

Regional Cultural Network 2005 - 2008

Summary of Regional Cultural Network program

The Regional Cultural Network was developed in 2005 as part of Regional Arts Victoria's Regional Cultural Partnership Program which delivers the Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO) network. Arts Victoria contributes to this funding and part of the agreement is to deliver network and professional opportunities for the RADOs as well as its Community Liaison Officer and Professionals In residence (CLO/PIR) Program.

The 2007 Regional Cultural Network was developed with a focus on site-specific activity. The RADOs, CLOs and PIRs were invited to share expertise as well as bringing in other speakers. There were also extra activities listed to take advantage of opportunities like conferences held by other organisations, e.g. Cultural Development Network and the Koorie Business Network.

This program met the needs of most network participants and enabled a level of communication and exchange outside of the program itself that would not have been achieved otherwise. The site-specific focus of the program in 2007 presented far more opportunities to inspire and connect the group as well as providing spontaneous and magical moments (eg an impromptu tour of the Synagogue and the rich interaction with Melbourne's Jewish community through the exhibitions). The success the 2007 program was evidenced by the increase in attendance to the network days: on average 16 members.

Membership of the network continued to evolve as the various positions complete their terms and new positions were funded until 2007/08. In 2008, the network expanded to include community cultural and arts development workers, extending the networks of each individual in the existing network.

RAV proposes to continue to work with relevant partners to implement networking and professional development forums three times a year, focusing on advancing the skills and knowledge required for cultural, heritage and arts professionals working in regional Victoria. There is now an increased focus on sharing of strategies and information as well as specific skills development opportunities and continuing use of the knowledge and resources of the evolving network membership.

Below is a summary of all the Regional Cultural Network (RCN) days that will give you an idea of what has been covered in the past.

Regional Cultural Network 2005 - 2008

Session Number	Date	Topic	Presenters	Summary of Session
Day 1	21 October 2005	Introduction to the network	Clair Keating <i>Director, Effective Change</i> Jock McQueenie <i>Consultant/Broker, Arts, Industry and Community Concepts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Regional Arts Victoria • Outline of who's involved in the network confirmation of main interests/ expectations from network. [from participants and from Arts VIC & RAV] • Outline of egroup operation and access to website [yahoo egroup] • Program Evaluation – Clair Keating • Thought provoking discussion with Jock McQueenie about the bigger picture
Day 2	25 November 2005	Networking	CANCELLED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Convergence 3 (Regional Arts Victoria) • Working with arts practitioners to achieve – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New ways of connecting with people ○ New ways of thinking about our roles and what we do ○ Identifying assets and creative ways of utilising them
Day 3	20 January 2006	Funding	Susan Ball <i>VicHealth</i> Sandy Shaw <i>Myer Foundation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Gasworks • Round table discussion focussed on the policy environment and eligibility and competitiveness for funding - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Government/Philanthropics/foundations – [presentations] ○ Developing funding calendar [related to project development timelines]
Day 4	24 February 2006	Arts & Cultural Heritage (development)	Carla Bruce Lee <i>Birchip Museum</i> Karlie Hawking <i>Voices of the Upper Murray</i> Liz Andrews <i>Regional Arts Development Officer</i> Judy Spokes <i>Policy Officer Cultural Development & Community Strengthening, Arts Victoria</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Wycheproof Community Resource Centre • The roles of arts and heritage in cultural development in very small communities was the focus with of the day, as well as facilitating links between community museums and communities. • Liz Andrews talked about the role of the RADO in the recently launched Wycheproof Waterless Fountain work. • Judy Spokes presented and discussed with the meeting questions on what is required for community museums to play an increased role in the cultural life of communities
Day 5	5 May 2006	Indigenous Awareness	Vicki Nicholson Brown <i>Inter-Council Aboriginal Consultative Committee</i> Tracy Vervoort <i>Inter-Council Aboriginal Consultative Committee</i> Sharon Willoughby <i>Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne</i> Vicki Couzens <i>Visual Artist</i> Jason Eades <i>CEO, Koorie Heritage Trust</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne • Focused on Indigenous awareness and skills development –KHT + regional bodies/ individuals [Presentations/ case studies and workshop] • Sharon Willoughby gave attendees a tour of the gardens • Tracey Vervoort and Vicki Nicholson Brown presented on and discussed the Inter Aboriginal Consultative Committee • Vicky Couzens and Jason Eades talked about Indigenous community politics and community structure, as well as effective communication/project design

