

REGIONAL
ARTS
VICTORIA

Inspiring art
across the state

Annual Report 2017





Windmill in Ouyen. Photo by Lucy Hamilton

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Regional Arts Victoria Chair Bruce Esplin AM and CEO Joe Toohey



As the first year of our latest four-year Strategic Plan, 2017 was always going to be a year of transition and renewal at Regional Arts Victoria.

Some staff members who made critical contributions to our organisation and the regional arts sector over a number of years departed us for new adventures, including Jo Chapman, Samantha Butterworth, Justin Murphy and Suzi Cordell from our Programming team. Lucy Hamilton, Adelaide Fisher and Will McRostie also took on new challenges, whilst at a Board level, we farewelled long-term Director Julie Millowick in May after nine years in the role.

Of course, we also farewelled Esther Anatolitis as our Director of Projects after five transformational years with us (four of these as Director and CEO).

It is testament to the legacy of former leaders and contributors at Regional Arts Victoria that our newest team members have embraced and expanded upon the work already begun without missing a beat. Through 2017, Regional Arts Victoria's various programs supported over 1,200 artists. An estimated 1,167,508 people were audience members, whilst over \$1.8 million was distributed to artists through our work.

Our combined activity reach in 2017 was 479,767 km, and some \$1.5 million was directly spent in regional areas. Over 50,000 engaged with us online, and 88% of all of our activities were delivered directly in regional communities.

In addition to the raw numbers, Regional Arts Victoria has dedicated significant energy to better capturing the impact of our work and not just the breadth of it. With time to review, refine and reflect our approach, we've seen over 30% of the work delivered by our regionally-based team of Creative Arts Facilitators included these kind of deep capacity building and project management initiatives in 2017.

A number of years ago, the Board and staff began an intense process of reviewing our Member offering. This culminated in a new and improved Member package launched in May 2016, supported by changes to the Regional Arts Victoria Constitution voted on by you, our Members.

Having completed the first full year of this offering, we're pleased to report the changes a runaway success, with an 9.5% increase in Members and a 98% retention rate through 2017.

It was an important year for regional Victorian artists and communities with Australia Council research* confirming what many of us already knew: 84% of people living in regional Australia recognise the positive impact of the arts on their lives (a number that was not significantly different from responses of those in metropolitan communities).

At Regional Arts Victoria, we're excited to deliver on some of these positive impacts, from supporting regional audiences through outstanding performances in halls, schools and performing arts centres; to assisting regional artists and communities to develop, deliver (and fund) their own creations; through to showcasing regional activity with major statewide projects.

In the pages that follow, our 2017 Annual Report highlights these contributions. Thank you for your support in making it happen; we welcome your continuing involvement in leading our regional arts community in Victoria.



Bruce Esplin AM
Chair



Joe Toohy
CEO

2017 Highlights

1,200

artists supported through all programs

1,167,508

participants or audiences of all supported programs

\$1.8 million

distributed to artists through our work

479,767

kms travelled by all Regional Arts Victoria staff

53, 427

people reached online

88%

of all of our activities were delivered directly in regional communities.

Ebony MonCrief and cast in Poetic Licence by Outer Urban Projects. Photo by Miguel Rios.



Regional Arts Victoria's Programming department connects artists and producers to diverse audiences across the country, through three touring program streams:

Arts & Education; tours high quality and educationally relevant arts experiences to young people across Victoria from early years through to VCE. We work to provide accessible arts experiences and encourage students to participate in the arts as both artists and audiences.

Connecting Places; a halls touring program open to arts councils, halls and mechanics' institute committees, regional festivals and local shires. The program tours high quality performances to these spaces, and promotes career development for community presenters to create sustainable presenting practices for small regional communities.

Touring Services; develops and coordinates tours to performing arts centres throughout Victoria and across the country. We work closely with artists and venues to ensure career sustainability and to support live performance throughout the state.

Across these three programs, Regional Arts Victoria tours performing arts, live music, theatre, workshops and residency-based projects. These works tour to performing arts centres, town halls and mechanics institutes, and directly to schools from early years through to VCE level.

The Programming Department also works closely with the Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres (VAPAC) and Theatre Network Australia (TNA) to deliver the Victorian Touring Workshop, and with VAPAC to deliver Showcase Victoria, each year.

Regional Arts Victoria's Arts & Education Program provides high quality, educationally-relevant arts experiences to Victorian young people. The program offers a suite of performances, workshops and residencies across a range of art forms, suitable for early years through to VCE students.

We support artists and arts companies to reach Victorian teachers and students, and work to reduce barriers that prevent Victorian students from accessing educationally-relevant arts programs.



2017 Highlights

- In 2017 the Arts and Education program put **7 tours on the road**, and **73 on call and residency bookings**.
- We reached **12,550 students** through **228 performances and workshops** in **154 schools and venues** across the state.
- We engaged **146 artists**.
- Our artists travelled **29,238km** to Victorian schools across the state.
- The program subsidised the ticket price of **9,177 students** who may have not ordinarily been able access a high quality arts experience.
- **100% of teachers and 98% of students** rated the overall quality of the program as "Good" or "Very Good".

2017 Tours

- **Three Birds** by Three Birds Theatre completed a successful one week tour in term one, performing to 489 people across 5 schools.
- **The Yellow Wave** by 15 Minutes From Anywhere completed a successful two week tour in term two, performing to 753 people across eight schools. The Yellow Wave was featured on the 2017 VCE Drama playlist.
- **FoRT** by Asking for Trouble completed a successful three week tour in term three, performing to 1761 people across 23 schools. The tour was extended from two to three weeks. FoRT was also booked for a number of On Call bookings throughout the year.
- **Marguk School Workshops** by Ilbjerri Theatre Company completed a successful three week tour in term three. 1438 people participated in 35 workshops across 16 schools. The tour was extended from two to three weeks.
- **The Ballad of Pondlife McGurk** by Windmill Theatre Company, completed a successful two week tour in term three, performing to 846 people across nine schools.
- **Pasifika Art (Siu I Moana)** by the National Gallery of Victoria, completed two successful one week tours in 2017 – the first in in term one and the second in term four. 729 people across seven schools participated in



The Yellow Wave by 15 Minutes from Anywhere. Photo by Lachlan Woods.

Student and her puppet at Trash Puppets workshop. Photo © Trash Puppets.



2017 On Call & Residency

In 2017 we had 73 On Call and Residency bookings from our suite of On Call performances, workshops and residencies which included the following:

18 workshops. Pasifika Art (Siu I Moana) has been reselected and is part of our 2018 program.

- **Trash Puppets** workshops by Trash Puppets
- **Jungle Shimmy** by Magic Oasis
- **Shadow Tricks** by Polyglot Theatre
- **Bold as Brass** by the Shrewd Brass Quintet
- **Animation** by The Furals
- **Robot Zoo** by The Furals
- **Poetic License** by Outer Urban Projects
- **Improvaganza** by Impro Melbourne
- **Drama Impro workshops** by Impro Melbourne
- **Fairytale Cookbook the Show** by Impro Melbourne
- **Fairytale Cookbook** workshops by Impro Melbourne
- **VCE Drama unlocked: Improvisation & Non-naturalism** by Impro Melbourne
- **VCE Drama unlocked: Creating Characters** by Impro Melbourne
- **Make my Play** by Play for Australia
- **Jump Up Country** by Adrift
- **Trapper** by Arena Theatre Company

Connecting Places is Regional Arts Victoria's halls touring program and is open to arts councils, halls and mechanics' institute committees, regional festivals and local government wishing to bring high quality works to their communities.

The program offers a range of high quality, technically appropriate and affordable works.



2017 Highlights

- developed mentorships for **three Community Presenters**, to be conducted throughout 2018.
- delivered **five regional skills development workshops** to a total of **84 participants**.
- garnered interest from **69 artists** to tour through the expressions of interest process.
- finalised a **2018 program of nine artists**, including two regional companies.

From 2015 – 2017, Connecting Places existed within the Touring Services program, and offered the same touring shows to halls and performing arts centres. In 2017, Connecting Places toured **seven different performances to 29 halls** across the state, reaching **1,988 audience members**. These performances were:

- ***The Exotic Lives of Lola Montez*** by Finucane & Smith
- ***Lovely Lady Lump*** by Lana Schwarcz
- **Miles & Simone**
- ***Mystery in the Air*** by Chester Productions
- ***Slapdash Galaxy*** by Bunk Puppets
- ***The Crow Family*** by Maude Davey
- ***Hart*** by She Said Theatre

You can see more detail about these performances below in the Touring Services section of this report.

Touring Services delivers high quality arts experiences to performing arts centres throughout Victoria and across the country. We work with presenters and producers to develop and deliver strong touring projects; build capacity and sustainability for artists; and contribute to the development of audiences in Victoria.



