margaret has been a member of the IAF since 2020 and later that year she was invited to participate in the Small Grants Subcommittee. She was pleased to join the Board in 2021. Margaret has broad experience in education, strategy, policy and administration.



Helen Onopko – Archivist and Minutes Secretary

Helen has been a member of the IAF since 2004 and is passionate about supporting young and emerging artists. There are many areas of her life that are complementary to the expertise required as a Board Member.



Mary Odlum – Treasurer

Mary became a member of IAF in 2008 and joined the Board in August 2010, taking up the position of Treasurer the following year. Mary is an experienced Finance Manager having enjoyed a lifetime career in University Finance administration in Adelaide.



Dr. Moira Simpson PhD – Board Member

Moira trained as an artist, teacher and curator, completing a BA in Arts, a Postgraduate Certificate of Education, and a Master's degree in Museum Studies. She runs her own business, Evocative Arts, marketing her artwork, teaching visual arts classes to adults, and organising workshops taught by guest tutors from Australia and overseas (www.evocativearts.com.au).



Patron: Jessica Dames AM

Jessica Dames AM, founding Chair of the Independent Arts Foundation in 1991, became Patron of IAF in 2021. Jessica has been an active supporter of the IAF for 33 years and is a Life Member.

Read more about our Board members on our [website](#).

IAF Incoming Chair Jane Angel Report



I am delighted to be the incoming Chair of the IAF (SA) and I offer my sincere thanks to outgoing Board Members and particularly, to Moira Simpson, for her thoughtful leadership during her time as Chair, IAF (SA) Board. Moira's commitment to the IAF ensures that the IAF will continue its important work of providing opportunities for artists of all disciplines; we are pleased that although stepping away as Chair, Moira continues on as a Board Member.

I am excited to be collaborating with both continuing and new Members of the Board who collectively have considerable experience across a diversity of professional backgrounds and skill sets. Together, we will respect the achievements of the past while embracing fresh opportunities and initiatives that will help ensure the sustainability of the IAF and our ability to positively impact emerging artists and build a lively community for those who love the arts and those who create them.

The early focus for the Board in 2025 is to define our unique value and purpose. The Board will meet on 11 January for a Board Planning Day; this is a critical moment for us to align on strategic direction, governance, and the creation of committees that will support the Board's work. We will also begin brainstorming an exciting events schedule for our Membership. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of this important day with you.

Since joining the IAF Board, I have had the privilege of attending some truly inspiring events that have showcased to me the value of the grants we provide. One performance that left a lasting impact was the Tutti Choir Takeover in mid November.



Tutti Arts is a South Australian multi-arts organisation where learning disabled and neurodivergent artists work across visual art, acting, music, screen, and dance. The talent and professionalism on display were exceptional, and there was a palpable sense of joy in the room with many family members and friends in attendance.

I was moved to know that funding from the IAF had made this event possible.

Similarly, the Adelaide Youth Orchestra's (AdYO) End of Year Finale Concerts

provided another powerful reminder of the impact the IAF's support to emerging artists. Nic Jeffries, Executive Director of the AdYO, expressed gratitude for the IAF's support of their Lost Instruments Program and Conductor Training Program. He shared that these programs are vital for the growth and development of young musicians, and without the generous support of donors, such as the IAF, AdYO would not be able to continue to offer these invaluable opportunities. We are proud to be part of their journey as we are with all grant



Adelaide Youth
Orchestras

recipients, current and past, some of which you will read about in the Grant and Award Recipients section of this newsletter.



Lastly, I am pleased to share that the IAF Board has recently committed three years' funding as an inaugural patron of the Brighton Jetty Sculptures, South Australia's largest sculpture exhibition. This is a fantastic opportunity for the IAF to support yet another art form and to strengthen our presence within the arts community. I encourage all Members to visit the exhibition, which runs from 22 January to 2 February 2025.

Looking ahead, 2025 will be a year of renewal and growth. We will take stock of where we are, ensuring the IAF remains a strong and supportive community for both artists and members. On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a joyful holiday season and all the very best for our arts community and Membership in 2025.

Warm regards

Jane

Chair, Independent Arts Foundation (SA)

chair@iafoundation.org.au

More photos from the Tutti Choir Take Over made possible by support from the IAF.



Treasurer's Report

By Mary Odium



The IAF is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) which allows us to receive tax deductible donations.

A full report for the Financial Year 2023-2024 was presented at the AGM held on 22 October 2024. Please get in touch if you would like to receive a copy.

The IAF revenue comes from members and friends attending fundraising events, supporting the raffles, paying membership fees and making donations. Nearly all funds raised go towards supporting emerging artists, a small amount is needed to cover the IAF operating costs. We thank all of you that support us.

In the financial year 2023-2024, the IAF gave \$23,674 in small grants and awards. Of this:

- \$22,174 was awarded in Small Grant awards, nine to individual artists and three group awards.
- \$500 for the Young Film Maker Award at the Fleurieu Film Festival.
- \$1,000 for the Critics' Circle Innovation Award

Please see our separate report on our 2024 grant and award recipients.

