

## Regional Arts Victoria 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting

### MINUTES

Thursday 4 May 2023 | 12:15pm - 12.30pm

*Online*

#### **Zoom Meeting Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86028576644?pwd=Zkc5NXZWclA5WkVKWjdCaE1uaEFyUT09>

*Meeting opened at 12:15pm*

#### **Item 1: Welcome**

Sue Hunt (Chair) welcomed Regional Arts Victoria Members, Board Members and staff to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Regional Arts Victoria. We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we are meeting. We extend our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

#### **Item 2: Apologies**

Received from Jess Carroll, Bruce Esplin, Kaz Paton.

#### **Item 3: Attendance, quorum and proxies**

**Present** Sue Hunt (SH, Chair)  
Victoria Crane, (VC, Deputy Chair; Chair of Audit and Risk Committee)  
Rebecca Brezzi, (RB, Chair of the Special Projects Committee)  
Richard Hull (RH),  
Jes John (JJ) (left the meeting for Item 6)  
Tom Molyneux (TM)  
Hisham Moustafa (HM)  
Dr. Greg Pritchard (GP)  
Emma Jones (EJ)

**Staff** Jo Porter (JP, CEO)  
Susie Lyons (SL, Director, Strategic Initiatives),  
Kate Gerritsen (KG, Communications and Engagements, Senior Manager)  
Rhiannon Foley (RF, Membership Engagement Coordinator)  
Alice Pollard (AP, Operations Coordinator)

**In Attendance** Brian Hewitt (BH), Bruce Hunt-Hughes (BHH), Helene Castles (HC), Katy Mutton (KM), Kaz Paton (KP), Mark Penzak (MP), Mark Avery (AV), Rebecca Hosking (RH), Robyn Black (RB), Rohan Morris (RM), Stedman Watts (SW)  
Andrew Clark (AC, Mertoa Mechanics Hall), David Wall (DW, Wonthaggi Theatrical Group), Jan Colliver (JC, Portland CEMA Inc.), John Quinn (JQ, Avoca Chinese Garden), Kristen Retallick, (KR, Shepparton Festival), Mark Avery (MA, Fabelo Inc.), Paul Evans (PE, Art Resource Collective Inc.), Sandra Peeters (SP, Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition), Vanessa Gerrans (VG, Ballarat International Foto Biennale), Wolf Heidecker (WH, Wyndham Art Works)

**Minutes** Alice Pollard (Operations Coordinator)

**Proxies** Jess John nominated by Crystal Stubbs from the East Gippsland Art Gallery  
Katy Mutton nominated by Stedman Watts (individual member)

*Noted that quorum was reached with 30 voting members in attendance.*

#### **Item 4: Approval of 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Recommendation:** that the minutes from the previous Board meeting as circulated be accepted.

The Chair moves the motion that the minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Regional Arts Victoria Board held in Cobden, Victoria, and online via Zoom? on 14 May 2022 be accepted.

Motion seconded by Victoria Crane.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were approved.

#### **Item 5: Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer, Victoria Crane, presented the finance report for the period of Jan-Dec 2022.

The Treasurer noted that the total operating revenue was over \$10,000,000. This is approximately \$6,000,000 less than last year due to the completion of the Creative Workers in Schools Program.

The majority of revenue came from Creative Victoria, complimented by State Government Grants and continued philanthropic funds, including the Sydney Myer Fund.

Fees generated from the Touring Program and Membership fees also contributed. We saw an increase in membership in 2022 and noted that increase continues into 2023. At the end of 2022 our membership was approximately 580, and as of March 2023 we have around 630 members.

The Treasurer noted that there was a significant decrease in salary costs due to the completion of the Creative Workers in Schools Program. Additionally, with the return to touring after COVID-19 closures, brings both an uptick in expenses and income.

The Treasurer reports a surplus of \$240,149 due to Sustaining Creative Organisation funding received. It has been an important contribution as we transition as an organisation after the COVID-19 response.

Cash reserves were sitting at just over \$3,000,000, as revenue received in advance of contracts.

The Treasurer reported that the balance sheet was sound, and Regional Arts Victoria has sufficient assets to cover its liabilities.

Victoria Crane (Treasurer) put forward that the audited accounts be approved.

Motion forwarded by Tom Molyneux.

Motion seconded by Mark Avery.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **Item 6: Appointment of Auditor**

The Treasurer, Victoria Crane, presented.

In late 2022, the Regional Arts Victoria Audit and Risk Committee recommended the recruitment of Eric Townsend of E. Townsend & Co. to the Regional Arts Victoria Board. This recommendation was subsequently approved. In line with the Regional Arts Victoria constitution, the appointment required a majority resolution by members of Regional Arts Victoria.