2017 Highlights

- 2017 Touring Program – we delivered **17 Tours** in total delivering **334 performances in Victoria, 131 interstate performances** and **26 workshops** over **95 touring weeks**. Works in the program were seen by **89,450 audience members** nationally and provided employment for **88 artists and technicians**.
- 2016 & 2017 Touring & Engagements Program – the second year of the Touring and Engagement Program was successfully delivered. Funded by Creative Victoria, the 2017 program supported **12 projects** throughout the year including **96 seasons, 114 performances** and **15 workshops**.
- Showcase Victoria – once again we teamed up with the Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres (VAPAC) to deliver Showcase Victoria. It was held on 31 May – 1 June at the Malthouse Theatre. **149 Applications** were received from across the country. **301 delegates** attended the event marking a **16% increase from 2016** and 43% of those delegates had not attended before.

The work of the Touring Services team would not be possible without the support we receive from Creative Victoria, the Australia Council for the Arts and the many presenters and producers with whom we work. We are also especially grateful for the partnership arrangements and support we receive from the Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres, Theatre Network Australia and Performing Arts Connections Australia.

Shows Toured

6D

The Listies
12 Jan - 21 May
National Tour funded by
Presenters
*An award winning kids comedy show
all about the movies.*

Yours Truly

Analisa Kerrigan
16 Mar - 26 Mar
Victorian Tour Funded by Creative
Victoria via the Touring and
Engagement Program and
Presenters
*A wartime inspired love story of
those who left, and those who were
left behind.*

Hart

She Said Theatre
16 Mar - 3 Jun
Victorian Tour Funded by
Creative Victoria via the Touring
and Engagement Program and
Presenters
*A one-man verbatim theatre piece
about the lived experiences of Stolen
Generations survivors and the
ongoing effects experienced by
Indigenous Australians.*

Slapdash Galaxy

Bunk Puppets
25 Mar - 28 Apr
National Tour Funded by Creative
Victoria via the Touring and
Engagement Program and
Presenters
*Shadow puppets in space! Two broth-
ers embark on an epic quest to find a
new home planet.*

Torte e Mort

Anya Anastasia
6 April - 12 Apr
Victorian Tour Funded by Creative
Victoria via the Touring and
Engagement Program and
Presenters
*Black humoured, visually opulent,
and dripping with satire, this cabaret
show is going to tempt your sweet
tooth and traumatise your funny
bone.*

Coranderrk

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company
19 April - 8 Jul
National Tour funded The Australia
Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria
and Presenters
*A definitive story from our neglected
Indigenous history.*

We're Going On A Bear Hunt

Garry Ginivan Attractions
1 May to 13 Sep
National Tour funded The Australia
Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria
and Presenters
*International Touring Production.
With an all Australian Cast. LIVE ON
STAGE!*



Shows Toured



Yours Truly by Transit Dance Company Photo by Chris Curran

The Witches

Griffin Theatre Company
18 May - 15 Jul

National Tour funded by The Australia Council for the Arts and Presenters

Brave boys and girls, rat-racers and retirees are in for a wicked and wonderful time.

2017 Regional Concert Series

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra
28 Apr - 25 Nov

Victorian Tour funded by presenters and Creative Victoria

A series of concerts delivered by the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra.

Wind In The Willows

La Boite Theatre Company
12 Jun - 29 Jul

National Tour funded by The Australia Council for the Arts and Presenters

A fresh take on a classic adventure of fun for the whole family!

Town Folk

Damian Callinan
17 Jul - 19 Aug

Victorian Tour Funded by Creative Victoria via the Touring and Engagement Program and Presenters

A show for your town, about your town.

The Exotic Lives of Lola Montez

Finucane & Smith
17 Jul - 23 Sep

National Tour Funded by Creative Victoria via the Touring and Engagement Program and Presenters

In 1855, the wildest showgirl of the nineteenth century, Lola Montez, toured Australia. The scandal is legend.

The Crow Family

Maude Davey
22 Jul - 11 Aug

Victorian Tour Funded by Creative Victoria via the Touring and Engagement Program and Presenters

An urban parable about families, scavengers and cake.

Intimacy

Ranters Theatre
17 Aug - 16 Sep

Victorian Tour Funded by Creative Victoria via the Touring and Engagement Program and Presenters

A chance meeting where strangers become confidants. Why is it sometimes easier to be honest with a total stranger than with someone we know?

Mystery In The Air

Chester Creative
8 Sep - 23 Sep

Victorian Tour Funded by Creative Victoria via the Touring and Engagement Program and Presenters

Comedy legend Michael Veitch with Simon Oats revive the golden era of 1940s radio drama... 50 voices + 100 sound effects = two very busy actors!

Lovely Lady Lump

Lana Schwartz
3 Oct - 28 Oct

Victorian Tour Funded by Creative Victoria via the Touring and Engagement Program and Presenters

Because we all hate cancer.



Welcome To Country with Ronald Edwards and Steve Parker at Arts Connect event, Meenivan. Photo by Liz Zito.

The Cultural Partnerships department underwent some changes during the restructure of 2017 to become the Partnerships Department. Partnerships continues to deliver the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund and the Regional Cultural Partnerships Program in addition to other regional workshops and activities. New to Partnerships is the Regional Arts Victoria Membership program and the team is delighted to be able to integrate their work whilst maintaining and continuing to build relationships with all Members.

2017 Highlights

- Delivery of **24 Regional Arts Fund (RAF) information sessions** across Victoria to assist potential applicants. Four of these sessions were co-presented with Creative Victoria and the Australia Council in a regional tour.
- A total of **33 events were staged across 29 halls** for Home is Where the Hall is. In 2017 the program once again spread to South Australia where five halls participated.
- **15 Regional Arts Fund Community Grants** in two rounds were allocated for a total of \$106,787 including Toe in the Water grants (for first time applicants) and Project and Skills Development Grants.
- Regional Arts Fund Community Grants involved an estimated **350 artists** (paid and unpaid), **55 arts workers** (paid and unpaid), **963 participants** and **24,910 audience members**.
- **35 Quick Response Grants** were distributed for a total of **\$66,126**.
- These Quick Response Grant projects involved an estimated **251 artists** (paid and unpaid), **52 arts workers** (paid and unpaid), **1,009 participants** and **1,029,701 audience members**.

Creative Arts Facilitators and Local Government Partners

The Regional Cultural Partnerships Program comprises collaborations between local, state and federal government to place four Creative Arts Facilitators in four areas of regional Victoria. There are currently nine local government partners.

The regional team's extensive on-the-ground knowledge is integral to inspiring creative activity, brokering networking opportunities and providing advice to both the communities in regional Victoria as well as staff at the Melbourne office. The local government partnerships and staff are:

- **Kim Bennett**, *Swan Hill Rural City Council and Gannawarra Shire Partnership*. Located in the north-western part of the state, the partnership covers an area of 9,849 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 30,815;
- **Malcolm Sanders**, *Ballarat City Council Partnership*. Located in central Victoria with an area of 740 square kilometres and a total estimated population of 101,686;
- **Tim Dakin**, *Wellington Shire Council*. The shire covers an area of 10,989 square kilometres and is home to 43,000 residents; and
- **Jo Grant**, *Great South Coast Partnership*. This partnership comprises the shires of Corangamite, Warrnambool, Southern Grampians, Moyne and Glenelg Shire Councils. In total it encompasses approximately 22,869 square kilometres and a total estimated population of 100,294.

Creative Arts Facilitator project highlights



ACRE Residency work by Trevor Flinn. Photographer unknown.

ACRE 3 Seminar

Seminar 1 in September featured presentations from artist and farmer Trevor Flinn and Peter Redfearn, Keith Mullette from *Somewhere Down the Lachlan*, Vic McEwen from the CAD Factory, and men's mental health online research project facilitator Alison Kennedy from The Ripple Effect.

The intersection of art, agriculture and community health is at the heart of the ACRE project, an ongoing program delivered in a close partnership between the Director of the Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery and Swan Hill/Gannawarra's Partnership's Creative Arts Facilitator Kim Bennett. Over 40 seminar delegates attended the seminar to listen to inspiring case studies which had art, tourism and community engagement at their core.