The IAF had a very successful year.

Our membership numbers are now around 160 and we thank those of you that continue to support the IAF and artists through membership fees.

Donations

Donations can be made at any time. Simply add one when you book for an event or renew your membership via Trybooking. We have raised over \$13,000 from donations made this way over the last 3 years.

Alternatively you can donate to our [ongoing fund-raising campaign](#), 'Investing in Artists' Futures' which started in May 2022.

Members can donate either via Trybooking or by EFT by contacting the Treasurer on 0457 857 385. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. We are aiming to raise \$25 000 by June 2025, currently we are at \$18,835. (\$10,090 via Trybooking; \$8745 direct to Special Fundraising Account).

Raffle Donations



The IAF greatly appreciates the generous donations from businesses, members and non-members who donate items such as chocolates, wines, vouchers that we can use as raffle prizes. Please contact the IAF if you have any suitable items that you wish to donate.

Photo: Michael McGregor delighted after winning the Waite 100 Whisky at the Scottish Event.

We thank the following who generously donated gifts as raffle prizes for our events in 2024

IAF Members

Jill Argent OAM
Christopher Dibden
Jen Dunstan
Christine McMahon
David McClay
Carol Maelzer
Helen Onopko
Mary Odlum
Sherry Proferes
Clare Russ
Moirra Simpson
Sue Wiseman
Wendy Wauchope

Businesses

Fashada (Norwood)
Hahndorf Hills Wines
Nick Haselgrove Wines
Matilda Bookshop, Stirling
Tartan Weaving Mill,
Scotland
Wallis Cinemas

Special Guests

Dr Kiera Lindsey
Lainie Anderson



Financial contributions

We would like to acknowledge the donations received from members and non-members who donated either to our fund-raising campaign, direct to the special fund-raising account, or added a donation when renewing membership or booking an event, or who gifted their ticket payment in lieu of attendance when they found they couldn't attend.

Jill Argent OAM
John Bishop AO
Madeleine Black
Gavin Blake
Kathy Darling Brooks
Peter Burdon
Judy Connor
Christopher Dibden
Elaine Fardell
Tom Frayne
Beverley Gibson
Helen & Grantley Gill
Micheleine Hannaford
Samela Harris

Janette Hartwig
Sam Harvey
Elizabeth Hutchins
Glenys Jones OAM
Anne Kelly
Kiera Lindsey
Don Loffer
Fred Mann (Equilink Pty Ltd)
Greg Mackie
David McClay
Meryllyn McPhee
Felicity Morgan
Mary Odlum
Helen Onopko

Maria Panagiotidis
Vivienne Pfitzner
Stephanie Ratnaike
Sherry Proferes
Mary Reynolds
Helen Robinson
Diane Runck
Jill Talbot
Linda Sampson
Steve Charles & Moira Simpson
Tina Turci
Robin & Glen Weir
Barbara Wing
Sue & David Wiseman

IAF Grant and Award Recipients

By Margaret Lynch: Chair Small Grants Subcommittee

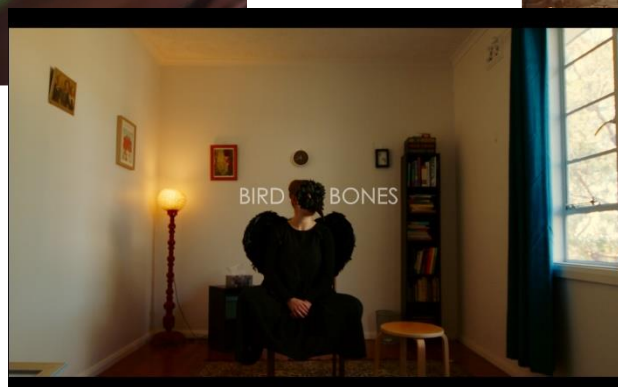
The IAF Small Grants for Young and/or Emerging Artists continue to provide much needed and valued support for individuals and groups as they endeavour to further their artistic careers. A recent report titled [SA Art Sector Financial Wellbeing, Mental Health & WHS Report 2024](#), commissioned by the Arts Industry Council of South Australia, noted that *artists and arts workers are overworked and underpaid, with a high proportion of poverty wages, precarity and lack of basic entitlements/protectons such as superannuation. This is impacting on their life pathways and financial stability.*

This year we continued to support young and/or emerging artists with two rounds of grants. In June we awarded \$16,263 to 7 individuals and 2 groups, and in November, 1 individual and 3 groups were awarded grants totalling \$15,000. That's a total of \$31,263 in one year.

Reports about their projects from these recipients are made available on our [website](#) as they are received. Reports from previous year's recipients are also available and are most interesting to read.