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Day 6	16 June 2006	Arts & Cultural Heritage (sustainability)	Fiona McKenzie <i>Department of Sustainability and Environment</i> Martin Mulligan <i>Globalism Institute, RMIT University</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted by Regional Arts Victoria The day focused on Sustainability - Looking at where arts and heritage fit within the context of community building and regional development agenda's, and testing indicators of cultural vitality and the relationship between cultural vitality and community wellbeing/ regional development. Fiona McKenzie looked at the effective use of the 'Regional Matters' tool and its value in informing cultural development strategies and projects Martin Mulligan led a discussion focussing on developing an understanding of effective indicators of the longer term influence of cultural activity
Day 7	4 August 2006	Leadership	Helen Kaptien <i>PIR with the Public Galleries Association of Victoria</i> Patrick Moriarty <i>Our Community</i> Hayley Cail <i>Consultant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted by Regional Arts Victoria Day focussed on leadership and facilitating organisational change –, Our community on governance etc? Workshop on group facilitation? Role of artistic direction in organisational change. Helen Kaptien provided information on the Open Day program and discussion of local interests, ideas and activity Patrick Moriarty discussed recognising and supporting leadership in community based organisations Hayley Coil talked about the role of a facilitator and managing group dynamics
Day 8	29 September 2006	Working with Local Government	Karl Hatton <i>Cultural Services Officer, Glenelg Shire Council</i> Di Shaw <i>City of Greater Geelong</i> John Smithies <i>Cultural Development Network</i> Mandy Press <i>Ex-City of Port Phillip</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted by Regional Arts Victoria Local Government – The challenges and benefits of working in or with local government in relation to arts and cultural activity. Karl Hatton talked about effective communications with council and between council and community Di Shaw and John Smithies discussed working with the political forces of local government and using them for good (not evil!) Many Press presented on the City of Port Phillips process for embedding a whole of organisation approach to making culture count in its overall goal for a just, sustainable and creative city.
Day 9	30 November 2006	Sustaining Practice & Careers	Maggie Maguire <i>Event Strategist</i> Lyndall Chambers <i>Community Music Victoria</i> Jon Hawkes <i>Community Music Victoria</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted by Arts Victoria Day focus was worker isolation, professional networks and development – strategies for flourishing careers, as well as positioning and promoting our roles in the community/region Maggie Maguire discussed some of the key elements to sustaining a practice in arts/heritage/community development Lyndall Chambers and Jon Hawkes ran a workshop on using singing for sustaining vitality and building collective awareness.

Regional Cultural Network 2005 - 2008

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Day 10	1 March 2007	Public Art	<p>Carol Atwell <i>Director, Brecknock Consulting</i></p> <p>Andrea Kleist <i>Public Art Program Manager, City of Melbourne</i></p> <p>Marion Matthews <i>Regional Arts Development Officer, Horsham</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted by the City of Melbourne Victoria's foremost public art consultant, Carol Atwell, outlined her previous work with the City of Melbourne and current work as Director of Brecknock Consulting Marion Matthews outlined public art strategy in Horsham Andrea Kleist gave an overview of their programs and strategies The group also had a tour of works located around the Birrarung Marr precinct.
Day 11	18 April 2007	Engaging CALD Communities	<p>Rick Connors <i>Community Liaison Officer, Berry St Shepparton</i></p> <p>Sandy Khazam <i>Curator of Temporary Exhibitions at the Jewish Museum</i></p> <p>Kathy Simpson <i>Professional In Residence at Diversitat (Geelong Ethnic Communities Council)</i></p> <p>Jill Morgan <i>Executive Officer, Multicultural Arts Victoria</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted by the Jewish Museum Group members Rick Connors and Kathy Simpson talked about their programs Sandy Khazam discussed their strategies for engaging and challenging the Jewish community and took us through their current exhibition about the South African Jewish migration. Jill Morgan gave an overview of MAV's programs, including the Mix It Up program at the Victorian Arts Centre, debunking the myth that different cultural communities don't mix, and the Black Harmony Gathering, bringing Indigenous and other emerging communities together.
Day 12	14 June 2007	Arts Incubators & Artist Run Spaces	<p>Jude Anderson <i>Punctum Inc</i></p> <p>Tamara Marwood <i>Allans Walk Bendigo</i></p> <p>Mark Themann <i>White Street Project</i></p> <p>Simon Maidment <i>West Space</i></p> <p>Maggie McGuire <i>The Abbotsford Convent</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted by the Abbotsford Convent Foundation The purpose was to explore arts incubators and artist run spaces as places that can revitalise communities and develop creative and financial opportunities for artists. Jude Anderson outlined the difference between a shared workspace and an arts incubator, the pros and cons of both models giving examples of different arts incubator existing around the world. A panel comprising Tamara Marwood, Mark Themann and Simon Maidment talked about their artist run spaces and examples of others. There was also a tour of the Abbotsford Convent with Maggie McGuire with reference to the social history of the site as well as the community campaign to save the convent.