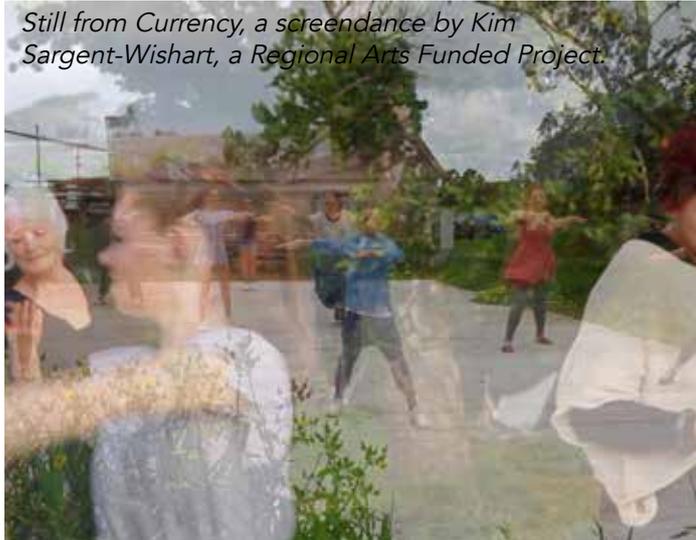


Ballarat Theatre Lab, Leisa Shelton workshop. Photo by Malcolm Sanders

Ballarat Theatre Lab

The Ballarat Partnership Creative Arts Facilitator Malcolm Sanders worked on the last phase of the Ballarat Theatre Lab Training which has been taking place over the last 18 months. 15 participants have met regularly to talk about theatre in Ballarat and the ways they can gain more visibility for their work. They have now begun to develop their own partnerships and collaborations, working together to make theatre in unusual and innovative spaces.

Two workshops by leading creative practitioner Leisa Shelton were offered to participants to further refine and focus their practice. Outcomes from the Theatre Lab have included *Minerva Speaks*, a storytelling project that broadcast the voice of 'Minerva', a statue that sits on the top of the Mechanics' Institute in Sturt Street, *Random Number Generator* – an excerpt from a musical that was re-visioned with film and presented as part of White Night 2018. The full musical will be produced at Trades Hall in 2018 in collaboration with a third Theatre Lab participant. Projects that engage with local public art and the local lakeside setting are also planned for later this year.



Still from Currency, a screendance by Kim Sargent-Wishart, a Regional Arts Funded Project.

Currency

Great South Coast Creative Arts Facilitator, Jo Grant, worked closely with Warrnambool Art Gallery to develop and facilitate a masterclass Grant Writing Workshop over three sessions that included skills on grant writing and structuring projects with community partners.

A direct outcome of this opportunity was the project *Currency*, by Kim Sargent-Wishart, a Screendance project made with local participants from the ages of 16-60, most whom have never been involved in a project like this. The work explored questions of ageing and visibility in women and girls and included the development of a choreographed dance piece screened in the Warrnambool Art Gallery over a number of weeks. It also introduced Screendance to the community, a first for this region.

Regional Arts Fund 2016 – 2020

The administration of the Regional Arts Fund in 2017 was managed by Partnerships Coordinator Lucy Hamilton until 31 August when Lucy gained employment at Express Media as the General Manager. On 16 October 2017, Edwina Guinness commenced employment as the Partnerships Coordinator and is already making a significant impact to the processes and procedures of the fund.

Programs and workshops

The Partnerships team held 20 Regional Arts Fund information sessions across the state in locations including Sale, Traralgon, Rokewood, Warrnambool, Stawell, Maryborough, Macedon, Ballarat, Cohuna, Boort, Bairnsdale, Orbost, Yarram, Wonthaggi, Warrnambool and Port Fairy.

Regional Arts Victoria collaborated with the Australia Council and Creative Victoria to present an additional four funding information sessions that travelled to Castlemaine, Mildura, Horsham and Cororooke.

\$187,000 was received via the Regional Arts Fund to deliver a Strengthening Local Creative Leadership Program, an expansion of the Regional Cultural Forums across Victoria. Six Regional Cultural Forums per year (rebranded as the Arts Connect Series) until 2020 will be presented in areas where Regional Arts Victoria does not have Creative Arts Facilitators.

Local Governments Authorities will contribute to have forums held in their areas. Carolyn Lambert (former Partnerships Administrator) has been appointed as Partnerships Project Coordinator to design and deliver the Arts Connect Series.



Creative Gippsland, Come and Play All of May, Artists in Residence Program. Photo by PollyannaR.

Creative Gippsland, Come and Play All of May, Artists in Residence Program

This was a great experience for the Wellington Creative Arts Facilitator, Tim Dakin. Being able to work closely with the community of Boisdale to deliver seven days of arts events featuring two artists, James Cattell and Tina Strafford was extremely rewarding. From the moment the artists arrived they were welcomed to the town with plates of food and smiles from community members. And the food and smiles didn't stop for the next six days and nor did the creating.

As a worker, Tim was thrilled to immerse himself in the program and get to know the community in a unique and engaging way. Community members from across all generations engaged with the artists, learning and sharing new skills from each other. A metal sculpture *The Tea Totalling Cowboy* was made by James Cattell using recycled machinery parts picked from farms in the area. Boisdale Primary school created all sorts of artworks for use at the school and The Boisdale Stables.

Regional Arts Victoria offers Organisation Membership to incorporated not-for-profit organisations based in Victoria who have the promotion of regional arts or cultural pursuits as a primary or principal focus. Individual Memberships are available to practising artists and arts workers throughout Australia.

Every artform is represented across Regional Arts Victoria's Members, from music and theatre, to film, visual arts, literature and more. In 2017, our Organisation Members reached a combined audience of 693,502 people across 4,290 activities, thanks to the efforts of 9,859 volunteers and 15,721 members of members. Volunteers alone contributed over 250,000 hours of time to the arts.

By the end of 2017, Regional Arts Victoria had **521 Members – 172 Organisations and 349 Individuals** – an increase of 9.5% since 2016. Members who responded to the 2017 Member Survey indicated that they value Regional Arts Victoria's Membership Program because it supports them to feel connected to the regional arts community via staff advice and support, professional development opportunities and regular ENews updates.

Towards the end of the year, Membership gained a full time staff member dedicated to the program. Anna Kennedy took on the role from Adelaide Fisher who worked part time on the program prior to gaining employment as Producer at Federation Square. Within the restructure the role has become full time with Anna working on membership and office coordination as the Membership & Office Coordinator.

Castlemaine State Festival 2017. Photo by Eleanor Bally



Regional Arts Victoria's Projects Team fosters local creative leadership and legacy through impactful public projects. Currently, Regional Arts Victoria is currently running two statewide projects: **Small Town Transformations** and **Artlands Victoria**. Small Town Transformations supports ambitious creative projects that transform communities and create lasting legacies of local artistic leadership. Artlands is the biennial conference that shines the national spotlight on Australia's regional arts. In 2018, Regional Arts Victoria presents Artlands on behalf of Regional Arts Australia.

MAP Rainbow as part of the Oasis Rainbow Small Town Transformations project. Photo by Melissa Powell



Small Town Transformations

As part of the second iteration of the Victorian Government's Small Town Transformations initiative, six communities of less than 2,000 people were given \$350,000 over two years to undertake an ambitious creative project to transform their town with lasting legacy and significant impact.

The six projects featured in Small Town Transformations are:

Bass Coast Waterline Townships – *The Edge of Us*
Birregurra – *enLIGHTen Me: I Have a Hall in my Heart*
Girgarre – *Girgarre Revival: The Sound of Our Spirit Rising*
Lake Tyers Beach – *FLOAT*
Narrawong – *Kang-o-Meerteek*
Rainbow – *The Oasis: Creativity on the Fringe of the Desert*

The Small Town Transformations projects are now in their final months. Sometimes complex, sometimes intense, always inspiring – these projects have been transformational in so many ways.

Each of the towns has worked incredibly hard to deliver the projects first conceived in their applications, with their own dynamics and progression.

Many projects have already been realised, with many more to be presented throughout 2018. In addition to their planned work, each project has expanded in unforeseen directions with many unplanned projects evolving out of the initial ideas. Some thrilling left turns have been taken, always remaining true to the ambitions of extending the creative culture that exists in every town.

New collaborations, friendships and partnerships within towns, with Shires and with local business have been formed, laying strong foundations for growth and the establishment of a lasting community and civic legacy.



Bass Coast (Pioneer Bay, Grantville, Tenby Point, Corinella and Coronet Bay) – *The Edge of US*

The Edge of Us has evolved significantly over its duration. Inspired by the Luminous Streets event in April 2017, the idea of establishing permanent gallery infrastructure in the public spaces of this Western Port cluster of towns emerged. Hundreds of participants made and exhibited light-driven sculptures during Luminous Streets.

“We wanted to pick up on the successful aspects of Luminous Streets, and community feedback told us that people wanted something more permanent that would live beyond the Edge of Us project.”

Artistic directors Jessica Wilson, Jeannie Haughton and Mary Sullivan

Luminous Galleries installed clusters of permanent platform and power infrastructure in public spaces. The project launched on 7 April 2018 with an ambitious program of installations in each space continuing into August.

Luminous Galleries on Corinella Pier as part of the Bass Coast Waterline Townships Small Town Transformations Project. Photo by Anna Carson.



Birregurra – *enLIGHTen Me; I have a Hall in my Heart*

Throughout 2017, Birregurra enjoyed continued success with numerous workshops, activations and creative development for their significant performance outcomes. The Birregurra Hall Ballyhoo, presented on 28 April 2018, was the thrilling culmination of their creative ambitions and the result of 18 months of collaborations with the Birregurra community and numerous local and national professional artists.