The creativity, passion for, and commitment of these artists to their careers is evident in their applications and reports, and underscores the value of the IAF Small Grants program. The money for the grants comes from our fundraising activities so please continue to support them and encourage others to do so.

Together we can make a difference to the lives of these young and/or emerging artists. In addition, we are contributing to the artistic, cultural, economic and social opportunities arising from a diverse arts and cultural sector in our state.



Recipients of IAF Small Grants: 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Grant Recipient	Date Awarded
Ceejay Singh Purpose: Production of Fringe Show <i>Yogambling</i> (Awarded Round 2 Nov 2023)	January 2024
Charlie Milne and David Frisell Purpose: Assistance with the production of short film <i>I Am a DVD Player</i>	June 2024
Brittany Gallasch Purpose: To work with Felicity Judd to further develop vocal capabilities as a motion capture performer and business acumen	June 2024
Kate O'Boyle Purpose: Assistance with a two month residency at British School of Rome	June 2024
Henry Wolff Purpose: Support towards the development, production and documentation of first solo gallery exhibition	June 2024
Sierra Schrader Purpose: Assistance with the production of short film <i>Ben From Beyond</i>	June 2024
Allison Chhorn Purpose: Support towards the development of <i>After Years</i> album	June 2024
Jamie Chilvers Purpose: Assistance with completing the production of self-titled debut album <i>Jamie Lena</i>	June 2024
Jennifer Eadie & Adrienne Semmens Purpose: Assistance with upcoming collaborative exhibition <i>MEMORY LANE</i> , as part of SALA 2024	July 2024
Anastasia Cornelli Purpose: Support towards attendance at the Experimental Photo Festival in Barcelona	August 2024
Clarice would like a word (Tully Templeman, Madison Siegertsz & Alina Jansons) Purpose: Assistance with short film <i>Antiquity</i>	November 2024
Cracked Light Group (Jarrah Murphy, Tom Lawrence-Doyle & Nicholas Burt) Purpose: Assistance with short film <i>Road at the end of the World</i>	November 2024
Danielle Lim & Alice Young Purpose: Support for the premiere of their show <i>The Good Decisions Project</i> in the upcoming Adelaide Fringe 2025	November 2024
Lucky Smith Purpose: Support for solo exhibition <i>Under 30's eat free</i> at The Mill, Angus Street, Adelaide in June 2025	November 2024

Neil Curnow Award Recipient 2025

The Neil Curnow Award is made possible through the generous bequest of the late Neil Curnow. Following his impressive career as an actor, director, teacher and voice coach, Neil made a bequest through the IAF to support emerging South Australian theatre people through this prestigious award.

The Neil Curnow Award is available to final-year students and graduates aged between 18 and 30. The purpose of the award is to support an emerging artist to undertake further study or career development in acting, theatre performance or theatre direction.

The award supports the recipient to undertake further study or an internship at a recognised institution, nationally or internationally.

For further information on the application process for the Neil Curnow Award 2026, please visit their website at: [Helpmann Academy - Neil Curnow Award](#)

The 2025 Neil Curnow Award recipient is Julia Vosnakis from Flinders University.



After graduating from Flinders University Drama Centre with First Class Honours and receiving the Flinders University Medal, Julia debuted professionally as Chloe in Windmill Theatre's *Amphibian* (2021/22).

She co-founded The Corseted Rabbits theatre group, and starring in *Di and Viv and Rose*, which premiered at RUMPUS Theatre in 2022 and was supported by the Helpmann Academy.

Julia later starred alongside Rebekah Elmaloglou in Bina Bhattacharya's feature film *From All Sides* (2024), which premiered at Marché du Film as part of the Festival de Cannes. This early success established her as one of South Australia's emerging talents, drawing comparisons to Sarah Snook and Teresa Palmer, as recognised by The Advertiser.

Passionate about diversity in storytelling, Julia developed her Greek-centred rom-com *The Disappointments* under the Helpmann Academy Elevate Mentorship with writer/director/producer Bina Bhattacharya. Proud of her Greek-Australian heritage, she seeks to challenge cultural stereotypes and promote inclusivity through her work.

In 2025, Julia will embark on a month-long intensive training experience in Los Angeles, attending prestigious institutions such as the Ivana Chubbuck Studio and The Groundlings. During her time there, she will also engage with industry professionals to build networks, explore collaboration opportunities, and enhance her skills.

Julia's focus will be on developing her expertise in comedy, improvisation, and film acting, equipping herself with the tools needed to excel in these fields and advance her career.

The Neil Curnow Award has come at the perfect time for Julia.

“Receiving the Neil Curnow Award, facilitated by the Helpmann Academy on behalf of the Independent Arts Foundation, is an incredible honour.

