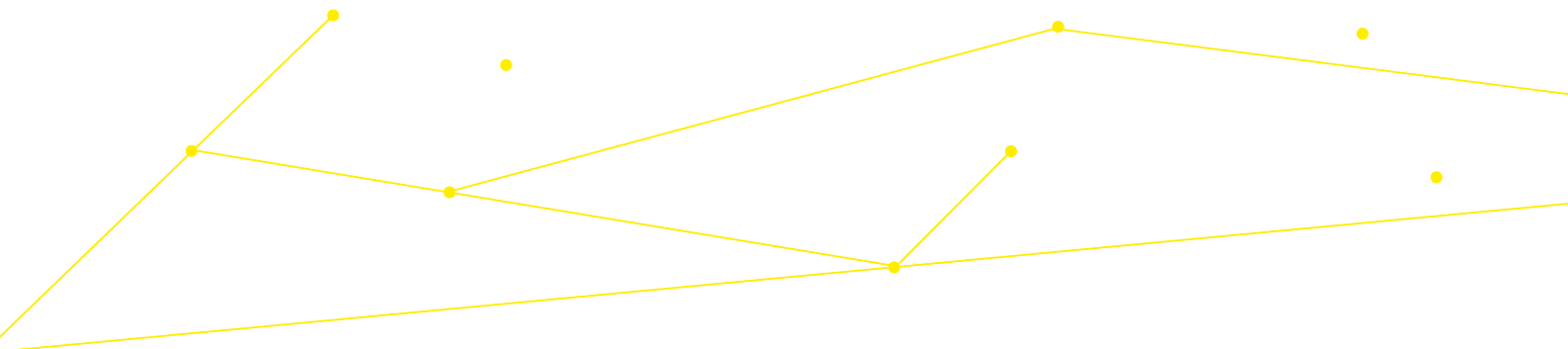




Supporting the arts in regional Victoria

Annual Report 2023



Acknowledgement of Country

Regional Arts Victoria acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners and Elders - past and present - of the lands on which Regional Arts Victoria operates.

We acknowledge Aboriginal connection to cultural and creative practice on these lands for more than 65,000 years and extend our respect to First Nations people throughout our communities.

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Glossary of Terms

BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, and people of colour

CALD – Culturally and linguistically diverse

FRRR – Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal

GANEAA – The Goulburn and North East Arts Alliance

LGA – Local government area

LBGTQIA+ – Lesbian, bisexual, gay, trans, queer/questioning, asexual, intersex, asexual and others

RAF – Regional Arts Fund, devolved grants and support for Regional Arts Victoria from the Federal Government

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA – Regional Arts Victoria

SWCIS – South West Creative Industries Strategy

VAPAC – Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres

Chair and CEO Report

2023 was a complicated but satisfying year at Regional Arts Victoria. We wound up landmark COVID-related projects and continued an uninterrupted year of “normal” activities, but also examined our assumptions about what Regional Arts Victoria's future might look like. Our continuous activities in touring, education and regional engagement have been important aspects of regional Victoria, but as the population of regional Victoria changes so should we.

Regional Arts Victoria has therefore refreshed its strategy for the coming years with renewed focus on Members and the growing influence of regionally based creative organisations. This approach was initiated by the Executive staff and Board at a meeting in mid-May and refined in the following months. The result is available on our website www.RegionalArtsVictoria.net.au/about-us

The year's activities are detailed in this report, with highlights including engagement in the G21 Region and work with young people in Gippsland as part of VicHealth's Future Reset project. Our Touring and Creative Learning teams are back in action, coordinating performances in schools, performing arts centres and small halls all over the State. We are particularly proud of the Regional Arts Victoria in Residence model and the capacity building work we undertake with individual creatives, organisations and Community Presenters. This is the activity that is least visible but perhaps most impactful.

Regional Arts Victoria ended 2023 with a very modest surplus and a record 625 Members. We continued to navigate the transition from enormous expansion during 2020–2022 and have landed in a new normal where funding is tight. As a result, our longstanding role in Gippsland was discontinued. We hope this situation will be redressed before too long.

It is with enormous gratitude that we acknowledge the Regional Arts Victoria Board. They gather online and in person, joining meetings from all over the State. During 2023 the committee structure of the Board was reframed, with an Executive Committee overseeing policy, finances and risk, and a Development Committee addressing diversification of Regional Arts Victoria's funding sources. We thank Rebecca Brezzi, Victoria Crane, Emma Jones and Jes John who stepped down from the Board during 2023, and welcome Mark Avery, Sally Beck, Rohan Morris and Rebecca Hosking.

The Regional Arts Victoria staff forms an unparalleled group of subject matter and place-based creativity experts. It is a pleasure to be able to publicly thank our colleagues with



Jo Porter at Showcase Victoria 2023. Photo: Courtesy of Showcase Victoria.

whom we are so lucky to steward Regional Arts Victoria. Staff movement is noted elsewhere in this report, and the strength and dedication of project staff make Regional Arts Victoria's impact considerable; however, we particularly acknowledge Jo Grant whose 17 years with Regional Arts Victoria in Victoria's southwest concluded in 2023.

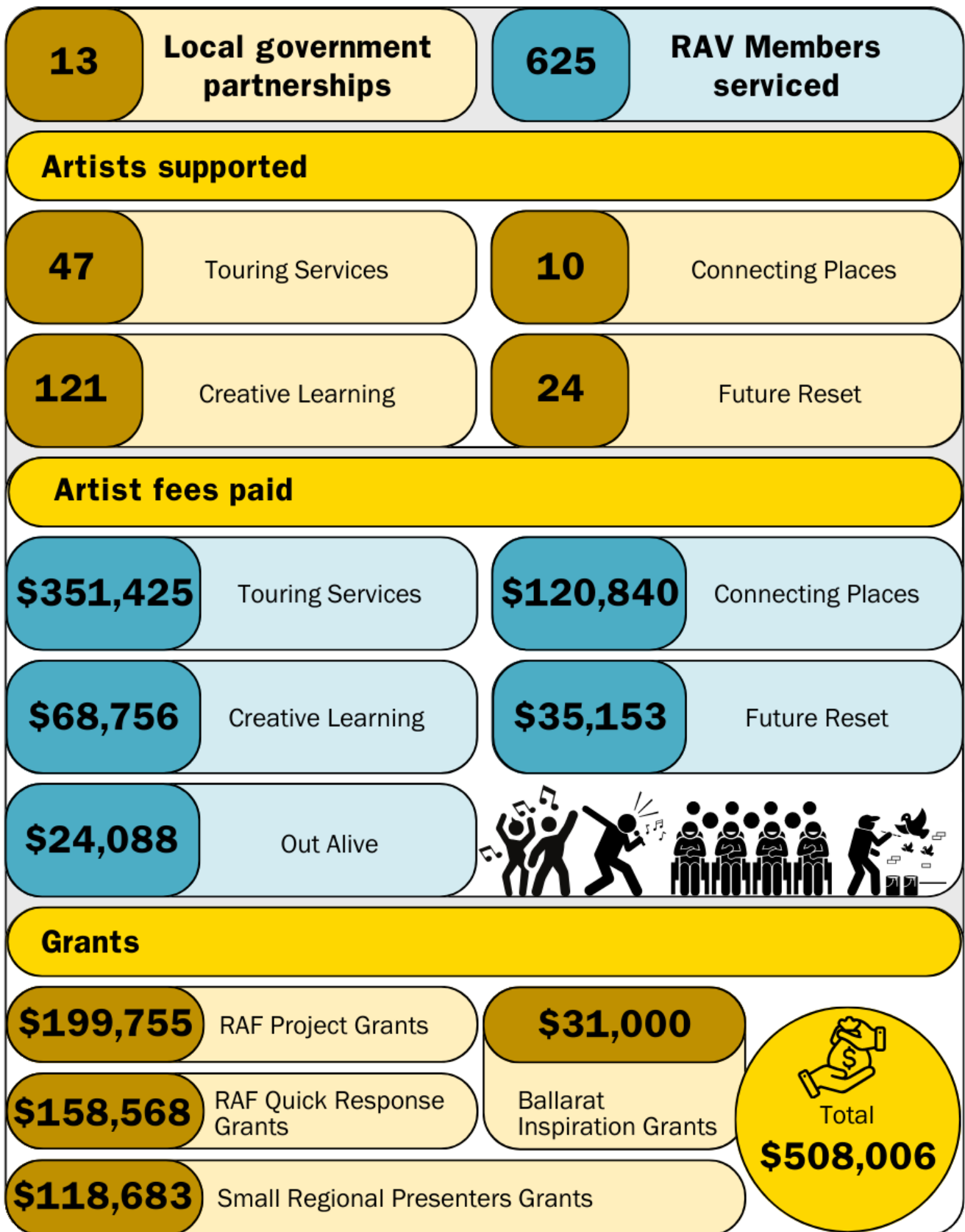
Thanks, and congratulations everyone. We're meeting the challenges and looking forward to the future!

