

Six teams to Skip Ahead with Screen Australia and Google Australia

Thursday 13 August 2020: Screen Australia and Google Australia/YouTube have announced over \$900,000 of production funding for YouTube Creators [Beau Miles](#), [Bush Tucker Bunjie](#), [Fishing the Wild](#), [Jenny J Zhou](#), [Never Too Small](#) and [Tibeets](#), the recipients of this year's Skip Ahead initiative.

Now in its sixth year, the Skip Ahead initiative supports Australian online content creators who have YouTube channels with a substantial existing subscriber base and/or content which has reached significant viewership, to expand their vision and create more ambitious content to grow their audience. This year marks the highest number of recipients for the initiative with six teams.

The teams are participating in workshops this month to develop their projects which include three scripted dramas and three documentaries. Due to COVID-19, the workshops are being held online.

Since 2014, Skip Ahead has supported the likes of [Aunty Donna](#), [Superwog](#), [Skit Box](#) and [Chloe Morello](#) to help them take the next step and build their careers in the screen industry. The Van Vuuren Bros' comedy series [Over and Out](#), funded through Skip Ahead in 2017, went on to win Best Short Form Series at Canneseries in 2019.

Screen Australia's Senior Online Investment Manager, **Lee Naimo** said, "Skip Ahead has proved to be a powerful launchpad for Australian online creators to progress their careers. It's an extremely successful initiative and one that we're proud to be partnering with Google Australia to run again. We were blown away by the strong pool of applications this year and are thrilled to be able to support six projects for the first time."

"These teams are already creating very engaging content and we are excited to see them take on new challenges, whether it's longer form series, scripted comedy or stop motion animation. It's encouraging that for the first time in the history of Skip Ahead we have an even split of scripted and documentary projects, which I'm confident will all resonate with viewers and help the teams grow their audiences."

Lucinda Longcroft, Director, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google Australia & New Zealand said, "We continue to be amazed by the calibre of ideas and projects YouTube creators are developing for Skip Ahead. As we head into the sixth year, we are happy to be able to provide extra funding to support even more teams to create longer form, quality videos, to further drive their careers and garner recognition globally."

The recipients for 2020 are:

- [Jenny Zhou](#), whose YouTube channel covers a range of fashion, beauty and culture topics, will create 8 x 5 mins series ***Celebration Nation***. Set in a suburban party supply store, this comedy follows employees Mimi, Alice and Shay as they encounter retail shenanigans on different holidays, whether it's bad luck on Lunar New Year or a wave of frantic British customers on the Queen's Birthday. Zhou teams up with writer/producers Molly Daniels and Gaby Seow.
- Toby Hendy is known for her educational videos about mathematics and physics on YouTube channel [Tibeets](#). Hendy will write and direct ***Finding X***, a 1 x 6 mins stop-motion animation about a character called X, who is searching for meaning in a world full of numbers. This project will be produced by Hendy and Cedric Scheerlinck.
- Gabriel Willie, aka [Bush Tucker Bunjie](#), teams up with comedian Steph Tisdell and producers Sandra Makaresz and Laura Clelland ([Life of Jess](#)) of Sublimate Entertainment on a 1 x 15 mins comedy called ***Long Black***. The story follows flatmates and part-time baristas Steph and Gab after their 'big break' comedy show gets cancelled. With an eviction notice on their door and big responsibilities on their shoulders, they realise there's more money in foot fetish pics and phone sex than there is serving lattes. They decide to pursue a radical path to fame, fortune and representation - Aboriginal porn.



- [Beau Miles](#), who is known for undertaking oddball experiments, will present 4 x 20 mins documentary series ***Bad River: Adventure on Australia’s Sickest Water***. In this project Miles will take viewers down some of the most devastated rivers and waterways in Australia and showcase the ecological impact of modern society. The creative team features producer Mitch Drummond and expedition manager Jodi Evans.
- Morgan Hartney and Hamish Simpson’s YouTube channel [Fishing the Wild](#) showcases outdoor fishing adventures in the Northern Territory. Hartney will write and direct 4 x 10 mins documentary series ***Lord of the Macks***, which follows the Davey family and their mackerel fishing business over the course of a gruelling season. This project will be co-directed and executive produced by Michelle Crowther and produced by Hamish Simpson.
- Colin Chee’s YouTube channel [Never Too Small](#) is dedicated to smart design and living in tiny spaces. Chee will direct 3 x 20 mins documentary series ***Small Footprint***, which will explore smart urban design for cities that are getting more overcrowded, with a focus on increasing wellbeing for the people living in these small spaces. This project will be produced by Lindsay Barnard, Luke Clark and Elizabeth Price, and executive produced by James McPherson.

SKIP AHEAD ALUMNI

Channel	Title	Funded
Axis of Awesome	Axis All Areas	2014
Mighty Car Mods	Lend Us A Ride: Australia	2014
Sexual Lobster	Fernando's Legitimate Business Enterprise	2014
Veritasium	This Will Revolutionise Education	2014
Neighbours	Neighbours vs Zombies	2014
The Roundabout Crew and Frenchy SungaAttack	The Australiana Hostel	2015
Aunty Donna	1999	2015
SketchShe	Traffic Jam - The Musical	2015
Draw with Jazza	The Tale Teller	2015
How to Cook That	The Sweetest Thing	2015
Superwog	The Superwog Show	2016
Charli's Crafty Kitchen	Crafty Kingdom	2016
The RackaRacka	Stunt Gone Wrong (Live)	2016
BrainCraft	Mutant Menu	2016
Van Vuuren Bros	Over and Out	2017
Study with Jess	Life of Jess	2017
Timtimfed	Rebooted	2017





Australian Government



MEDIA RELEASE

Wengie	<i>Parked</i>	2017
Skit Box	<i>Skit Box</i>	2017
Neel Kolhatkar	<i>Crossing the Line</i>	2018
Fury Fingers	<i>Love, Guns and Level Ups</i> (to be released)	2018
Piéra Forde	<i>Nevernight</i>	2018
Chloe Ting	<i>The Not So Social Networks</i> (to be released)	2018
Chloe Morello	<i>YouTube Famous</i>	2018

ENDS

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