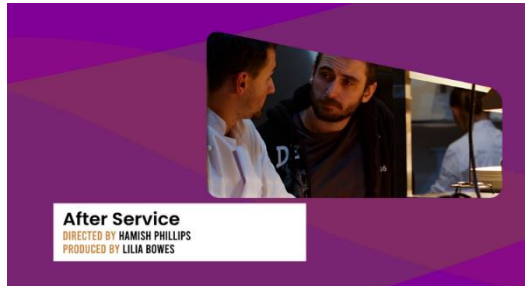
Not only is this award a meaningful validation of my progress and promise as an emerging artist, but it also represents a pivotal step towards becoming the successful actor, writer, and producer I aspire to be. It enables me to refine my skills in comedy, storytelling, and screen acting at world-class institutions in Los Angeles. I’m deeply grateful for this chance to grow as an artist within the film industry and bring these new skills back to Kaurana Land, fostering collaboration on my upcoming film and comedy projects,” said Julia.



Sponsorships / other awards: 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Young Filmmakers Award (under 24 years of age), Fleurieu Film Festival

The Independent Arts Foundation sponsored the Young Filmmakers Award (under the age of 24) at the Fleurieu Film Festival in 2024.



- Awarded February 2024
- Grant recipient Hamish Phillips for *After Service*
- Purpose: Short Film

Dr Moira Simpson, IAF Chair, was invited to the Fleurieu Film Festival and presented the award to the recipient, Hamish Phillips for *After Service*.

The Fleurieu Film Festival is an industry-standard, competitive short film festival held on the Fleurieu Peninsula as an avenue for new and emerging filmmakers to showcase their work. Films from the Festival will form a "roadshow" to be screened in towns in the Fleurieu. Screening and Awards Night is on Saturday 8th February 2025. <https://www.fleurieufilmfestival.com.au/tickets>



Critics Circle Award Inc Independent Arts Foundation (SA) Inc Award for Innovation



- Awarded December 2024
- Grant recipient: Jesse Budel
- Purpose: *A Soundmap of Karrawirraparri*, supported by Inspiring South Australia and Soundstream New Music

Russell Starke Small Grant 2024: Broadening access to the arts in country SA

No award made in 2024 as no suitable applicant. Will be offered again in 2025.

Thank you to Petra and Miranda Starke for generously supporting this grant.

Grant Recipient 2024, Ceejay Singh - *Yogambling*



Ceejay Singh of CJ Productions, writer, producer, actor and IAF Small Group Grant recipient 2024 for his Adelaide Fringe Show *Yogambling*, pictured below with IAF member, Irena Kalibatas. Irena won the 2 complimentary tickets offered by Ceejay to IAF members and went along with her friend Ray (pictured below right). Both enjoyed the show and meeting Ceejay.



Ceejay commented in his grant report that *“The Independent Arts Foundation’s support played a crucial role in bringing this innovative project to stage. The Independent Arts Foundation’s funds not only enabled the production of Yogambling but also contributed to the cultural enrichment of the Adelaide arts scene. The play’s blend of humour, philosophy, and relatability resonated with audiences, emphasising the value of supporting creative endeavours.”*

Grant Recipient 2022, Jessica Murtagh, in the news!

6 Feature



In *The Weekend Australian* on 16-17 November 2024, it was wonderful to read the feature article *Playing with Fire* about just how well Jessica Murtagh, Adelaide based glass-artist is doing!

The IAF first supported Jessica in 2022 for her 2023 exhibition and now she is on her 3rd at the Grainger Gallery.

Special Fundraising Events

2024 was a successful year of fundraising events. In addition to the regular film nights and literary dinners, we held several special events with the use of the Osmond Terrace Function Centre enabling us to accommodate large audiences.

Wild Love & Creative Courage: Literary Lunch with Author Dr Kiera Lindsey

By Moira Simpson



Our first special literary luncheon of 2024 was held on Sunday 19th May in Osmond Terrace Function Centre and featured author Dr Kiera Lindsey, an innovative and award-winning historian. As well as being an academic historian and writer, Dr Lindsey is also South Australia's first History Advocate, based at the History Trust of South Australia.

Much of her work is interdisciplinary and 'in the areas of Australian colonial history, British imperial history, gender, women and the colonial law, Indigenous and settler colonial histories, visual and cultural history, reconciliation and heritage'.

Her book *Settler Colonialism and Reconciliation: Frontier Violence, Affective Performances, and Imaginative Refoundings* (Palgrave 2016) was shortlisted for the University of Melbourne's Ernest Scott Prize for best book in Australian and New Zealand colonial history.

Dr Lindsey is a creative historian who has been exploring an emerging sub-genre of life writing known as 'speculative biography', which she employed in researching and writing *The Convict's Daughter* (2016) and *Wild Love* (2023), both published by Allen and Unwin. In these she uses informed imagination to 're-present' the lives of those who might otherwise remain silent in the historical record.

In 2018, Dr Lindsey was awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA) for a project entitled *Speculative biography, historical craft and the case of Adelaide Ironside*.