SUE HUNT AM
CHAIR

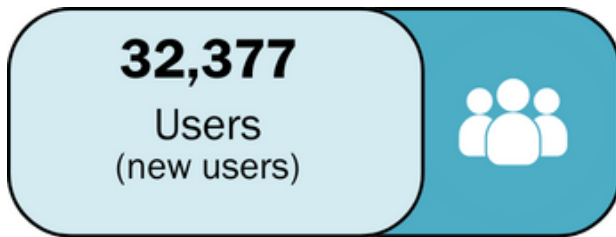
JO PORTER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)



Opening of the public artwork *Creative Resilience*, on 6 May 2023, as part of the Victorian Women's Public Art Program. Artists from the NGKM Collective from L-R: Trina Oogies-Dalton, Lorraine Brigdale, Glenda Nicolls, Georgie MacGuire (seated), Janet Bromley and Annie Brigdale. Photo: Breeanna Dunbar.



Online Engagement 2023



The redevelopment of the Regional Arts Victoria website was a major focus for 2023. Re-launched in August, the website has a refreshed look and a streamlined Content Management System.

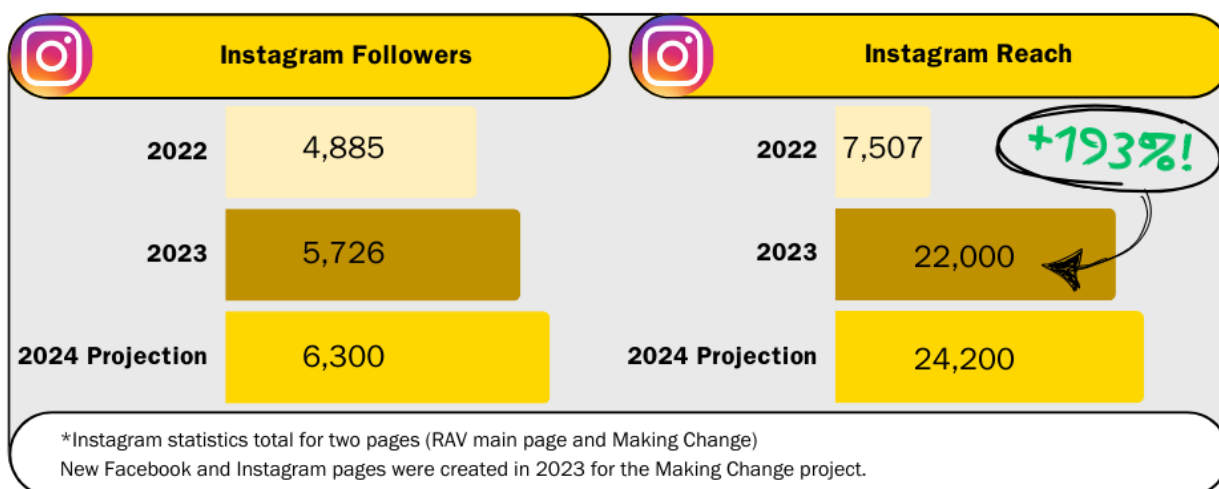
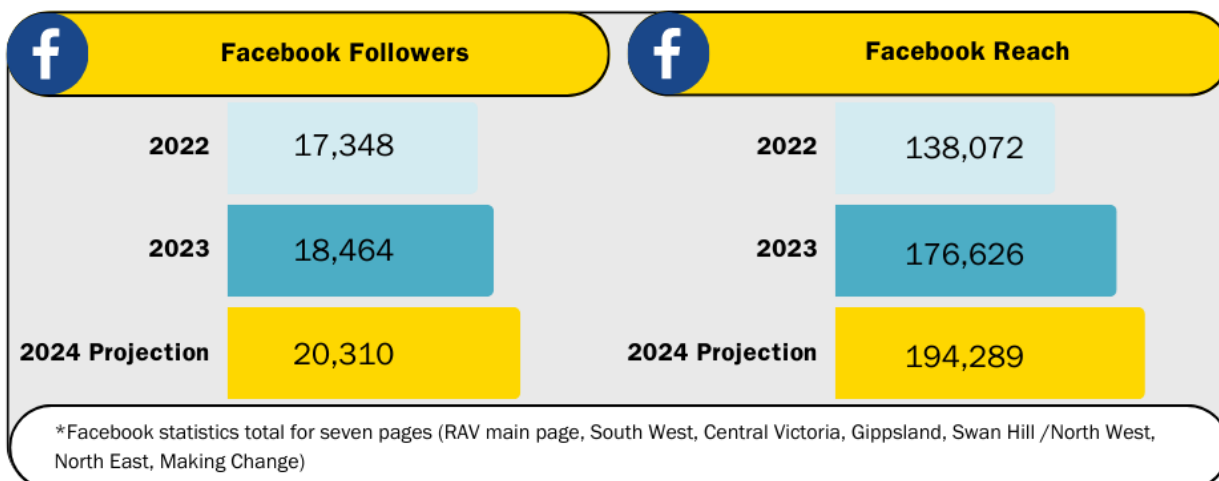


Next steps include an improved resources section with full access to Members and part-access to public, with easy to digest digital resources and engaging video content.

A new role of Digital Content Coordinator was created (and filled internally by Rhiannon Poley) to oversee this project and improve our digital offering across all channels.