Also in 2017, with planning for redevelopment on the Mechanics' Institute Hall and grounds already underway, the project team was awarded a federal government Building Better Regions grant. This has meant that Birregurra will now be able to deliver a benchmark, sustainable facility to the town and district – the hall will be unveiled later in 2018. Their Small Town Transformation has grown and grown.

Girgarre – *Revival. The Sound of our Spirit Rising*

April 2018 saw the grand opening of Girgarre's stunning Gargarro Soundshell – a collaboration between Small Town Transformations and the botanical gardens development. Musicians from Girgarre, Echuca, Kyabram, Bendigo and beyond, many of whom had made their own 'Junkestra' instruments, gathered to perform together for the first time. Under the tutelage of international artist, Graeme Leak, this inter-generational ensemble performed *Spirit Rising* - a piece composed specifically by Graeme.

Throughout the year this ambitious, energetic town has been a hive of activity. Artists Gloria Loughman and Robin Fox have visited frequently to develop work across many media. The final celebration will be an ambitious multi-media installation across the whole town on 16 June.

Small Town Transformations

Lake Tyers Beach – *FLOAT*

FLOAT has produced two large scale and powerful events in the last year: the deeply significant Corroboree on the Water in December, a collaboration with local Aboriginal cultural organisation, Wurinbeena and the ALMANAC exhibition, which represented the culmination of a year-long process of work by 40 artists from in and around the town. Design and construction of the residential studio FLOAT has continued and promises to be an extraordinary vessel providing an opportunity for artists, scientists and environmentalists to work with the Lake Tyers Beach community. The vessel will be launched mid-2018.

The legacy of the cross-cultural collaboration embodied by the vessel, its operations and creative community is tangible.

Narrawong – *Kang-o-Meerteek*

Narrawong's significant collaborative sculpture project, led by Koori artist Wal Saunders, is a monument set to symbolise the hope of a shared vision of the future.

A striking three-leaved structure, representing the smoke and fires that were lit for hundreds of generations by the Cart Gunditj to call the clans of the Dhauwurd Wurrung together to feast together when whales became stranded on the shores of Portland Bay. This installation will powerfully mark the region's Indigenous and non-Indigenous past. The Kang-O-Meerteek Small Town Transformations team are also developing a significant public space in the township in response to the call of the sculpture placed on Mt Clay overlooking the township. A significant year in Narrawong's history is underway, with all to be unveiled over the weekend of 6-7 October.

Rainbow – *The Oasis: Creativity on the Fringe of the Desert*

Perched between the Big and Little Deserts, Rainbow is experiencing a snowballing Small Town Transformation. The town has built a significant community asset out of the old stone-built primary school, now a multi-purpose site with an array of sculptural, horticultural and landscape works. With numerous artist and environmental collaborators working throughout the year, the town is making the most of their opportunities to initiate and participate in an array of projects.

On 28 April 2018 the first Mallee Art & Performance Festival took place, curated by international choreographer Tony Yap. A visiting party of Indonesian performers from Sampang Agung Centre for Performing Arts worked with the Wotjabuluk Dance Group to create a unique work. In October the project will culminate in the Way Out West Festival day on 6 October.



Birds over Lake Tyers Beach. Photo by Graham Coffey.

Celebrating twenty years in 2018, Artlands is the biennial event that shines a national spotlight on Australia's regional arts.

Artlands Victoria is a multi-art, cross industry and inter-generational event that provides regional connections. Presented by Regional Arts Victoria as an integrated conference and cultural program, Artlands Victoria aims to combine a curated program of works in progress, explorations and commissioned projects alongside an engaged speakers program.

Scheduled every two years by Regional Arts Australia to circulate around the country among its member organisations, Artlands was last presented by Regional Arts Victoria in 2004 as Meeting Place in Horsham.

Artlands Victoria will be held from **10-14 October 2018 in Bendigo and Castlemaine.**

2017 Highlights

- Appointment of **Ros Abercrombie** as Creative Producer to lead Artlands Victoria 2018. (June 2017)
- **Artlands brand** finalised, resulting in a strong recognisable brand that will continue the legacy of Artlands.
- Federal and State **government commitments** confirmed.
- Artlands Victoria tagline **"Sharing knowledge, Trading resources, Exchanging gifts, During times of ceremony and gathering"** confirmed. (August 2017)
- Artlands Victoria **framework confirmed.** (August 2017)
- Employment of Artlands Coordinator **Ella Bucovaz** in September 2017.
- **Artlands website** launched in October 2017.
- Large response from wool crafters across the state for lead-in project **Crafting the Merch.**
- *Crafting the Merch* lead-in project commenced in partnership with Woolly West Fest from Hamilton and Bendigo Woollen Mills. (December 2017)
- Sponsorship relationship confirmed with **VicHealth** for Artlands signature project *Cultural Pharmacy*. (December 2017)

The Woolly West Fest start #CraftingtheMerch for Artlands Victoria. Photo by Jo Grant



Marketing and Management

Marketing

In 2017 Regional Arts Victoria's Marketing & Publicity Manager Eleanor Bally focussed on consolidating our Marketing & Publicity processes, putting in place a Marketing & Publicity Strategy to help us gain a better understanding of our marketing aims and identify priorities.

2017 Highlights:

- Establishing of a comprehensive **Marketing & Publicity Strategy** to guide Regional Arts Victoria's marketing & publicity activities;
- Developing an organisation-wide **Salesforce CRM**, allowing Regional Arts Victoria to gain a better understanding of our stakeholders and communicate with them more effectively;
- Developing a thorough **Regional Arts Victoria style guide** to provide guidance to staff and encourage greater consistency of messaging;
- Thorough scoping for a new **Regional Arts Victoria website** and developing a brief for potential developers; and
- Overhauling Regional Arts Victoria's **digital marketing** processes, with new platforms (Instagram, Vimeo, Google +) added, a move from MailChimp to Campaign Monitor completed, and new processes put in place for planning, tracking and reporting on our digital marketing activities.

Key metrics (1 January - 31 December 2017):

- A total of **6,858 page likes** across all of Facebook pages
- **9,148** Twitter followers
- **1,049** Instagram followers
- **2,128** subscribers to our monthly Regional Arts Victoria ENews, with an average click rate of 18%
- **29,461** visitors to the Regional Arts Victoria website

Management

Founded in 1969, the Victorian Arts Council began its life as an umbrella body of regional arts councils, serving as the Victorian branch of the Arts Council of Australia (now Regional Arts Australia). Initially, the Victorian Arts Council supported performing arts touring, as well as offering resources and support for its affiliated regional arts councils. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the organisation developed in complexity in response to regional arts needs, and its formal incorporation in 1981 streamlined its business practices.

A comprehensive independent review in the late 1990s undertook valuable work in reflecting on the artistic legacy of the Victorian Arts Council's first three decades. Its key recommendations centred on the need to create a unique suite of Victorian arts programs, rather than serving as the Victorian branch of the national body. In response, the organisation's artistic programming in the 2000s developed sophisticated new focuses in education, cultural partnerships, major projects and, of course, touring, in what was fast becoming an increasingly intricate national touring landscape. Government partnerships were strengthened, resulting in devolved grant relationships with all levels of government, as well as partner-funded Regional Arts Development Officer positions.

Today's organisation is a company limited by guarantee, rebranded as Regional Arts Victoria in 1999. The organisation broadened its vision and its scope to encompass artists and arts organisations across Victoria, connecting artists and communities. For the previous strategic plan period, Regional Arts Victoria identified three strategic provocations for the next stages of our development:

- Reframing Regional Arts Victoria as a robust, sustainable arts organisation with a clear and coherent artistic program;
- Defined not by artform, venue, or artist career stage, but by the geographic places of Victoria, fostering and connecting the places where art is made, shared, experienced and discussed;
- Infusing a passionate advocacy for the arts across everything we do.

Each of these provocations informs the current strategic plan, with its shift towards a focus on creative practice. Regional Arts Victoria's current scope encompasses all artforms, all creative practices, and all modes of artistic experience. Across artistic and creative development work spanning five decades, Regional Arts Victoria inspires art across the state.



The Regional Arts Victoria Board at the 2017 AGM. Photo by Renee Stamatis.

Regional Arts Victoria is a company limited by guarantee, founded as the Victorian Arts Council in 1969, incorporated in 1981, and rebranded in 1999. We are a not-for-profit company and our Public Fund is listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations as a Deductible Gift Recipient. The members of the Regional Arts Victoria Board serve three-year terms with appointment at the Annual General Meeting held before the end of May each year. The Constitution provides for the election and co-option of Directors. At all times a majority of the Directors of the Company must ordinarily reside in Victoria. Appointments to fill casual vacancies are made from time to time as required, against areas of need identified by the Board.