Adelaide Ironside (1831-1867) was the first Australian-born professional female artist to train overseas. The title of the event, *Wild Love & Creative Courage*, reflects Dr Lindsey's contention that experimentation and failure are essential to the creative process, but rarely easy.



She provided an overview of Ironside's life and insights into the challenges that she faced in her personal and professional life.

She has described Ironside as 'an ambitious risk-taker who charmed and alarmed many, including Pope Pius IX, the Prince of Wales, John Ruskin, and poet Robert Browning' – the latter was said to have been taken aback by her 'wild and enthusiastic ways'.

The event was originally intended to be presented in a relaxed discursive style with Dr Lindsey in conversation with Penny Edmonds, Matthew Flinders Professor in History at Flinders University. Sadly, Professor Edmonds tested positive for COVID-19 just a few days before and so was unable to participate.



Instead, Dr Lindsey gave a very informative and engaging solo presentation. This was followed by a lively question and answer session in which she talked more about the challenges of historical research, especially when researching women in the early colonial era.

She emphasised the importance of archives and the difficulties faced by historians and archivists in acquiring and maintaining collections in the digital age, as so few people will leave printed records, such as letters and photographs, instead relying primarily on digital media which are unlikely to survive. There was dismay and shared concern amongst audience members to learn about these issues and interest in her role as SA's first History Advocate. Dr Lindsey mentioned some of her planned projects, which we hope to hear more about in due course.

The IAF event was organised as part of the History Trust of South Australia's History Festival which provided extensive publicity beyond our usual reach. Being scheduled as part of the History Festival meant that we were competing with other events on the same day; the event nevertheless attracted a noticeable number of new faces amongst the audience, including a table of members of the Australian Society of Archivists.



Photo (Left): Dr Kiera Lindsey signing her book at the special literary event

An evening of traditional Scottish music, song and cuisine

By Moira Simpson

Our Scottish event was the first of what may become a series of cultural evenings celebrating the music, song, food and drinks of a particular country or ethnic group. 11 July was chosen for this event to mark the 750th anniversary of the birth of Robert I, King of Scotland, popularly known as Robert the Bruce (b. 11 July 1274). Many audience members had dressed for the occasion with something tartan, including highland dress, tweed hats and tartan wraps.

To start the evening off Michael McGregor provided a brief overview of the life and legacy of Robert the Bruce. Michael is a proud Scotsman who has lived in Australia for about three decades. He cut a fine figure, attired in formal Highland dress with kilt, dress jacket, sporran, and woollen socks with sgean dhu (ceremonial dagger) tucked in. Michael is a singer and plays many instruments, including guitar and banjo.



He has been involved in music his whole life. He was the Chair for the Frances Folk Gathering for its last seven years and he has been active in the South Australian folk music scene since the 1980s. He is currently active with two bands, Brushwood and McHarg Creek and with them has performed in recent years in festivals here in SA and in Victoria. He has also had an active involvement in Scottish culture as a dancer and musician. His group, Romany Soup, played for a number of years for the Annual Ball for the SA Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Michael entertained us with a couple of songs that relate to Robert the Bruce and the Battle of Bannockburn.

Dinner was designed to feature some traditional Scottish dishes: cullen skink, a fish and potato soup (normally made with smoked haddock – here the chef has had to use smoked cod) or cock-a-leekie (chicken and leek) soup; pork hotpot (cooked in apple juice, whisky, mustard) served with rumbledethumps (mashed potato with cabbage and fried onion) or salmon 'Auld Reekie' (with whisky cream sauce and heritage carrots; and finally cranachan, a dessert traditionally made of layers of raspberries, cream, heather honey and malt whisky-soaked oatmeal (in this case it was raspberries and ice cream with an oatmeal topping). Several Scottish drinks were available at the bar including cocktails and Gaelic or Skye coffees.



After dinner, we sat back to enjoy a set of Scottish music played by Catherine Fraser on fiddle and Thomas Martin on guitar. Catherine is a Scots/Australian fiddler who has gained a reputation as a world-class performer and teacher, and presents the music of her heritage with finesse, passion and sensitivity. She has given performances in Scotland, Canada, North America, New Zealand and around Australia. Constantly in demand for concerts and workshops and acknowledged for her ability to combine a high level of technical skill with a rare depth of emotional expression, Catherine has gained the respect of audiences and students alike.



In 2004 Catherine founded the Southern Hemisphere International School of Scottish Fiddle and was the director for eleven years. She is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, including the South Australian Music Industry Award for Most Outstanding Contribution to Folk Music in 1996 and 1997 and Open Fiddle Champion, Kirriemuir, Scotland in 2005.



Catherine was accompanied by Thomas Martin and the two played in perfect synchronicity and with great emotion. The music was beautiful and evocative, and it came as a surprise to learn that the set comprised compositions written by Catherine. Clearly, she is not just one of the world's leading fiddlers but also a very skilled composer, and her contribution to contemporary Scottish music cannot be underestimated.