Member Profile Examples

<p>Individual Anna-Lee Robertson Anna-Lee Robertson is a compelling theatrical lyric soprano who unites her rich, velvety vocals with...</p>	<p>Individual Martin Sullivan AKA Smartzie Discovering where to go next with art and pushing the limits till something amazing turn...</p>	<p>Group East Gippsland Art Gallery East Gippsland Art Gallery is a small but dynamic art gallery located in Bairnsdale offering art and cultural experiences for the whole family.</p>	<p>Group Goldfields Gothic Festival of Dark Ideas The Goldfields Gothic Festival of Dark Ideas is a weekend of events themed around the...</p>
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Action Plans

Equity Action Plan

Our Equity Action Plan was drafted in 2020 after Regional Arts Victoria participated in the Fair Play Initiative delivered by Diversity Arts Australia.

During 2023 the Equity Action Plan was reviewed, and the Inclusive Practice and Cultural Safety sections of the Plan are the result of these discussions.

A specific area of change to 2020's Plan is an emphasis on the importance of Regional Arts Victoria's relationship with First Nations people. This will include establishing a First Nations people reference group.

We will continue to refer to the original plan for definitions and to track change. We will work to purposefully improve our internal practices and allyship, while advocating in communities outside the organisation. [Read the Equity Action Plan here.](#)

Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

This plan will be available on the Regional Arts Victoria website in 2024.



The Sea Shantie Spectacular at the Potato Shed, Drysdale.

Photo by Ivan Kemp.

Strategic Framework

As noted in the Chair and CEO report, we worked on a refresh of our strategy during 2023. Activities in 2023 delivered on the following objectives:



Strategic Initiatives: Equipping Victoria's regions with locally relevant creative strategies which nurture creativity and creative experiences.



Programming: Artists exchanging experiences with regional communities.



Facilitation: Supporting the ambitions of Victoria's artists and including them in decision making.



Governance: A well-governed organisation, trusted, respected and emulated by our communities and partners.



Sass + Secrets 2023 Connecting Places tour. Photo: Angel Leggas.

Strategic Initiatives

Equipping Victoria's regions with locally relevant creative strategies which nurture creativity and creative experiences.

Regional Arts Victoria's Regional Managers are the driving force behind delivering strategic initiatives across Victoria. In 2023, Regional Managers and other Regional Arts Victoria staff have:

- met with 986 prospective grant applicants to provide information and support development of ideas
- met with 1,980 other individuals and creative organisations to enhance creative networks and build confidence
- convened meetings and workshops (such as REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA in Residence sessions) attended by 414 people who are keen to meet others and build capacity.

South West Creative Industries Strategy

Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Southern Grampians, Warrnambool

Regional Manager: Jo Grant

South West Coordinator: Brianna Kavanagh

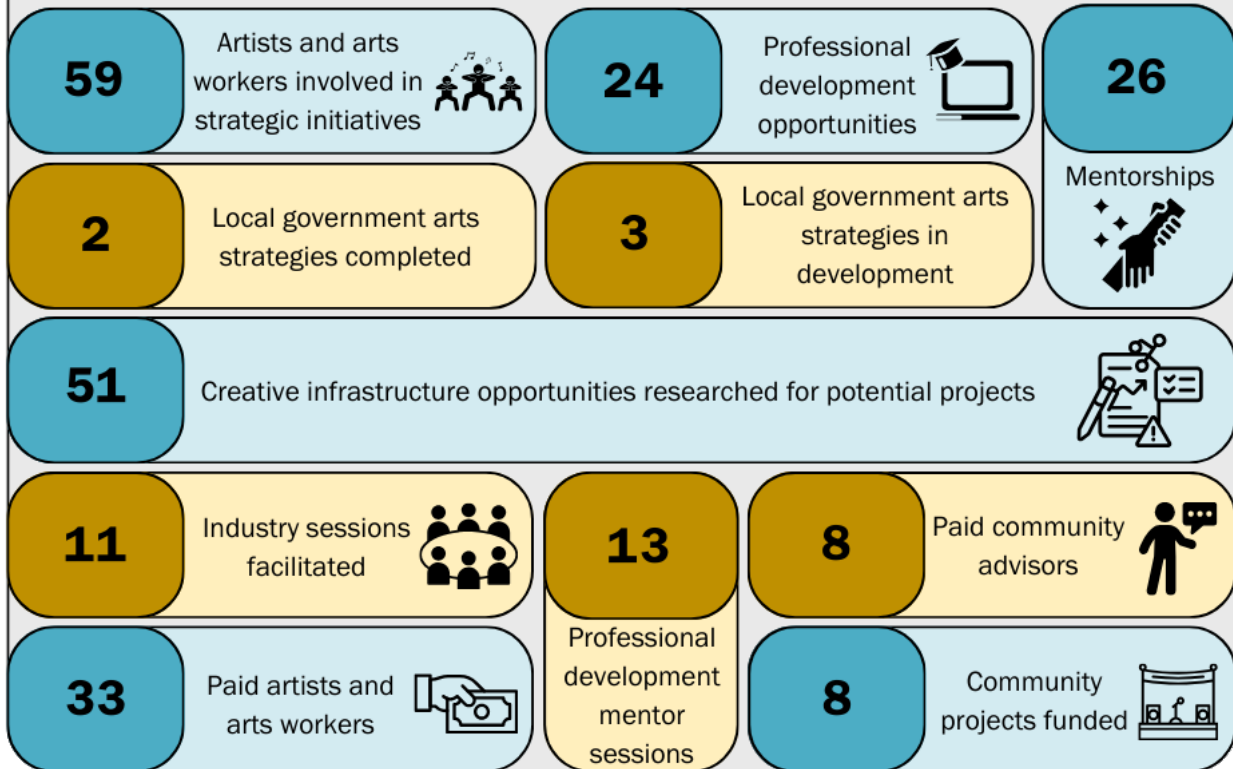
Highlights: The purpose of the South West Creative Industries Strategy is to advocate for the arts with a region-wide approach in the southwest of Victoria. The four-year Strategy is stakeholder-led and managed by Regional Arts Victoria.

Launched in 2020, the South West Creative Industries Strategy has delivered over \$2.4 million of leveraged funding into the southwest region through Regional Arts Victoria's presence in the South West partnership.

Outcomes:

- Regional Arts Victoria developed professional development and data collection projects with the support of two southwest philanthropic organisations, the South West Community Foundation and Fletcher Jones Family Foundation (both to be delivered in 2024).
- Supported Find Your Voice Collective strategic planning.
- Formed Data Collection Project Working group to identify resources and tools that demonstrate the impact of creative activity in the southwest.
- Supported Corangamite Shire's Economic Growth and Prosperity Framework and Moyne Shire's Arts and Culture Strategy.
- Conducted mid-term review to include results from Creative Confidence Indicator Poll.