The Regional Arts Victoria Board as at December 2018

Bruce Esplin AM

Chair

2011-2020

The former, and first, Victorian Emergency Services Commissioner (a position he held for 10 years), Bruce held senior positions in emergency management in Victoria for over 20 years. He was awarded the Centenary Medal for his public service in the emergency management sector. Bruce is a photographer and sculptor. Board positions include Kinglake Ranges Foundation and Board Member and fellow of Emergency Media and Public Affairs.

Kaz Paton

Deputy Chair

2011-2020

Kaz first joined local government in Melbourne in the mid-1990s. She established the Culture & Leisure Department in the Colac Otway Shire in the late-1990s. She is currently the Manager for the Arts & Culture Department of the City of Greater Geelong. Kaz has been a board member of many arts organisations. She was a founding board member of the Cultural Development Network of Victoria and was Vice Chair of Regional Arts Victoria when she was last a board member (co-opted back to the Board in 2011). She is a 2012 Churchill Fellow. Before local government Kaz trained as an actor in Australia and the United Kingdom. She subsequently worked as an actor and community theatre worker both in Australia and overseas including four years as producer, actor and teacher with the National Improvisational Theatre Company in New York.

Julie Stanley**Treasurer****2015-2018**

Bachelor of Commerce; Member, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia; Registered Company Auditor. Julie is a former Assurance & Advisory Partner at Deloitte, having started with the professional services firm as a graduate. A passionate supporter of the arts, with a particular interest in visual arts.

Elise Armitage**2015-2018**

Bachelor of Arts – Anthropology and International Development, and currently completing Masters – Ethics and Legal Studies. Elise has extensive management and administrative experience in both public and not-for-profit sectors, across Arts, Health and Tourism. Elise has directed and managed many festivals, events and creative projects across Victoria, and is a practicing artist.

Rebecca Brezzi**2017-20**

Rebecca, has degrees and qualifications in law, psychology and business systems. She is a barrister at the Victorian Bar and has taught in the areas of commercial, administrative and corporate law. Before becoming a lawyer, Rebecca was a senior project manager with the carriage of change management projects in the telecommunications, energy and IT sectors. Rebecca served five years (four as chair) on the board of Express Media, a not for profit organisation promoting young Australian writers.

Peter Giddings**2009-2018**

Diploma of Technical Teaching, Graduate Diploma of Education and Training (Technology). Member of East Gippsland Shire Council Arts and Culture Strategic Advisory Board; Past President and current committee member Mallacoota Arts Council; Former Chairman Technical Teachers Registration Board and Teachers Registration Council; Twenty plus years as a Technical / Secondary Design & Technology Teacher.

Emma Jones**2017-20**

After completing a Bachelor of Music (Jazz), Emma built a career in web and e-learning development working in Canberra, London and Melbourne. Experience gained working on many projects during this time led Emma to her current role as a Project Manager specialising in implementing IT systems in large organisations. Emma has a long association with arts organisations and projects in Northeast Victoria, including the King Valley Art Show and four years as deputy chair of Wangaratta Festival of Jazz. Her artistic practice spans music, printmaking and textiles.

Jes John**2017-20**

Jes John is one of the leading members (and currently the chairperson) of F.INC, which grew from (f)route, a hugely successful localism and community-based arts group in East Gippsland. She is also one of the founding members of Foundry, an arts co-operative retail store and collaborative office space, located in downtown Bairnsdale, which has been operating successfully for three years. Jes is socially-engaged in the best of ways, and has long recognised that art doesn't always live inside galleries - it is often found within community, and builds strong connections between those regionally.

Martin Paten**2009-2018**

Bachelor of Arts – Fine Arts in Photography, Graduate Certificate in Corporate Management. Martin a former Director of the Castlemaine State Festival and currently Director and CEO of the Footscray Community Arts Centre. He is an artist, arts administrator and director in the public and private sector, and was ten years in a senior management position with City of Melbourne. Martin is Regional Arts Victoria's representative on the Regional Arts Australia board.

Karen Whitaker-Taylor**2015-2018**

Karen has been the Cultural Development Officer at Baw Baw Shire since 2007. She was a representative on the Cultural Tourism Victoria Board from 2008-2012; is a Regional Arts Fund Panel member; (Honorary) Member of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance, and has been involved on the Creative Gippsland Committee since 2004.

The Board of Directors meets five times per year. Standing committees including Audit & Risk, with other committees and working parties established from time to time to meet specific needs (e.g. Governance Review). The constitution was last reviewed in 2016 to include Individual Members as Voting Members of the organisation, to streamline the appointment process for Directors, and to resolve minor errors. Regional Arts Victoria has a yearly strategic planning cycle feeding into a four-year strategic and business plan, with complementary board and executive staff cycles. The Executive Director as CEO reports directly to the Board, and serves as Company Secretary.

Director-level staff at December 2017:

Joe Toohey **Executive Director**

Joe brings a wealth of administrative and management experience to the role, gained at Footscray Community Arts Centre, SYN Media, Express Media, Macleod YMCA and Victoria University. Born and raised in Albury, Joe relocated to Melbourne to attend university and foster the arts. He has a Bachelor of Business (Marketing / Music Industry), and in 2013 he completed his Master of Arts Management at the University of Melbourne following an internship in Singapore, and the Australia Council for the Arts Emerging Leaders Program in 2014. He is currently a Treasurer of the Footscray Community Arts Centre and a Life Member of SYN Media.

Joe was General Manager and CEO at Express Media from 2010-2013, where he led a restructure of the organisation, as well as introducing exciting new partnerships leading to a comprehensive program of literary and developmental offerings for young writers. His past roles at Regional Arts Victoria have included supporting the Cultural Partnerships team and our regionally-based Creative Arts Facilitators, as well as coordinating our State-Wide Project Illuminated By Fire in 2010. Joe is the former Regional Arts Victoria General Manager from 2013.

Liz Zito **Director of Partnerships**

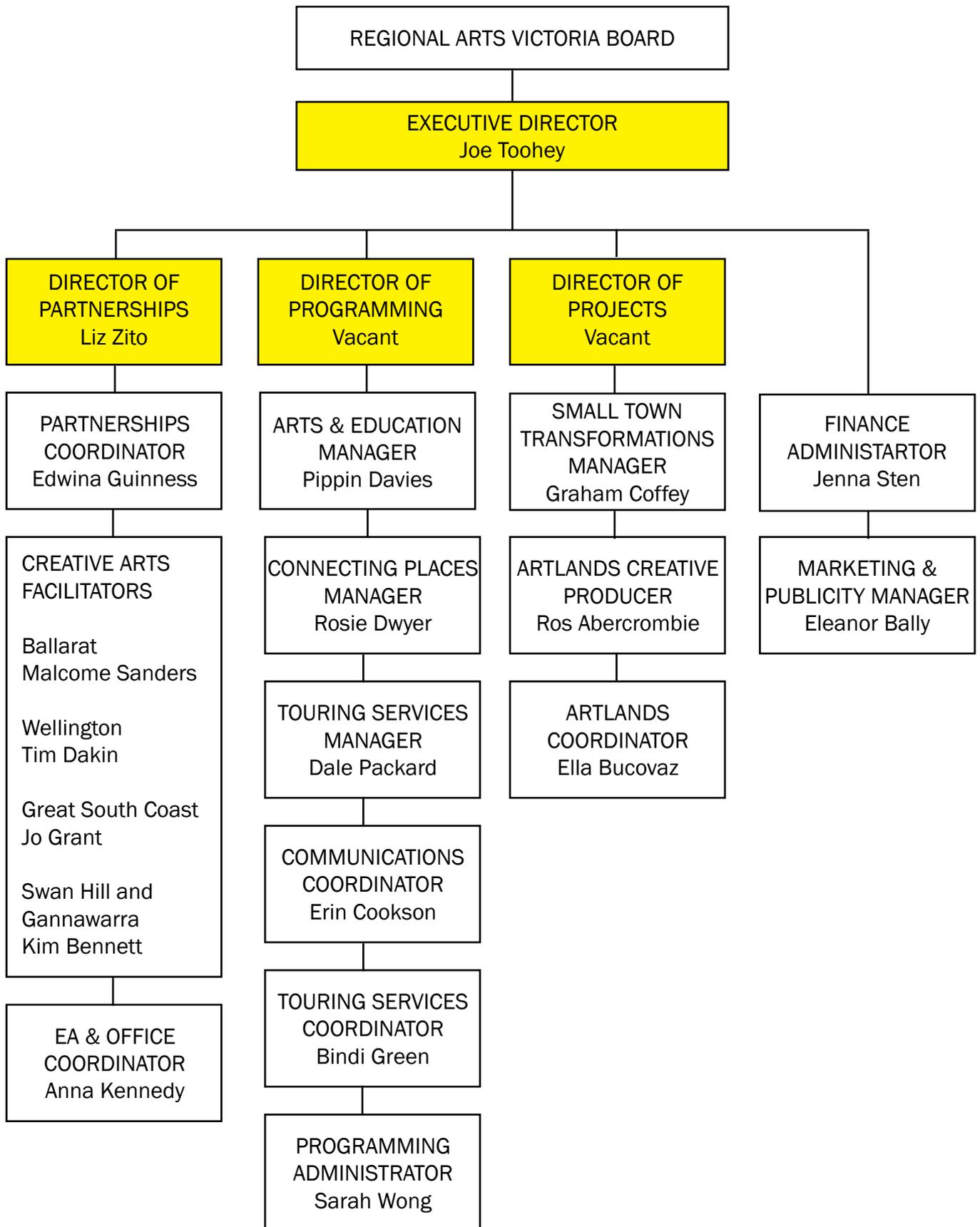
Liz has an Advanced Diploma of Business Management and a Diploma of Tourism but describes her qualifications as grassroots: learning on the job whilst living, working and playing among regional communities. Her former roles include Manager, Theatre and Function Centre, Colac Otway Performing Arts Centre; Theatre Manager, HIT Productions; Council Festival and Events Coordinator, Shepparton; Box Office Supervisor and Acting Manager, Performing Arts and Conventions, Riverlinks; Ticketing Assistant, Ten Days on the Island Festival, Hobart.