Throughout the performance, the audience of seventy-two listened enraptured and the performance ended with a lengthy standing ovation. There was a lot of very positive feedback on the evening and since, with one IAF member commenting that it was the best event she had ever attended.

Special Celebration of Founder and Patron of the Independent Arts Foundation

By Mary Odium and Helen Onopko



Family and friends of Jessica Dames AM gathered together on a warm evening, 14th November 2024, to celebrate the launch of Jessica's memoir *Baroota to Burra: In Service to the Arts* at The Gatehouse Bar in the beautiful Glen Ewin Estate. Helen Onopko, IAF Archivist and Secretary, opened the evening welcoming guests to the event and speaking briefly about the Jessica's role in the history of the IAF and the large amount of funds raised by the IAF given to all emerging artists over the years:

"Jessica Dames headed a Committee in 1991 to launch the IAF in South Australia, to continue the good work of the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust in the Arts industry.

It was vibrant in South Australia and well supported by arts devotee families including the Hannafords, the Bonythons and others who opened their homes in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island to host events for visiting overseas writers, playwrights, actors and poets.

The minutes of the first AGM in 1992 covered only 8 months of their first operational year, yet the IAF made a profit of over \$14,000. Donations were subsequently made to the Barossa Music Festival, the Adelaide Fringe and the South Australian Writers Theatre.

I would like to pay tribute to our first Patron the late Kym Bonython, and original Committee member – the late Julie Bonython, who have family members with us here tonight. Also in our midst tonight are original Committee members Sue Mintz, Gill Miller, Jessica Dames and our host Wendy Wauchope of Glen Ewin.

Our Patron Jessica has remained a stalwart for the IAF for 33 years and has worked incessantly during that time to promote the industry and to support its artists."

Peter Goers OAM (pictured right) led Jessica Dames in conversation about her book and impromptu speeches came from Gill Miller, Sally Michael and Wendy Wauchope who all had worked with Jessica either when she was Chair of the Elizabethan Trust or Chair of the Independent Arts Foundation.

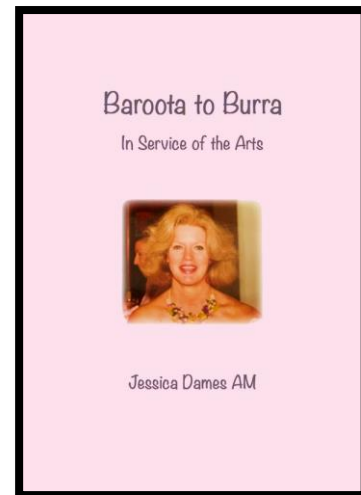


It was a wonderful evening and our thanks go to Wendy Wauchope (pictured with Jessica) who generously offered The Gatehouse for the event. Thank you, Wendy!

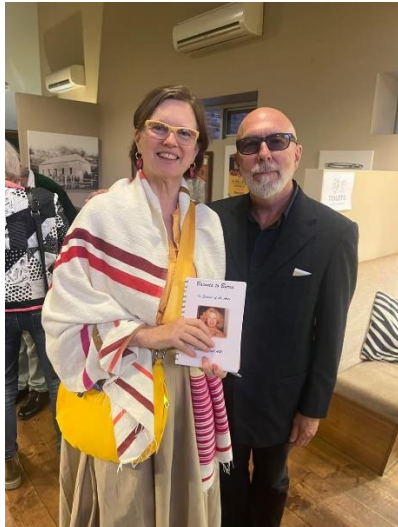
If you would like to purchase a copy of *Baroota to Burra*, the cost is \$30 with additional copies at \$25.

Contact Sarah Milton

sarah.africa@hotmail.com Mobile: 0408708097
to order and to arrange pick up and payment.



Family and friends enjoying the special celebration



Lainie Anderson in conversation with Sandy Verschoor

By Helen Onopko



The Independent Arts Foundation was delighted to host Lainie Anderson and Sandy Verschoor at our Special Literary event on Sunday 22 September 2024.

A lovely lunch and engaging afternoon as Lainie and Sandy chatted about Lainie's first murder mystery novel *The Death of Dora Black*, inspired by the true story of Adelaide's pioneering Policewoman Kate Cocks who was the first policewoman in the British Empire. Lainie told us this would be the first in her Petticoat Police Mystery series.

Lainie is well known to Adelaideans. Lainie was a columnist with the Adelaide *Sunday Mail* for 17 years, state political reporter for the *Herald Sun* and Public Relations Manager for the South Australian Tourism Commission. She also co-founded Mining Family Matters which has helped thousands of families globally to survive and thrive amid the pressures of mining life.

In 2017 she won a Churchill Fellowship and travelled through 9 countries in 7 weeks gauging the significance of the historic Vickers Vimy aircraft and retracing the route of Sir Ross Smith's flight from England to Australia. Her historic fiction novel *Long Flight Home* was published in 2019, the same year she spent working with the History Trust to lobby for the relocation of the aircraft to Adelaide Airport. We all celebrate her work on the Vickers Vimy, and refreshing the Ross Smith achievement to the population generally.