At an EGM on February 3, 2022, the Treasurer proposed the appointment of Eric Townsend to the position of Organisation Auditor and called for a vote. The motion was seconded by the Chair. The motion was passed unanimously by the attending members of Regional Arts Victoria.

Victoria Crane put forward that Eric Townsend be appointed auditor in 2023.

Motion forwarded by Tom Molyneux.

Motion seconded by Sandra Peeters.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **Item 7: Board Nominations**

The Chair, Sue Hunt, presented.

At close of nominations in 2023, we had received 4 nominations for four open positions:

Mark Avery

Rohan Morris

Rebecca Hosking

Tom Molyneux.

The Chair noted Richard Hull has been co-opted onto board given his particular expertise as a regional artist, and his other relevant skills.

The Board will continue to have strong regional focus, and arts focus.

The Chair thanked and congratulated the new nominees for their appointments, and for nominating to take on the role of Directors on the Regional Arts Victoria Board. The Chair announced the departure of long term outgoing Directors, Emma Jones and Jes John, and thanked them for their contribution and service.

## **Item 8: Chair's Report**

Sue Hunt (Chair) Presented.

The Chair stated it had been a big year for programs for Regional Arts Victoria, including the continued deliver of the South West Strategy, a day long conference in response to the flooding in Hopetoun, attended by ?

Creative Recovery programs continued, including deliver of the Step Up program in Victoria's northeast, that continues to promote the wellbeing of bushfire affected communities.

She acknowledged it had been a huge year of amazing projects.

Sue noted in 2022 more than half of our staff are now working from regional locations, as such the Board made the decision to discontinue the Melbourne CBD office.

She thanked Creative Victoria for their ongoing support of general operations, capacity building and programs. She also thanked the contributions of the Department of Education, that supported Regional Arts Victoria's education programs, including circus arts programs in schools, aimed at getting students who don't engage in physical activities, active.

Sue congratulated all involved in the delivery of the Victorian Women's Public Arts Project.

She continued to acknowledge additional work of the Regional Arts Victoria staff. Including engaging in conversations with the Commonwealth Games Committee, management of the Regional Arts Fund

and Quick Response Grant programs, as well as the participation of Jo Porter and Susie Lyons in the Creative Regions National Summit in Canberra.

Sue Hunt acknowledged RAVs responsibility is to support all members, so a few details:

- As of end of financial year RAV had 559 members, today we have well over 600 members, and is delighted to see the re-start RAV member events including RAV in Residence.
- RAV continues its work with Local Council, State MPS and regional experts ensuring a seat at table to advocate for arts organisations at state and council level.

Sue Hunt acknowledged 2022 has been a big year of massive transition within the organisation and noted the following staff movements:

- Joe Toohey (CEO) departed RAV.
- The board welcomed Jo Porter as incoming CEO and noted a terrific first 5 months in the role, since starting in November 2022.

Sue Hunt thanks Jo Porter for coming to Regional Arts Victoria and for doing a great job steering this organisation.

- Liz Zito (Director of Partnerships) and Rosie Dwyer (Director of Programming) departed during the year. She acknowledged that the combined years they worked for Regional Arts Victoria, along with Jo Toohey, was a combined total of over 30 years.
- Jac Low (Director of Operations) also departed RAV.

We wish those folks well.

Additional to staff movements, there have been departures to the Board.

- Tim Smallwood, resigned in 2022.
- Jes John and Emma Jones resigned from the board early 2023.

We're sorry to see them go, and we honour and accept they have other things to do in lives and thank them for their contribution.

Sue Hunt also noted the great service Kath Mainland contributed as Chair. Kath resigned in 2022.

Sue Hunt took up the role of Chair in 2022.

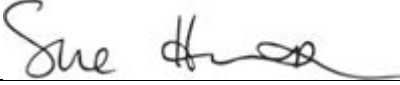
Sue Hunt thanks the staff at Regional Arts Victoria for all they've done for themselves, the organisation, and members. Without the staff at Regional Arts Victoria, it wouldn't be what it is and she paid tribute to the team.

She acknowledged her board colleagues and their hard work. While all of the board makes an incredible contribution Sue noted particular thanks to Rebecca Brezzi and Victoria Crane for their contributions as Chairs of the Subcommittees, and Treasurer role.

And thank you all members for your contribution. Please keep up your work

**Item 9: Close of AGM**

The Chair closed the AGM at 12:31pm

  
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Date: 04/05/2023  
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Chair of the Meeting

**Sue Hunt**