Liz is a life member of the Shepparton Theatre Arts Group Inc (STAG Inc). At STAG she served as committee member, directed and performed in productions, and received Victorian Music Theatre Guild nominations and commendations, as well as local theatre awards for her performances. Liz has been a Panel Member of the Regional Arts Fund administered by Regional Arts Victoria, and was a board member of Regional Arts Victoria prior to taking on her current role.

At the time of writing, the Director of Projects and Director of Programming positions are vacant. Interim arrangements in place at the conclusion of 2017 will be extended to ensure current staff are able to effectively deliver on our 2018 Program.



Joe Toohey and Liz Zito watch show at Nati Frinj, 2017. Photographer unknown.



**Regional Arts Victoria is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in 1969.
ABN 24 005 556 025**

The Directors are elected at the Annual General Meeting held in May each year. The Constitution requires the election of up to six Directors from the membership, and allows the co-option of Directors. Appointments to fill any such casual vacancies are made from time to time as required, against areas identified by the Board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: STATUTORY INFORMATION

The Directors submit herewith the organisation's balance sheet as at 31 December 2017 and the income statement for the year ended 31 December 2017 and report as follows.

The names of the directors, their qualifications, experience and special responsibilities in office at the date of this report are listed on page 15 of this document.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The organisation's principal activity since incorporation has been to stage and conduct artistic and theatrical entrepreneurial activities. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

DIVIDENDS

No dividends have been paid, declared or recommended since incorporation.

OPERATING RESULTS

The surplus for the year is \$11,536 (2016: deficit of \$27,358). The organisation is exempt from income tax.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The operations of the organisation during the year are detailed in the various accompanying reports and the results thereof are shown directly above.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the organisation.

LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Regional Arts Victoria is in receipt of Organisation Investment Program operational funding from 2017-20 through Creative Victoria. No significant variations to the 2017-20 Strategic or Operational Plan are planned in 2018.

DIRECTOR'S SHAREHOLDINGS

The organisation is a company limited by guarantee and consequently there is no share capital.

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets five times per year. Committees are established from time to time to meet specific needs. These include the Audit and Risk Committee, chaired by the Treasurer.

Regional Arts Victoria has a yearly strategic planning cycle feeding into a four-year strategic plan and yearly business plan, with complementary board and senior staff cycles. The Executive Director as CEO reports directly to the Board, and serves as Company Secretary. Staff performance and development reviews are undertaken annually, and the Executive Director's performance is reviewed annually by the Board with the participation of senior staff.

The number of meetings attended by each director is listed below.

Director	Board Meetings Attended	First Elected	Term Expires	Audit Committee Meetings	Additional Notes
Elise Armitage	3/5	2015	2018	4/4	Joined September 2017
Rebecca Brezzi	1/1	2017	2020		
Bruce Esplin AM	4/5	2011	2020	4/4	
Peter Giddings	5/5	2009	2018		
Jes John	3/3	2017	2020		Joined May 2017
Emma Jones	3/3	2017	2020		Joined May 2017
Julie Millowick	2/2	2008	2017		Retired May 2017
Martin Paten	4/5	2009	2018		
Kaz Paton	5/5	2011	2020	2/4	
Julie Stanley	5/5	2015	2018	4/4	
Karen Whitaker-Taylor	5/5	2015	2018		

DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTORS' BENEFITS

During or since the financial year some directors of the company can receive benefits, other than a benefit included in the aggregate amount of emoluments. No directors individually received benefits this year.

REGIONAL ARTS FUND GRANTS

The Board has delegated to the Regional Arts Fund Assessment Committee the authority to decide all project and professional grants awarded by the Federal Government under the Regional Arts Fund. No Directors or members of Directors immediate family who are employees or associates of individuals or groups received Regional Arts Fund grants in 2016 or 2017.

SMALL TOWN TRANSFORMATION GRANTS

The Board has delegated to the Small Town Transformations Assessment Panel the authority to decide all project and professional grants awarded by the Victorian Government under the Small Town Transformations grant program. There were no Directors or members of Directors immediate family who were employees or associates of individuals or groups awarded Small Town Transformations grants when originally decided in 2016.

Jes John, Chair of Small Town Transformations project recipient F.INC East Gippsland Inc, was elected to the Regional Arts Victoria Board in May 2017, 12 months following the funding decision date.

GUARANTEE AGAINST LOSS GRANTS

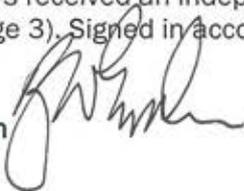
The Board has delegated to the CEO the authority to decide all Guarantee Against Loss Grants, the funds for which are provided by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria. Directors or members of Directors immediate family who are employees or associates of individuals or groups that have received grants in 2016 and 2017 are listed below. None of these members played a role in decision-making for these funds.

Director	Grant Recipient	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
E Armitage	Upper Kiewa Valley Regional Arts Inc	-	1,500

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENT DECLARATION TO THE DIRECTORS OF REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

The Directors received an independent auditor's declaration from the auditor of Regional Arts Victoria (refer to page 3). Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board.

Bruce Esplin
Chair



DATE: 30/4/18
MELBOURNE

Julie Stanley
Treasurer



DATE: 30/4/18
MELBOURNE

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA
ABN 24 005 556 025**

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2017, profit and loss statement, statement of changes in equity and expenditure and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and director's declaration.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporation Act VIC 2001. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

INDEPENDENCE

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA
ABN 24 005 556 025**

AUDITOR'S OPINION

In my opinion, the financial report of REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA as of 31 December 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Name of Firm: Chenoweth Accounting
Name of Principal: Stephen R Chenoweth FCA
Address: 88 St James Road Heidelberg VIC 3084

SIGNED:



DATE:

30/4/2018

**REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA
ABN 24 005 556 025**

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE MEMBERS OF
REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA
ABN 24 005 556 025**

I hereby declare, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the financial period ended 31 December 2017 there have been:

- (i) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) No contraventions of an applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Name of Firm: Chenoweth Accounting
Name of Partner: Stephen R Chenoweth FCA
Address: 88 St James Road Heidelberg VIC 3084

SIGNED:



DATE:

30/4/2018

INCOME STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
OPERATING REVENUE			
Grants and Sponsorship (including Project & Touring)	4	3,684,653	3,379,734
Project and Touring Sales		1,642,295	1,182,455
Membership Income		189,890	172,313
Sundry and Investment Income		106,545	284,808
Total Revenue		5,623,393	5,019,310
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Project and Touring Expenses		2,743,371	2,148,703
Administered Grants		1,129,625	1,116,684
Salary & Related Expenses		1,394,943	1,411,830
Other Operating Expenses		343,918	369,451
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		5,611,857	5,046,668
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		11,536	(27,358)
RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		124,881	152,239
RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		136,417	124,881

The income statement should be read in conjunction with the following notes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	552,030	1,426,889
Trade and Other Receivables	6	1,023,447	298,113
Investments	7	524,733	422,039
Total Current Assets		2,100,209	2,147,041
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	8	227,454	221,732
Total Non-Current Assets		227,454	221,732
TOTAL ASSETS		2,327,663	2,368,773
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	9	2,072,978	2,107,465
Provisions	10	69,709	105,278
Total Current Liabilities		2,142,686	2,212,743
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	11	48,560	31,149
Total Non-Current Liabilities		48,560	31,149
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,191,246	2,243,892
NET ASSETS			
ACCUMULATED EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		136,417	124,881
TOTAL EQUITY		136,417	124,881

The balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Revenue		5,623,393	5,019,310
Operating Expenses		(5,611,857)	(5,046,668)
Net increase/(decrease) in provisions		(18,158)	5,480
Non-Cash items		61,724	48,535
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Net acquisition of property, plant, equipment and investments		(170,140)	(287,193)
Proceeds from sale of equipment		-	65,545
Change in assets and liabilities			
Net (increase)/decrease in trade debtors		(725,334)	(57,138)
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		(34,487)	1,174,130
CHANGE IN CASH BALANCE		(874,859)	922,001
Net increase (decrease) in cash		(874,859)	922,001
Cash at beginning of the financial year		1,426,889	504,888
CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		552,030	1,426,889

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	\$
At 1 January 2016	152,239
Surplus for period	(27,358)
At 31 December 2016	124,881
Surplus for period	11,536
At 31 December 2017	136,417

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For The Year Ended 31 December 2017

Note 1: Corporate Information

The financial report of Regional Arts Victoria (the Company) for the year ended 31 December 2017 was authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Directors on 17 April 2018. The nature of the operations and principal activities of the Company are described in the Directors' Report.