South West Creative Industries Strategy Achievements



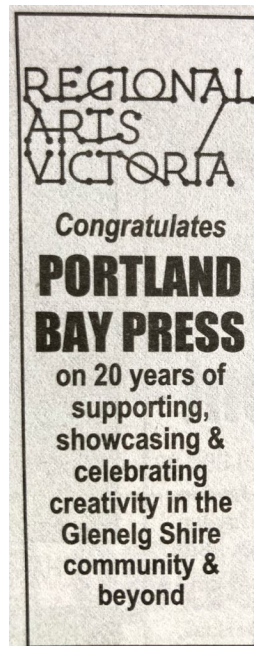
For more information see www.Regional Arts Victoria.net.au/projects/sw-creative-industries

Regional Arts Victoria’s work in the southwest was shaped by the work of Jo Grant who finished her work with us in December after 17 years. Jo’s work included supporting young creatives in the region, mapping creative infrastructure, and working with local shires and artists to stimulate confident creative practice and drive sustainable creative activities in the region.

“

"Jo Grant has been an incredible advocate and asset to the creative sector in the southwest. Her ability to build strong partnerships and steer the strategic direction for sector development has really elevated the creative industries as one of our vital regional assets."

Annabel Cussen, Executive Officer, South West Community Foundation and SWCIS partnership member.



G21 Making Change Strategy

Geelong, Queenscliffe, Golden Plains, Colac Otway, Surf Coast

Manager, Making Change: Stacie Bobele

Highlights: Regional Arts Victoria is engaged to deliver the Making Change Creative Industries Strategy 2021–2026 with a community and sector-led task force and reference group. Informed by a combination of community engagement and desktop research, a framework for the project's delivery is guided by the strategy's core principles, including building more sustainable creative industries in the region.

Stacie Bobele commenced in the role of Manager, Making Change in June 2023.

Outcomes:

- On the ground engagement across the region resulted in over 80 personal engagements/outreaches with the creative community and stakeholders. This provided a wealth of first-hand feedback and data on the region's current position.
- A Creatives Reference Group, consisting of 12 representatives from across the region, representing multiple creative subsectors and First Nations artists, established a to guide the project and ensure creative voices are central to the planning and delivery of the project.
- A series of forums and events called Changemakers will take place across the region in 2024. Themes for these events will be informed by issues identified by the community that are ripe for change and/or opportunity as well as proposals for the future.
- Established a digital hub, website and social media pages to foster connection between creatives and share opportunities across the region.
- The value of the Manager, Making Change role lies in its very existence: as a conduit between individuals, organisations and stakeholders through a unique oversight across the entire region. The Manager, Making Change role provides returns daily in terms of increased connection and opportunity for creatives in the region.
- The project facilitated many partnerships and connections across the region, including the establishment of an LGA Arts and Culture network and a network of creative hubs.



For more information, www.wearemakingchange.com.au



Jo Porter, Stacie Bobele and Steven Richardson at a Making Change event. Photo: Christina de Water

North West Region

Swan Hill, Gannawarra, Yarriambiack, Buloke (Mallee–Wimmera)

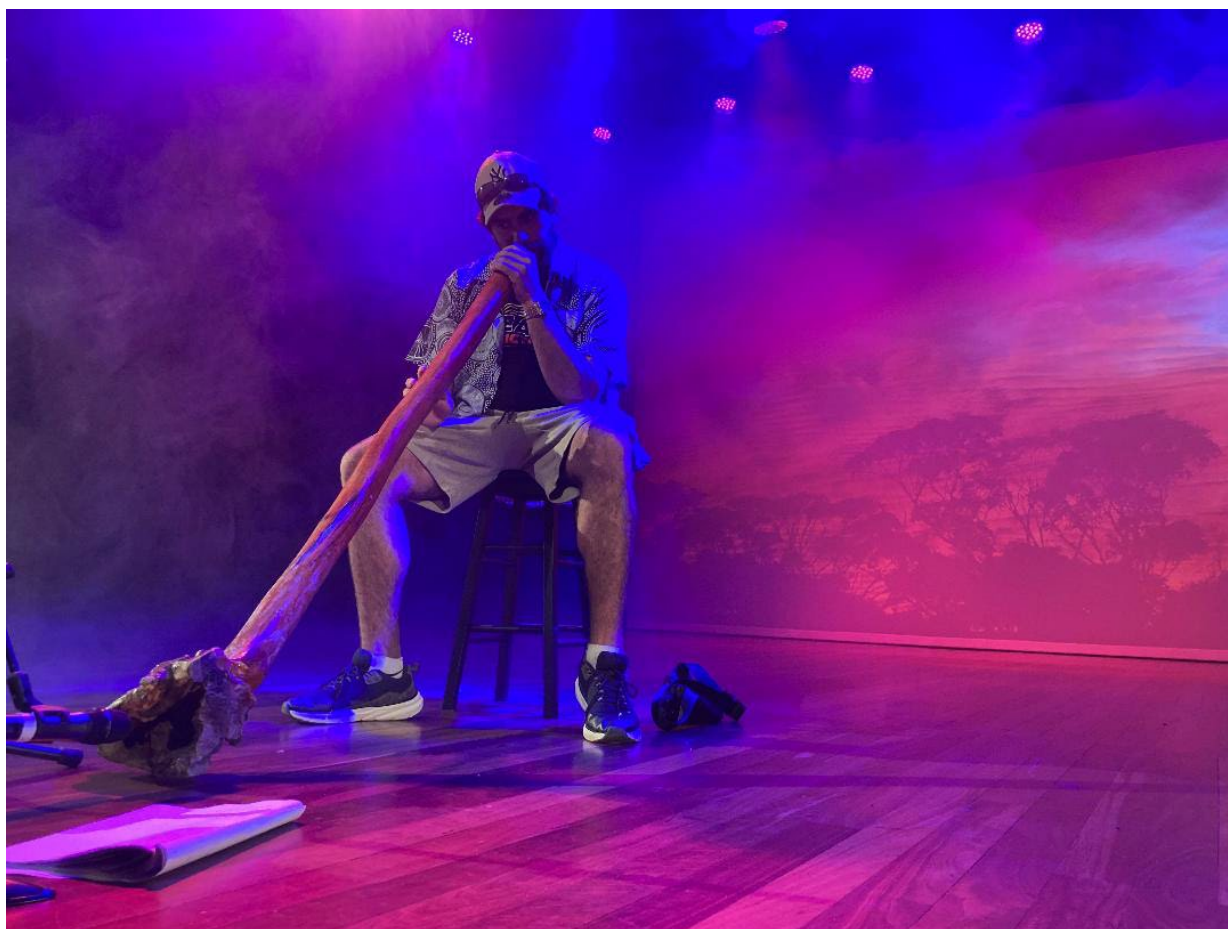
Regional Manager: Loraine Little (Jan–June) and Angela Frost (June–December)

Highlights: Regional Arts Victoria was active in the Creative Murray Mallee Network engagement and project planning. In 2023 over 30 First Nations artists and cultural leaders were engaged in an extensive consultation process to create a First Nations employment proposal that reflects the interests, priorities, strengths and challenges for the First Nations community in Swan Hill and the northwest region.

We extend our wholehearted appreciation to the First Nations Elders and cultural leaders who have generously provided permission and shared their wisdom and guidance throughout the work in the northwest. Names of Elders and cultural leaders are listed in the Thank you section.