Regional Cultural Network 2005 - 2008

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Day 13	19 July 2007	Fundraising	<p>Cathy Nash <i>Manager, Grant Operations and Administration, Department for Victorian Communities</i></p> <p>Amanda Bacon <i>Manager (Strategic Projects), Heritage Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment</i></p> <p>Louise Arkles <i>Philanthropy Australia</i></p> <p>Mandy Grinblat <i>Arts Residencies / Arts Development for Communities, Arts Victoria</i></p> <p>Fiona Beckwith <i>Arts Development, Arts Victoria</i></p> <p>Karl Hatton <i>Cultural Services Officer, Glenelg Shire Council</i></p> <p>Ben Clark <i>Victorian State Manager, Australia Business Arts Foundation</i></p> <p>Helen Campbell <i>Communications Advisor, Alcoa of Australia</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Arts Victoria • The purpose of the day was to examine the funding landscape in Victoria through government, philanthropic and business support, working beyond traditional funding models and developing effective partnerships. • Fiona Beckwith and Mandy Grinblat outlined funding programs within Arts Victoria. • Amanda Bacon presented on the Victoria's Heritage Grants program, a response to the 2006 launched Heritage Victoria strategy, with an emphasis on strong community participation. • Louise Arkles outlined some basic guidelines for applying to philanthropic fund sources. • Cathy Nash took the group through the structure of DVC and explained who the different grant making divisions were and what grants may apply to arts projects. • Karl Hatton presented to the group about the history of Glenelg and factors leading to the recently completed 'Sum of Us' study, the research undertaken and the human resource requirements needed, the approval process involved and the structure of the report. • Ben Clark presented on the aims of ABaF and the Arts Connecting Communities program. • Using Alcoa's community partnership as an example, Helen Campbell focussed her presentation on how organisations can target the right sponsor and then approach them and develop a successful partnership.
Day 14	17 August 2007	Arts & Cultural Heritage	<p>Anne Thoday <i>Manager, Training and Professional Development Museums Australia (Victoria)</i></p> <p>Kitty Owens <i>Co-Manager, Museum Accreditation Program Museums Australia (Victoria)</i></p> <p>Anne Kershaw <i>Policy Officer - Cultural Development and Community Strengthening, Arts Victoria and Department Planning and Community Development</i></p> <p>Karlie Hawking <i>Community Museums Project Officer (Ballarat), Department of Victorian</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Melbourne Museum • The purpose of the day was to give an overview of the Museums sector, explore how the arts can be used to ignite cultural heritage and how cultural heritage can be used as a starting point for arts projects. • Anne Thoday and Kitty Owens showcased some projects that have actively involved artists and art workers in the communication of collections. • Anne Kershaw talked to the group about her brief to create a Community Museums Strategy. • Karlie Hawking explained that her position, in essence, seeks to broker between communities and government with the aim of interpreting concerns and building the capacity of community museums.

Regional Cultural Network 2005 - 2008

			<p><i>Communities</i> Vicki Nicholson Brown <i>Aboriginal and Community Liaison Officer, Botanic Gardens Cranbourne</i> Sharon Willoughby <i>Manager Public Programs, Botanic Gardens Cranbourne</i> Jason Eades <i>Chief Executive Officer, The Koorie Heritage Trust Inc.</i> Caroline Martin <i>Manager Bunjilaka, Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Museum Victoria</i> Marion Matthews <i>Wimmera Regional Arts Development Officer</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Eades spoke about the history and aims of the Koorie Heritage Trust. • Vicki Nicholson Brown and Sharon Willoughby spoke about historical indigenous use of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne. • Marion Matthews outlined her history working on oral history projects in the Wimmera. • Caroline Martin took members on a tour of Museum Victorias Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Bunjilaka.
Day 15	19 October 2007	Arts & Disability	<p>Denise Leembruggen <i>Awakenings Festival Director</i> Katrine Gabb <i>Arts Access Victoria</i> Tony McCaffrey <i>Director, A Different Light Theatre Company, NZ</i> John Lambie <i>Performer, A Different Light Theatre Company, NZ</i> Judith Sears <i>Policy Officer, Arts Victoria</i> Paul Dunn <i>Senior Project Officer, Community Building, Disability Services, Department of Human Services</i> Leesa Nash <i>Family Dog Circus</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Awakenings Festival, Horsham • This regionally-based day examined issues of access, support and programming for communities and artists with disabilities. • Denise Leembruggen spoke about the history, success and positioning of the Awakenings Festival, Australia's only regional disability arts festival. • Katrine Gabb presented on her focus on the voice of the artists with a disability and her work to ensure that it is their voice being heard and presented not the carers or the other artists that may be involved in the development process. • Tony McCaffrey and John Lambie highlighted the importance of process in creating high quality mixed ability theatre- rehearsal, warm-up, performance and celebration. • A panel discussion with Judith Sears, Paul Dunn, and Leesa Nash then proceeded with topics including artists with disabilities, arts development and art therapy, key areas for advocacy and increasing awareness for the arts.