Note 2: Summary Of Significant Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to Members and Directors of Regional Arts Victoria for information purposes. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with previous years, and are, in the opinion of the Directors appropriate to meet the needs of Members and Directors.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The directors have prepared the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other professional reporting requirements with the following exceptions as certain disclosures have not been made:

AASB 7: Financial Instruments: Disclosures

AASB 8: Segment Reporting

AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements

AASB 124: Related Party Disclosures and

AASB 132: Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Instruments

The accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical costs. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the organisation in the preparation of the accounts.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in bank accounts, and money market investments readily convertible to cash within two working days, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Cost and Valuation

Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost or at independent or Directors' valuation. Any surplus on revaluation is credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve and excluded from the profit and loss account. Any gain or loss on the disposal of revalued assets is determined as the difference between the value of the asset at the time of disposal and the proceeds from disposal, and is included in the result of the entity in the year of disposal.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment, at rates calculated to allocate the cost of the assets against revenue over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation for Motor Vehicles and Office Equipment is calculated at 30% on a diminishing value basis. The website is amortised at 30% on a diminishing value basis.

INCOME TAX

The organisation is exempt from income tax in terms of section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

LEASES

Lease payments for operating leases are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables, which generally have 30-60 day terms, are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for impairment. Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis at an entity level. Individual debts that are known to be uncollectible are written off when identified. An impairment provision is recognised when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect the receivable. Financial difficulties of the debtor, default payments or debts more than 60 days overdue are considered objective evidence of impairment. The amount of the impairment loss is the receivable carrying amount compared to the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate.

TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Trade and other payables are carried at amortised cost and due to their short-term nature they are not discounted.

They represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the entity prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the entity becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured and are unusually paid within 30 days of recognition.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Government grants are recognised in the balance sheet as a liability when the grant is received. It is recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant on a systematic basis to the costs that it is intended to compensate.

REVENUE RECOGNITION

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

- a) Contracted income, interest income and sundry income are brought to account when the Company controls a right relating to the consideration payable.
- b) Charitable income, including donations and bequests are brought to account on a cash basis which is normally when the Company receives the contribution or the right to receive the income.

UNEARNED INCOME

Unearned revenue shown in the accounts will be brought to account as revenue when it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity.

GST

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except:

- a) where the GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the taxation authority, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense item as applicable; and
- b) receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority, are classified as operating cash flows.

EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, contracted severance pay and long service leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, severance pay and any other employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. All other employee benefit liabilities are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. In determining the present value of future cash outflows, the market yield as at the reporting date on national government bonds, which have terms to maturity approximating the terms of the related liability, are used. Employee benefits expenses and revenues arising in respect of the following categories:

- a) wages and salaries, severance pay, non-monetary benefits, annual leave, long service leave, and other leave benefits; and
- b) other types of employee benefits are recognised against profits on a net basis in their respective categories.

Note 3: Members' Liability

The organisation is a company limited by guarantee. Under Section 9.1 of the Constitution:

"Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding \$50 to the property of the Company in the event of its being wound up while the member is a member or within 1 year after the member ceases to be a member, if required for payment:

- (1) of the debts and liabilities of the Company (contracted before the member ceases to be a member);
- (2) of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- (3) for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves."

Note 4: Grants & Sponsorship	Project Ref	\$ 2017	\$ 2016
State and Federal Funds	a) b) c) e) f)	2,271,846	2,190,327
Creative Victoria	b)	-	16,667
Arts Queensland: Touring	b)	37,950	37,950
Department of Education & Training	c) d) f)	677,702	274,016
Regional Arts Australia	b) c) d)	70,000	563,288
Australian Government Ministry for the Arts	b)	324,641	-
Australia Council		3,382,139	3,082,248
Local Government	d)	47,258	46,520
City of Ballarat	d)	-	3,600
City of Melbourne	d)	11,092	5,464
Corangamite Shire Council	d)	11,092	5,464
Gannawarra Shire Council	d)	11,092	5,464
Glenelg Shire Council	d)	-	10,927
Hepburn Shire Council	d)	11,256	10,927
Moyne Shire Council	d)	-	2,000
Mt Alexander Shire Council	d)	11,092	5,464
Southern Grampians Shire Council	d)	44,526	43,868
Swan Hill Rural City Council	d)	44,366	43,710
Wellington Shire Council	d)	11,256	10,927
Warrnambool City Council		203,030	194,335
Philanthropic Support	b)	-	9,385
Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund	b)	37,343	19,726
Australian Children's Theatre Foundation	b)	20,000	20,000
R.E. Ross Trust	b)	-	10,000
Besen Family Trust	b)	7,460	2,540
FRRR	a)	4,680	-
Telstra All-4-Biz Loyalty Fund	b)	30,000	30,000
Helen McPherson-Smith Trust	b)	-	10,000
Clemenger Staff Fund	b)	-	1,500
Individual Donors			
	Total Grants & Sponsorship	3,684,653	3,379,734
		\$ 2017	\$ 2016
PROJECTS FUNDED BY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP			
a) Operational Funds		753,785	735,400
Creative Victoria		4,680	-
Telstra All-4-Biz Loyalty Fund		758,465	735,400
b) Programming		179,749	170,689
Creative Victoria: Touring Victoria		163,977	136,023
Creative Victoria: Tour Pilot		11,227	1,773
Creative Victoria: Marketing Grant		1,420	23,779
Creative Victoria: Guarantee Against Loss		37,950	37,950
Department of Education & Training		-	16,667
Arts Queensland: Touring	-	324,641	-
Australia Council: Playing Australia		70,000	325,000
Ministry for the Arts		-	9,385
Lord Mayors Charitable Fund	-	37,343	19,726
Australian Children's Theatre Foundation		20,000	20,000
R.E. Ross Trust		-	10,000
Besen Family Trust	-	7,460	2,540
FRRR		30,000	30,000

Clemenger Staff Fund	-	10,000
Individual Donors	-	1,500
	883,767	815,032

c) Partnerships

Creative Victoria – Creative Recovery Program	-	16,058
Creative Victoria – Regional Arts Australia Conference		
Travel Subsidies	-	8,500
Regional Arts Australia – National Strategic Projects	42,110	28,970
Regional Arts Australia – Artlands Travel Subsidy	-	8,000
	42,110	61,528

d) Regional Partnerships/Regional Arts Fund

Australian Government Ministry for the Arts		
- Regional Arts Fund	-	238,288
Regional Arts Australia – Regional Arts Fund	485,717	237,047
City of Ballarat	47,258	46,520
City of Melbourne	-	3,600
Corangamite Shire Council	11,092	5,464
Gannawarra Shire Council	11,092	5,464
Glenelg Shire Council	11,092	5,464
Hepburn Shire Council	-	10,927
Moyne Shire Council	11,256	10,927
Mt Alexander Shire Council	-	2,000
Southern Grampians Shire Council	11,092	5,464
Swan Hill Rural City Council	44,526	43,868
Wellington Shire Council	44,366	43,710
Warrnambool City Council	11,256	10,927
	688,747	668,670

e) Small Town Transformations

Creative Victoria	1,072,769	1,098,106
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f) Artlands

Creative Victoria: Artlands	88,919	-
Regional Arts Australia: Artlands	149,876	-
	238,795	-

Total Grants & Sponsorship	3,684,653	3,379,734
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Note 5: Cash and cash equivalents reconciliation

Cash at year end consists of:

Cheque account	397,954	263,641
Deposit clearing account	1,401	5,223
Investment accounts	150,880	1,156,230
Public fund account	1,495	1,495
Petty Cash	300	300
	552,030	1,426,889