Outcomes:

- As part of Creative Murray Mallee 21 artists/arts organisations representatives engaged in online group meetings facilitated by the Regional Manager.
- Planned and delivered support for Swan Hill's First Nations performing arts collective The Marruk Project's new work as part of the Fairfax Youth Theatre Festival. A creative development process and performance outcome involved over 50 First Nations young people, Elders and children.
- Regional Managers met with Arts Mildura Executive Officer Steadman Watts regularly to provide advice, support and share best practice approaches and strategies in First Nations collaboration.
- Planned and delivered support of the Twilight Arts Market with Swan Hill Rural City Council and local art studio Dandy Lion Studio.
- Supported Sue Connelly (First Nations artist) and her successful application of Blak Design at the Koori Heritage Trust.



Imparja Pettit playing didj as part of The Marruk Project, opening the Fairfax Festival, Swan Hill, October 2023.

Central Region

Ballarat, Hepburn, Golden Plains, Moorabool, Mount Alexander, Bendigo, Macedon Ranges, Central Goldfields, the Pyrenees, Ararat

Senior Manager: Malcolm Sanders with Verity Higgins as long service leave cover.

Highlights: Regional Arts Victoria manages the Ballarat Creative Inspiration Fund in collaboration with the City of Ballarat. The Out Alive project concluded in 2023.

Outcomes:

- Managed three rounds of the Ballarat Creative Inspiration Fund ([see Funding Programs](#)), ensuring wide reach of the fund via analysing the diversity of grant recipients.
- Delivered the final of three Out Alive workshop series which engaged four ex-offenders from the Shepparton region in an intensive improvisation project led by artist James Brennan in April. Funded by the Victorian Legal Services Board, the project was a successful example of innovation and creativity addressing problems such as social reintegration of former prisoners. Out Alive is an important reinforcement of the role that artists play in all areas of Australian society.
- Maintained connection with arts and culture officers in the region through the Central Victorian Arts and Culture Network and commenced development of a professional development program for Central Victorian Creatives early in 2024.



“Before this workshop I did not believe in hope. When I came here the first day they said ‘hope’ I said ‘no’. Now, if I ever get asked to come to another workshop I won’t second guess it, I will come because I might learn and grow; I might become a better person, a better actor, and I can learn something from it.”

2023 Out Alive participant

Central North Region

Moira, Strathbogie, Mitchell, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Benalla

Moira Hubs Project Development Manager: Nikki Ralston

Highlights: Strengthened partnership between Regional Arts Victoria and Moira Shire, facilitation, mentoring and support for four Moira Creative Hubs: G.R.A.I.N. Store in Nathalia; CAN Hub in Numurkah; Across the Arts in Yarrawonga; and Arts for All in Cobram

Outcomes:

- Strengthened our relationship with Moira Shire with an expanded Moira Development Manager role for 2024.
- Co-facilitated three creative hubs network meetings and provided regular one-on-one mentoring and skill development support for the four Moira Shire Creative Hubs.
- Individually supported the hubs through their triennial funding application and acquittal processes.
- Secured the booking of five touring Regional Arts Victoria shows to be presented in Moira Shire in 2024.
- Worked with the Moira Community Development, Arts and Culture Team leader to re-design the format and content of the Creative Hubs networking sessions and deliver three half-day Sunday sessions with a focus on networking, collaborating and upskilling.



Arts for All Cobram launching a mural by Pencil Head. Photo: Dana Sharp.



“I have been increasingly interested in the positive impacts of creative recovery for strengthening resilience by ways of connecting communities, drawing out impacts, building social capital and, sometimes, providing a reflection piece as part of the recovery process.”

2023 Creative Recovery Project Partner

Gippsland

Primarily East Gippsland, with support for Bass Coast, Baw Baw, South Gippsland, Latrobe, Wellington.

Community Engagement Manager: Tim Dakin

Funded by Creative Victoria for a one-year Creative Recovery Program, Regional Arts Victoria continued its 15-year history of Creative Recovery by working with East Gippsland communities impacted by 2021–2022 bushfires. Tim also continued his relationships with other creatives in Gippsland with the support of Jo Porter and Susie Lyons.

Highlights: Piloted a streamlined application process which successfully funded diverse recipients from fire-affected communities. Recipients reported the benefit of one-on-one advice and support from the Manager and proportionate scale of the grant amounts (three grants of \$5,000 and nine grants of \$1,000). Nine of these were first time recipients.

Through the Creative Recovery Program, Regional Arts Victoria facilitated knowledge, social connections and professional networks in the context of Creative Recovery practice.

Outcomes:

- Connected/re-connected with 30 past Creative Recovery grant recipients, 10 Recovery East Gippsland Network members, 21 local arts and culture organisations, four First Nations-led community organisations and six local shires.
- Delivered a Creative Recovery training and capacity building workshop in East Gippsland Shire.
- Funded projects benefited more than 355 participants from fire-affected communities, including 210 children and young people, and 24 First Nations people.
- Funded Omeo Dance performances engaging six paid artists, three volunteers, 32 participants (including one young person under 21 years of age and one First Nations person.)

“

“...as artists, we learnt to trust that bringing someone from a totally different culture into (our town), if managed well, can be a profound thing for the community... all of the participants gained a sense of belonging and of self worth.”

Rosalind Crisp, Omeo Dance



Dure Dara and Rosalind Crisp of Omeo Dance.
Recipients of 2023 Creative Recovery Grant. Photo:
Courtesy of Omeo Dance.

North East Region

Alpine, Indigo, Wangaratta, Towong

Creative Recovery Co-ordinator (North East) / Community Engagement Manager: Kellie Sutherland

Highlights: In 2023, Regional Arts Victoria continued to be trusted partners in delivering Creative Recovery programs that link artists with their communities to prepare and re-emerge following disaster, ensuring that artist-led responses have access to the resources they need and on-the-ground support.

The Step-Up Program was a partnership between Regional Arts Victoria and the Victorian Department of Health, which focused on supporting the social recovery of disaster-impacted communities through arts and cultural activation.

Outcomes:

- Strengthened the sustainability of local creative sector workers with practical skills through professional development and training programs. Delivered Creative Recovery Network Training Retreat in Bairnsdale (March 2023). The participants, creative practitioners and community leaders enhanced their connections and learned how to embed trauma-informed best practice in their project delivery.
- Established an ongoing community network of Creative Recovery practitioners across the northeast.
- Provided employment and forged pathways for future activation of the local creative sector workers through connecting directly to recovery sector agencies via the Northeast Creative Recovery Practitioner database.
- Sponsored and supported artists to deliver the Creative Recovery participatory art programs at the Upper Murray Agricultural Field Days (April) and GANEAA Across the Arts Festival (May).
- Provided advice and sector expertise to agencies and creatives across the northeast through funding advisory sessions, connections and representation on steering and planning committees.