Sandy Verschoor is a favourite friend of the IAF. As Lord Mayor in 2021 she hosted a Town Hall reception for our 30th Birthday, joined us again as interlocutor for last year's Special Literary event with author Pip Williams, and returned generously to interview Lainie on stage at the Norwood Hotel this year. We are always thrilled to have Sandy in our midst, and are very appreciative of her generosity.

We were grateful for the donation by Lainie, of her two books which we gave as the lucky door prize. Other raffle prize donors included Christine McMahon baskets of gourmet goods, Nick Haselgrove wines, Fashada Womens Clothing Norwood, and Wallis movie tickets.

Lainie informed the attendees that she has drafted her next Petticoat Murder Mystery *Murder on North Terrace*. Organisers Helen Onopko and Jill Argent have threatened to hold another major literary event in 2025! Let's hope that Lainie's next book will be released in time.

Watch our [website](#) for IAF events.



Film Report

By Mary Odium and Carol Maelzer



In 2024 we have seen another interesting collection of films

Film Nights were held regularly at Wallis Cinemas, Mitcham with the Film Nights switching to a Thursday night in August when Wallis advised that they would no longer be opening on a Monday night.

Thank you to our IAF and non-IAF members, their family and friends for your ongoing support and company. Thank you to our generous raffle prize donors and to those that support via purchase of additional raffle tickets.

Thank you to Wallis Cinema Mitcham for their ongoing support to the IAF.

For 2024, we have watched the following films:

- February: *Force of Nature: The Dry 2*
- March: *The Great Escaper*
- April: *Wicked Little Letters*
- May: *The Teachers' Lounge*
- August: *The Fabulous Four*
- September: *Take my Hand*
- October: *Runt*
- November: *Treasure*



WallisCinema

We look forward to seeing you at the movies in 2025.

Literary Dinner Report

By Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela, Convenor, Literary Dinners



We are very grateful to Wakefield Press for again sponsoring our literary dinners in 2024 and for publishing books on such a wide range of topics, thus providing us with access to a wide range of guest speakers. Special thanks to Michael Bollen, publisher of Wakefield Press, for his support in compering the evenings and donating books as prizes for our quiz, and to Polly for preparing the invitations.

We commenced the 2024 dinners on Tuesday, 20 February with media personality and actor Peter Goers as guest speaker to talk about his moving account of his parents' death in a plane crash in his book, *In the Air of an Afternoon Almost Past*.

Due to all the Arts events that are held in March, we paused for the month, and resumed our dinners on Tuesday, 16 April, when Paula Nagel AM, a former ABC journalist and media personality, was our guest to talk about her life, with reference to her book, *Brutal. A Story of Survival*.



Photo: Peter Goers and Mary

We next met on Tuesday, 18 June, when Alex Frayne, a renowned photographer, was interviewed by Michael Bollen about his latest publication of photographs, *Distance and Desire*.



Photo: Dr Susan Arthure

Dr Susan Arthure was guest speaker on Tuesday, 27 July to talk about the book she had co-edited, *Irish Women in the Antipodes: Foregrounded*, a topic which attracted many extra guests and prompted some attendees to recount their own stories of Irish ancestors following Susan's talk.

Sally Heinrich was guest speaker on Tuesday, 20 August to talk about her book *Local Icons*. Sally's book featured lino cuts she had produced as well as stories written about local identities. She also brought along tea-towels and other items imprinted with images of her lino cuts, which many guests purchased.



Photo: Sally Heinrich

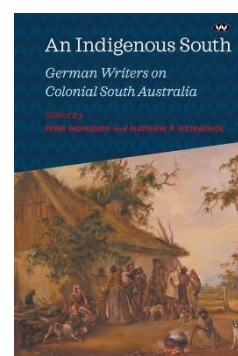
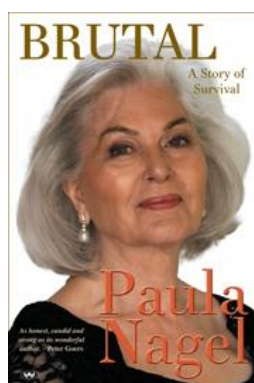
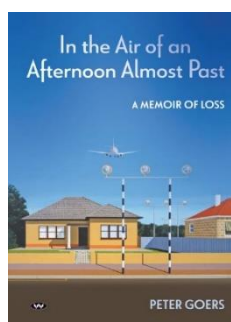
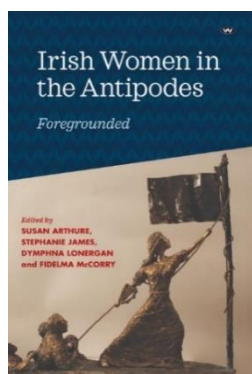
On Tuesday, 22 October, Professor Peter Monteath, a historian at Flinders University spoke about the book he has co-edited, *An Indigenous South*, which is based on observations made by German settlers on the treatment of and interaction with Indigenous people in the early days of the colony

Our final literary dinner for 2024 was held on Tuesday, 26 November, at which David Sly, author of *Finnenisms*, and the subject of the book, Chris Finnen, were both guests. Chris gave an acclaimed guitar performance early in the evening and was interviewed by David in the latter part of the evening. All in all, it was a great finale to our 2024 literary dinners.