Note 6: Trade and other receivables	660,868	158,657
Trade Debtors	360,111	139,456
Prepayments	2,468	-
Other Debtors	1,023,447	298,113
Note 7: Investments		
Equities Held	524,733	422,039
Note 8: Property, Plant and Equipment		
Bond	12,904	12,829
Property, plant and equipment at cost	458,575	387,687
Less accumulated depreciation	(244,026)	(178,784)
	227,454	221,732
Note 9: Trade and other payables		
Creditors	597,013	669,998
Accrued expenses	24,215	23,057
Revenue in advance	107,099	246,010
Grants in advance	1,328,773	1,146,563
Other payables	15,878	21,837
	2,072,978	2,107,465
Note 10: Provisions (Current)		
Annual Leave	61,528	91,178
Long Service Leave	8,181	14,100
	69,709	105,278
Note 11: Provisions (Non-Current)		
Long Service Leave	35,322	17,760
Redundancy	13,238	13,389
	48,560	31,149
Note 12: Auditors' Remuneration		
Amounts received or receivable by the auditors		
- auditing the accounts	9,400	9,400
	9,400	9,400
Note 13: Directors' Emoluments		
No director received or was entitled to receive emoluments.		
Note 14: Expenditure Commitments		
Leases:		
In respect of certain operating leases, the company is committed for the following lease expenditure which has not been provided for in the accounts.		
- not later than one year	72,707	51,474
- not later than two years	72,707	-
	145,413	51,474

NAME	TITLE and TERM	BIOGRAPHY
Emma Jones	Elected Director 2017-20	After completing a Bachelor of Music (Jazz), Emma built a career in web and e-learning development working in Canberra, London and Melbourne. Experience gained working on many projects during this time led Emma to her current role as a Project Manager specialising in implementing IT systems in large organisations. Emma has a long association with arts organisations and projects in Northeast Victoria, including the King Valley Art Show and four years as deputy chair of Wangaratta Festival of Jazz. Her artistic practice spans music, printmaking and textiles.
Jes John	Elected Director 2017-20	Jes John is one of the leading members (and currently the chairperson) of F.INC, which grew from (f)route, a hugely successful localism and community-based arts group in East Gippsland. She is also one of the founding members of Foundry, an arts co-operative retail store and collaborative office space, located in downtown Bairnsdale, which has been operating successfully for three years. Jes is socially-engaged in the best of ways, and has long recognised that art doesn't always live inside galleries - it is often found within community, and builds strong connections between those regionally.
Martin Paten	Elected Director 2009-2018	Bachelor of Arts – Fine Arts in Photography, Graduate Certificate in Corporate Management. Martin a former Director of the Castlemaine State Festival and currently Director and CEO of the Footscray Community Arts Centre. He is an artist, arts administrator and director in the public and private sector, and was ten years in a senior management position with City of Melbourne. Martin is Regional Arts Victoria's representative on the Regional Arts Australia board.
Karen Whitaker-Taylor	Elected Director 2015-2018	Karen has been the Cultural Development Officer at Baw Baw Shire since 2007. She was a representative on the Cultural Tourism Victoria Board from 2008-2012; is a Regional Arts Fund Panel member; (Honorary) Member of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance, and has been involved on the Creative Gippsland Committee since 2004.

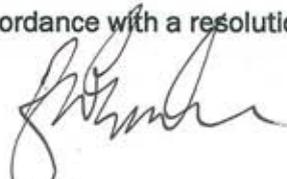
DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In the opinion of the directors of Regional Arts Victoria:

- (a) the income statement is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the organisation for the year ended 31 December 2017.,
- (b) the balance sheet is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation as at 31 December 2017.
- (c) the statement of cash flows is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the cash flows of the organisation for the year ended 31 December 2017.
- (d) the statement of changes in equity is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the accumulated funds of the organisation for the year ended 31 December 2017.
- (e) at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the organisation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- (f) The financial statements, notes and the additional disclosures included in the directors' report designated as audited comply with the Australian Accounting Standards

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

Bruce Esplin
Chair



DATE
MELBOURNE

30/4/18

Julie Stanley
Treasurer



DATE
MELBOURNE

30/4/18

Nomadic Public Cooling House by Punctum Inc, a Regional Arts Funded Project. Photo by Monnenna Schenk.



2017 Regional Arts Fund Community Grants

Applicant	Project Title	Amount
ROUND 1		
ACT Natimuk	Possible Not	\$15,000.00
Yackandandah & District Historical Society Incorporated	Sound of Stone Sculpture	\$5,000.00
Mr Ashlee Laing	BUILDING ART ON WALLS	\$14,800.00
Gallery Kaiela Inc trading as Kaiela Arts	Discovering Beads of Culture - Diversity & Social Change	\$15,000.00
G.R.A.I.N. Inc. (Growing Rural Art in Nathalia)	WILD Flowers - Growing Regional Art in Nathalia	\$14,839.00
Mr Jeremy Kasper	Reclaim Our lanes	\$13,650.00
Ms Christy Flaws	In the Deep End	\$14,990.00
Ms Rose Ertler	Insultations	\$13,008.00
		\$106,287.00
ROUND 2		
Ms Joanne Watt	Theatrecraft Youth Unlimited - The Places You'll Go - new works for young actors by emerging playwrights	\$15,000.00
Awaken Dance Theatre Company	Voyage	\$10,500.00
Art Is...Festival	Festoon	\$15,000.00
Ms Pam Southerington	LOLA (Linton On Literary Arts)	\$15,000.00
Lake Bolac Eel Festival Inc	Illuminating Culture and Country	\$15,000.00
The Village Festival of New Performance	Iron Horse Drive-In	\$15,000.00
Punctum Inc	Nomadic Public Cooling House	\$15,000.00
		\$100,500.00

2017 Quick Response Grants

Applicant	Project Title	Amount
Ms Max Sharam	Puppeter Workshop	\$1,500.00
Mr Scott McAllester	The Liber Art Project	\$1,500.00
Dizzy theatre Productions	Regional theatre goes bush	\$1,500.00
Wangaratta Festival of Jazz	Spiderbait and Wangaratta Horns	\$3,000.00
Ms Allis Hamilton	Ledbury Poetry Residential	\$600.00
Ms Samantha Bews	You Are Not Alone: Letters of Love and Dementia	\$1,500.00
Punctum Inc	SKIN - An extended Punctum Seedpod Residency at Buda Homestead	\$1,500.00
Ms Kirsten Boerema	Romany (Gypsy) Music Study	\$1,500.00
GrampianArts	Bush Dyeing	\$1,500.00
Dr Kim Sargent-Wishart	Currency - an intergenerational screendance project	\$1,500.00
Quantum Support Services Inc.	Marley Street Project Photography Program	\$2,500.00
Mr Diokno Crispulo Pasilan	Skip in Cast	\$1,500.00
Mrs Dee White	AUSLAN INTERPRETER FOR WRITING EVENTS	\$930.00
Pavilion Arts & Sustainability Inc.	Burning Boats Spectacle	\$3,000.00
Miss Sarah-Rose Mclvor	The Emerging Leaders Retreat	\$1,500.00
Mr Geoffrey Smith	DOCUMENTARY PRODUCER MENTORSHIP	\$1,500.00
South Warrnambool Kindergarten Inc.	Ngeerrang (mother) and Ngart (Daughter) Mural	\$760.00
CreateAbility	On Display Global	\$3,000.00
Mr Benjamin Talbot-Dunn	Mentorship for Open Swimmer album	\$1,500.00
Ms Emilie Bloom	Uncanny Valley Creative Development	\$1,500.00
Mrs Jo Malham	Grampians Texture - Natural Dyed Shibori	\$1,325.00
Ms Maryanne Sam	Coconut Woman-Ballarat Reading	\$1,500.00
Mr Mark Penzak	The Spookmaster - Scary Stories for Children	\$1,425.00
Swan Hill Theatre Group Co-operative Ltd.	Second Coming	\$3,000.00
Clunes Neighbourhood House	Goldfields, Mills, Coming Alive Through the Arts.	\$3,000.00
Ms Kay Lancashire	Workshop with Hanne Eriksen Mapp	\$1,180.00
Thompsons Foundry Band	132 years and counting	\$3,000.00
Mr Mark Lang	Attend ECMA Showcase in Saint John Canada	\$1,500.00
East Gippsland Art Gallery	Pop-up Print Project	\$2,700.00
Timothy Drylie	Youth Drama Workshop with Kerry Frampton, UK	\$1,500.00
Wonthaggi Theatrical Group Inc.	Let There Be Light	\$2,724.23
Ms Forest Keegel	Beached Verandah Residency	\$1,482.00
Pinarc Disability Support	Pinarc's Turtle Arts: Now we are photographers!	\$3,000.00
Warracknabeal Arts Council	Celebrating Yarriambiack Creek	\$1,000.00
Art Resource Collective Inc.	My Big Backyard: Reflections on Landscape	\$3,000.00
		\$64,626.23

Regional Arts Victoria's supporters



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund



Australian Government
Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund



CLEMENGER GROUP | STAFF FUND



Helen Macpherson Smith Trust





Regional Arts Victoria

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