Mandala made by participants at Tallangatta Creative Recovery Network Training Retreat. Photo: Joe Calvert



“I know the arts are integral to supporting community recovery. It contributes to personal healing, building confidence, building communities”

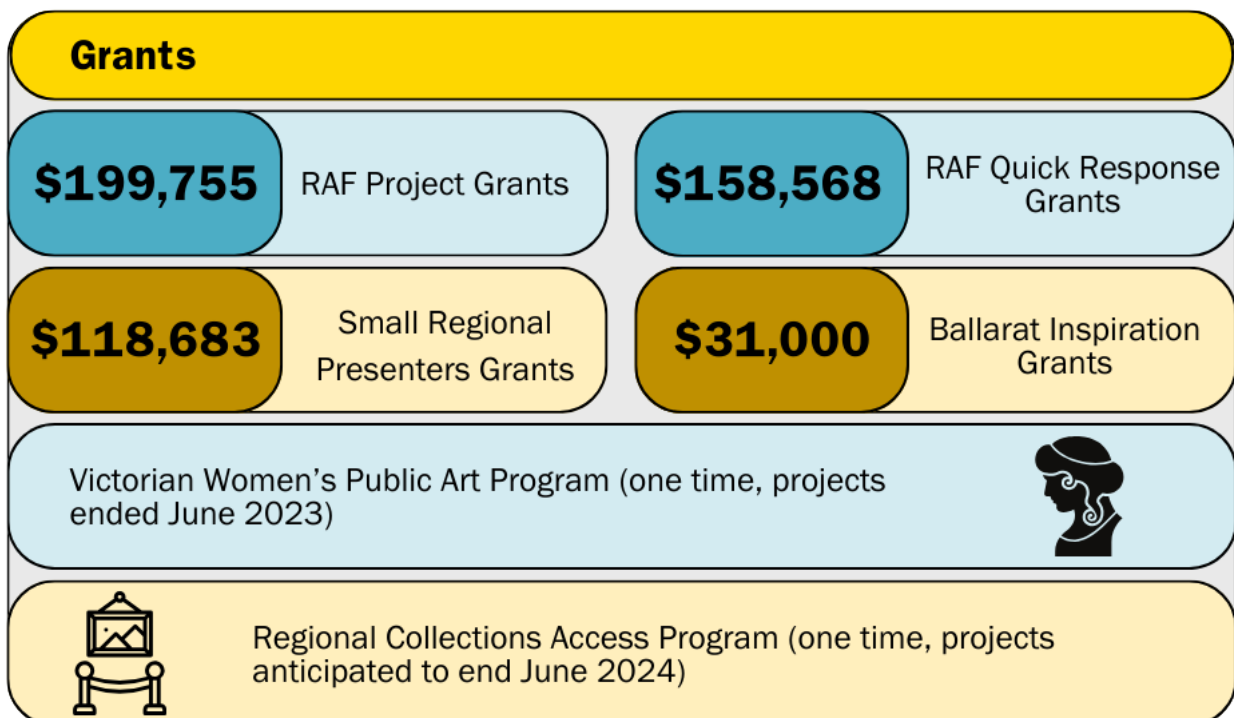
Creative Recovery Project Partner

Funding Programs

Regional Arts Victoria manages funding on behalf of the Federal and State Governments and from the City of Ballarat.

Applications from eligible applicants are assessed by external panels and Regional Arts Victoria staff are available to answer questions and support applicants.

In 2023, Regional Arts Victoria staff met with almost 1,000 prospective individual applicants from around Victoria.