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Day 16	29 November 2007	Arts & Young People	<p>Simon Spain <i>Creative Producer, ARTPLAY and Youth Programs</i></p> <p>Anna Kelly <i>Arts Officer, Arts & Education, Arts Victoria</i></p> <p>Kate Fillick <i>Co-Artistic Director, A.R.A.B</i></p> <p>Carol Espinoza <i>JUMP JET Project Manager, Westside Circus</i></p> <p>Ailsa Wild <i>Head Trainer, Westside Circus</i></p> <p>Hellene Workman <i>Acting Program Manager, arts2GO</i></p> <p>Malcolm Sanders <i>General Manager, Courthouse Youth Arts Centre</i></p> <p>Arna Singleton <i>Hip Hop Community Liaison Officer, Youth Services, Moonee Valley City Council</i></p> <p>Verity Higgins <i>Ballarat Regional Arts Development Officer</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by ArtPlay, Birrurung Marr • Examined the Youth Arts landscape in Victoria through profiling programs and showcasing examples of successful projects. • Simon Spain presented on 'ArtPlay' which has established a dedicated program of cultural activities specifically for children aged between 0-13 years old. • Anna Kelly provided an overview of the ways in which the Victorian Government supports youth arts through a broad range of programs and funding initiatives. • Kate Fillick presented on A.R.A.B, a performing arts project open to youth from any cultural background in Melbourne's Northern region. • Carol Espinoza and Ailsa Wild outlined the work of Westside Circus, using circus and physical theatre to cultivate innovative artistic expression for people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. • Hellene Workman presented on arts2Go, which provides Victorian primary and secondary students with access to high-quality performing arts experiences in schools. • A panel consisting of Malcolm Sanders, Arna Singleton and Verity Higgins addressed questions including minimising vandalism, the generation gap, and youth leadership.
Day 17	12 June 2008	Networking and Facilitation	<p>Malcolm McKinnon <i>Filmmaker</i></p> <p>Jon Stephens <i>Culture Club</i></p> <p>Jo Grant <i>South West Regional Arts Development Officer</i></p> <p>Elise Armitage <i>Community Arts Liaison Officer Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Malthouse Theatre • The day focusing on developing area-cluster networks and facilitation for creative outcomes. • Malcolm McKinnon gave tips for running a workshop and answered questions about working with people in the community. • Jon Stephens talked about the formation of networks and keys to their success. • Jo Grant and Elise Armitage talked about the formation of the 'South West Arts Workers Network'. • The final session was used to discuss some of the key principles for developing a network/developing area network clusters.
Day 18	14 August 2008	The Political Process	<p>Bruce Mildenhall <i>Parliamentary Secretary to The Premier, Parliamentary Secretary for the Arts</i></p> <p>Lisa Mahood <i>Advisor to the Premier, former Mayor Wodonga City Council</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by Arts Victoria • Day focused on developing relationships with a view to improving advocacy outcomes at a local and state level. Bruce Mildenhall and Lisa Mahood presented examples of good, bad and ugly arts advocacy, highlighting that advocacy in regional centres comes down to value, profile, rationale, justification, and education. • Further networking of the RCN was also discussed with a view to expanding the network in the future.

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Day 19	23 October 2008	Evaluation Processes	Maree Ryan <i>Ed Partnerships International</i> Rick Connors <i>Ed Partnerships International</i> Martin Mulligan <i>Gloabalism Institute, RMIT University</i> Verity Higgins <i>Ballarat Regional Arts Development Officer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Arts Victoria/City of Port Melbourne • Evaluation methodologies to build advocacy.