Thank you for supporting our literary dinners in 2024. We look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Michael Bollen of Wakefield Press has kindly agreed to continue to sponsor them, which will commence on Tuesday, 18 February. There will be a break in March, due to all the other Arts events that month, and we will then resume them on Tuesday, 15 April, so please save the dates!



Poems



IAF Member Richard Levy wrote the following poem about Edgar Allan Poe after visiting his home in Pennsylvania, USA. Richard says *This poem is part of my published collection of Odes (Volume I). Poe has always fascinated me as a unique figure in literature, his pursuit of the irrational, macabre and perverse conveyed with a psychological depth that makes him much more than a writer of gothic horror stories. Like his eccentric characters, the aesthetes, outsiders and criminals, he understood the intimate relationship between beauty, suffering and death, his dark imagination interspersed with subtle wit and black humour that reflects the complexity of his genius.*

Ode to Poe

Where Ahab chased the mystic whale
You threw Arthur at the void,
Where Emerson found transcendence in Nature
You exhumed the immanence
of collapsed mansions and infected tarns,
That eminent grey professor
Could dismiss you as a jangling man,
Yet better a prattling carrion bird
than a pristine abstract oversoul

Only Poe could reconcile
Supernal beauty
with the imp of the perverse,
Only Poe could associate
Moral sense with a walled-up cat,
Only Poe could appreciate
Angelic girls with ripped out teeth,
The resurrection of Ligeia
in corpse-born transmigrated grief

You vanished on Election Day,
Some say broken by a brawl,
Some say nipped by a rabid dog,
Some say gutted out by drink...

But I see your face in some nether sky,
The palest sun of the darkest star,
The twisted hand of artifice
Perfected by the quill of death
and set to the music of other spheres
Where not a single drop of the blood of Christ
Could redeem the foulness of the fair

From the Archive

By Helen Onopko (Archivist)

IAF is forever grateful to past members who have generously provided reminiscences and documents relating to the earlier days of the Elizabethan Theatre Trust as it morphed into the Independent Arts Foundation.

From the Archive....

The launch of our Patron Jessica Dames' book *From Baroota to Burra – In Service of the Arts* gave the editors cause to recall from the IAF Archive, Jessica's influence on art in the regions.

In 2008, Jessica was the Chair of the SALA (South Australian Living Artists) Clare Valley Regional Committee. Jessica and Pip Edson worked tirelessly to get the region involved and raised



\$30,000 for the launch, workshops and prizes with major sponsor Built Environs. Four Burra galleries and more than a dozen artists registered to take part. Through Jessicas's efforts, the SALA organisers decided to make the Clare Valley Region a major focal point for the festival. She also secured support from the Goyder, Clare and Gilbert Valley, Light, Mallala and Wakefield Councils.

The following year, *The Broadcaster* reported Jessica was awarded Outstanding Contribution to Tourism in the Mid-North Region by an Individual for her tireless work in the 2008 festival.



Thank you to all IAF members and friends for your support of our fundraising programs and donations.

I hope you find a moment to enjoy reading our newsletter and looking back on all that has been achieved and enjoyed in support of the local arts community.

We wish you all a safe and happy festive season and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Best wishes,
Jane Angel, Chair, on behalf of the IAF Board.



The Independent Arts Foundation (IAF) is a registered charity established in 1991 to raise funds to support emergency artists in all art forms, including dance, film, literature, music & visual arts.

Grants, scholarships and annual awards supported by the IAF provide financial assistance for individuals and groups seeking support for professional development or a project, such as an exhibition, performance or film.

Funds are raised through donations, membership fees and a program of events including literary dinners, film nights, and special events.

All monies raised go to providing grants and sponsorships.

Non-members are welcome to join us at our fund-raising events.

The IAF welcome new members who are interested in meeting like-minded people, knowing that supporting the IAF also supports the arts in South Australia.

IAF Contact Details

Please visit our [website](#) and consider [joining](#) if you are not a current member.

Follow us on [Facebook](#).

IAF phone: 0457 857 385

Postal address to PO Box 251, Stepney 5069.

Donations

Please consider donating to our [ongoing fund-raising campaign](#) or contact the Treasurer on mobile: 0457 857 385.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

<https://iafoundation.org.au/>

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<https://iafoundation.org.au/membership/>

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<https://www.iafoundation.org.au/pastrecipients/>

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/investinginartists>