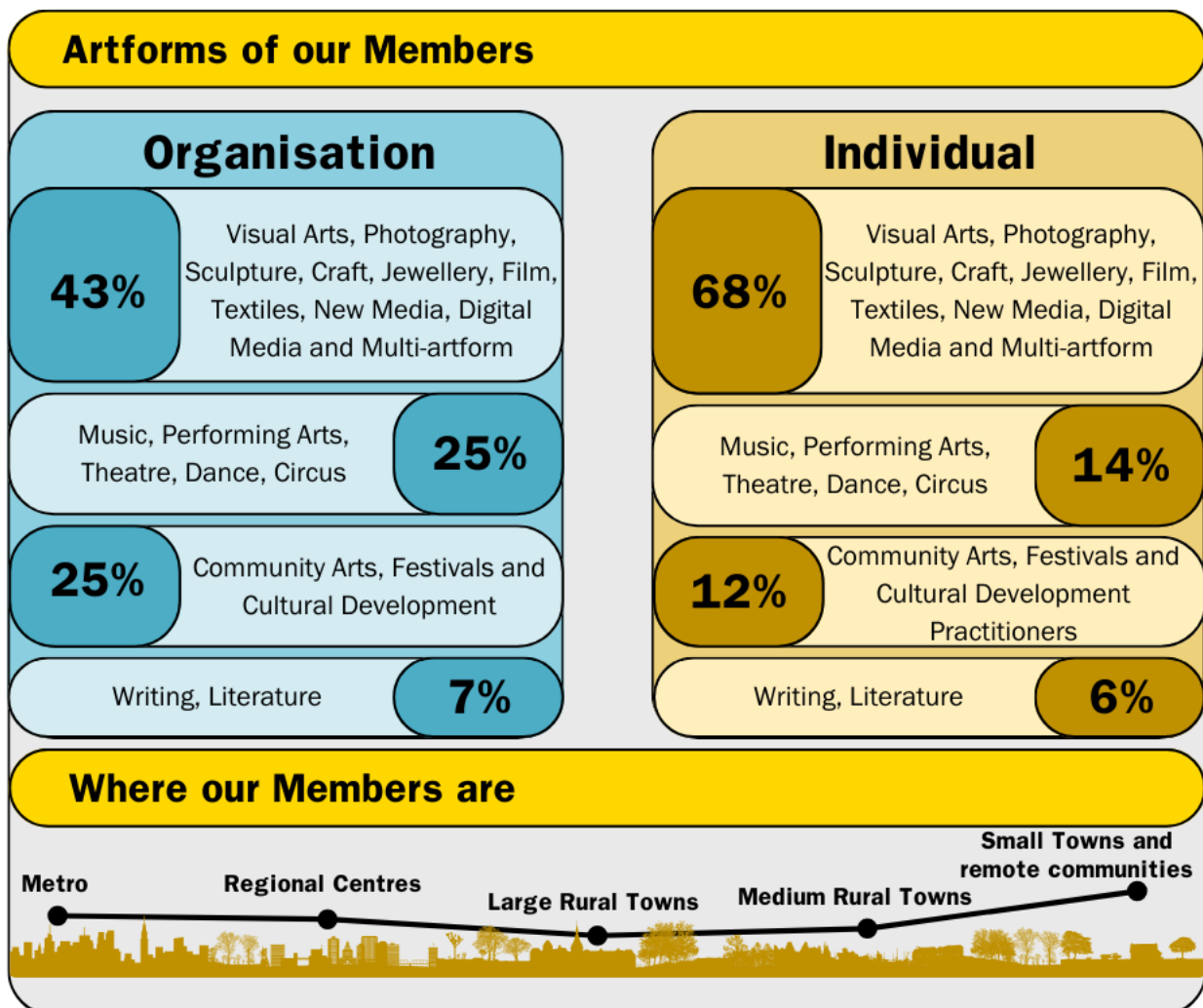


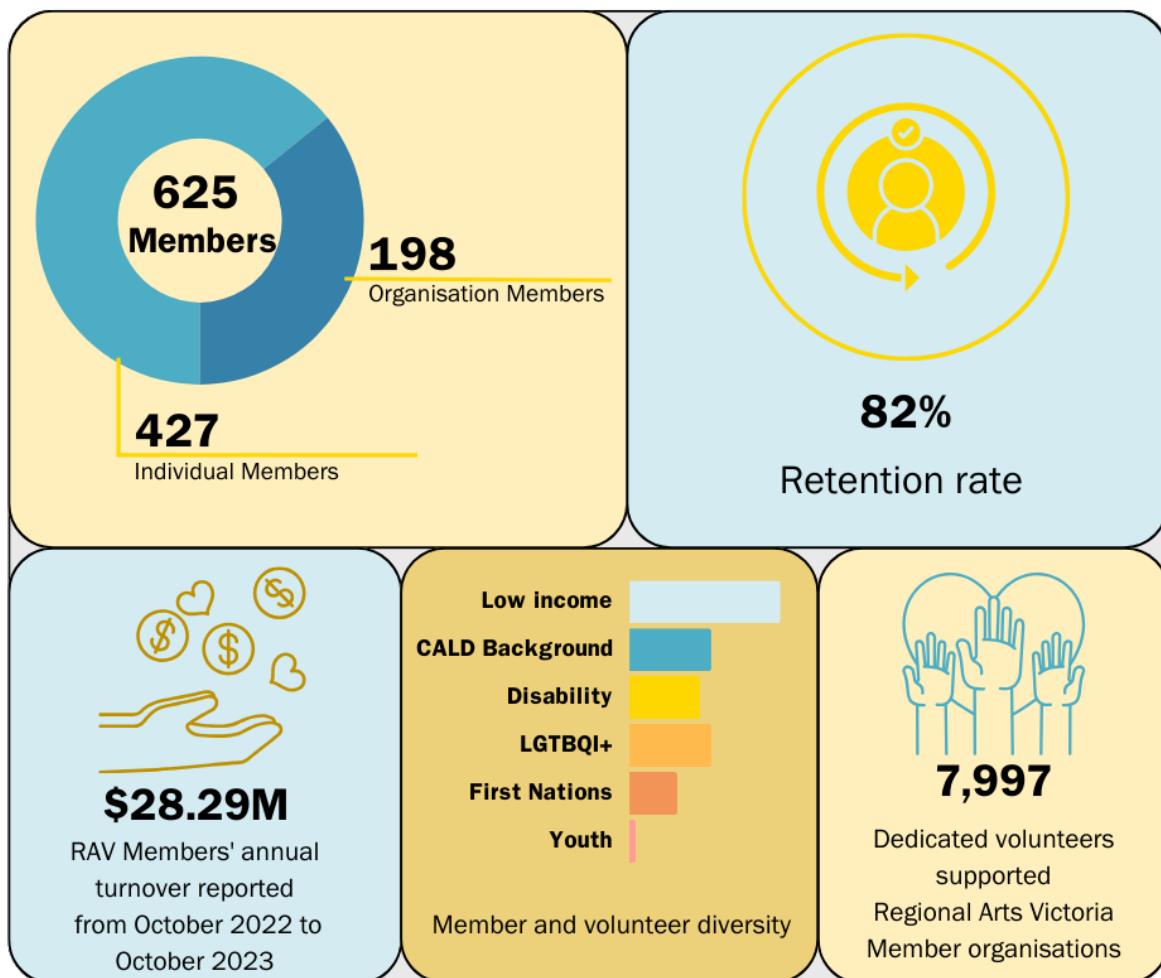
Membership

Regional Arts Victoria membership is offered to individuals and creative organisations based in regional Victoria.

It is noteworthy that our Members' activities are supported by almost 8,000 volunteers whose efforts contribute to the vibrancy of life in our communities, along with wellbeing, liveability and economic activity.

Our 660+ Members are the engine room of arts and cultural activity across Victoria. They reach far and wide with some 800,000 people enjoying Regional Arts Victoria Members' projects in 2023. We continued to offer Combined Liability, Association Liability and Volunteer Workers Insurance as key membership benefits to our members.





Membership Badge

In 2023, we launched a Membership Badge that members can use on their promotional material or websites to promote their Regional Arts Victoria Membership. This is available through the Membership Dashboard, along with instructions for its use.



2023-2024 Membership Badge

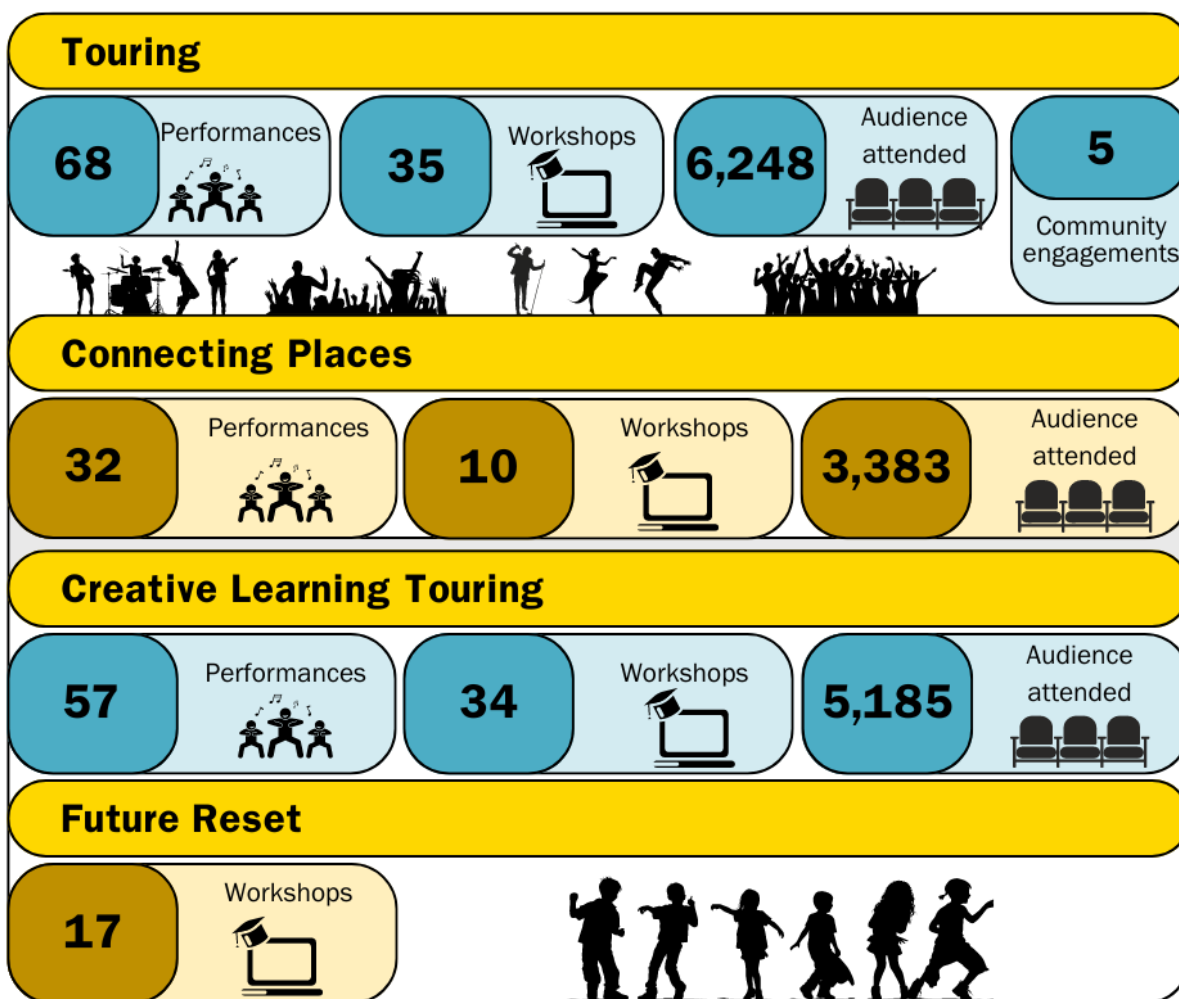
“Through meeting with RAV team and with other practitioners who have experienced the services RAV provides, it brings me a greater sense of connection with fellow artists regionally.”

Regional Arts Victoria Member

Programming

Cohesive, artist-led responses to opportunities and challenges in regional Victoria.

Programming: By the Numbers 2023



Touring Services

Touring Services supports the delivery of high-quality live performance works to reach regional and remote audiences in Victoria, and across the country.

We also support Victorian artists to build capacity, skills and knowledge through delivery of engagement and skills development offerings, in 2023 this included:

- participation in the Honey Pot program at Adelaide Fringe Festival, meeting individually with artists and through Honey Pot events to represent the various

pathways to touring in Victoria, including the Regional Arts Victoria touring programs and Showcase Victoria

- ongoing sponsorship of the 'Market Ready' award at the Melbourne Fringe Festival ensures the touring team are connecting with emerging theatre-makers, seeing new work by emerging artists and representing the touring pathways available to Victorian venues.
- partnership with the Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres to deliver the Showcase Victoria marketplace event. REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA supports presenters and artists to connect and navigate this marketplace event
- support for independent artists through our Tour School series of webinars, providing professional advice from industry leaders on all aspects of touring.

2023 Touring Program

Bunkasaurus by Bunk Puppets

Common Dissonance by Na Djinang Circus

Junklandia by Junkyard Beats

Goddess of Jazz by Wishingwell Productions

Paint What You Hear by Erica Rasmussen & Zakiya Kurdi

Reckōning by BEAT Entertainment

Sea Shanty Spectacular by The Shanties Choir and C J Stewart

Whalebone by Jens Altheimer

Project / Program: Touring Services

Highlights: *Reckōning* by BEAT Entertainment – National Tour

With a full cast of BIPOC, LGBTQI+, Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identifying artists, *Reckōning* was a one-hour show tackling the modern-day effects of racism through cultural storytelling, stunning visuals, inspiring lyrics in language and utterly dance-worthy contemporary sound.

This live performance project was toured nationally and coordinated by Regional Arts Victoria, based on a two-day buy-in model, offering an engagement day with creatives from the touring party, a school's version of the show focusing on a celebration of First Nations culture and addressing racism (with teachers' resources), and an evening performance that supported truth-telling and empathy. This project was equally concerned about connection to the community and performing for audiences.



2023 Tour *Reckōning* by BEAT Entertainment, Darwin. Photo: Johnny Hamilton.

Outcomes:

- **Growing and strengthening culture.** Regional Arts Victoria has invested in work that continues to uphold and celebrate First Nations cultural practice. This tour has cemented BEAT Entertainment as leaders in their community, to continue a 1,000-year-old cultural practice and celebrate their story and their voice on stages across the country. This is a significant outcome and has encouraged the company to continue to make work and to represent and to connect young people with their culture with pride and a spirit of contribution.
- **Representation matters.** Each time these artists stood on a stage and sang in language, wore their traditional clothes, performed from the depth of their culture, told their personal stories, the response from audiences was tangible. It matters to be able to see yourself on stage in a mainstage venue. It is affirming, validating, thrilling, inspiring. It changes the perspectives of the young people in the audience, for some

their first time in a theatre, about their place in the world and the value and strength of their individual voices.

- **Developing market for First Nations and CALD work.** Each venue that presented the work understood the value and the message of the show, which provided a deeper connection to those audiences within their communities. For some venues, organising a Welcome to Country and finding their Māori community leaders was a novel process, and all have reported a willingness to do more to connect with these communities in their towns.
- **Employing large company of artists.** In a touring landscape that is increasingly leaning towards smaller-scale tours, it was a mark of success to be able to tour a work of significant size. This tour party contained many performers who are usually the artistic leaders of arts projects they are performing in. It was a positive experience for many of them to take on the role of artist or performer, and not also be taking on a leadership role for the tour.
- **National touring.** In the post-COVID years, it was gratifying to have a company touring nationally again. This tour allowed Regional Arts Victoria to reconnect with interstate touring colleagues and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing presenters, especially for community engagement-focused models. Our organisation has learned a great deal about presenter challenges, that will be used to inform our future slow touring model in 2024 and 2025.

Connecting Places

Connecting Places supports Community Presenters comprising of local groups and committees (often volunteers) who present performing arts shows in their communities through two initiatives: touring and skills development.

2023 Connecting Places Touring Program offers engaging and relevant small-scale and low-tech touring shows that are suitable for a variety of small community venues.

Crow Kid by Lemony S Puppets

Double Feature by Damian Callinan

Sass + Secrets by Cath Jamison & Aurora Kurth

Sparrows of Kabul by Fred Smith

The Merindas (August Management)

Highlights/Outcomes

- The Connecting Places Skills Development Program provided mentorships, webinars, online resources and in-person advice for the Community Presenter network, which consists of 49 small presenting organisations located across the State.
- In 2023, we worked with our network and our Community Presenter Advisory Panel to streamline and simplify our Community Presenter registration process and welcomed 14 new Community Presenters.



“We feel this was an excellent program that helped us a great deal...We are feeling much better about our direction for the next few years and have changed some of our thinking about how we want to do things.”

2022-2023 Connecting Places Mentor

Connecting Places values community-led programming and access to exciting performing arts experiences in small regional and rural communities.

In 2023, we:

- Finalised and evaluated four successful 2022–2023 Community Presenter mentorships, initiated and funded three new 2023–2024 Community Presenter mentorships.
- Connected six Community Presenters through our new Knowledge Exchange Program which facilitated meetings and conversations between community presenters across the State.
- Delivered a suite of online workshops and resources for our Community Presenter network, including:
 - Online fundraising workshop delivered by Megan Buntine.
 - Two online mentor presentations focused on working with young people and sustaining yourself as a creative community leader.
 - Online Grant Writing presentation.

- Provided one-on-one in-person advice and support to more than 28 community presenters during our annual Connecting Places visits across Victoria.
- Secured \$10,000 from FRRR to deliver two in-person Connecting Places Regional Arts Victoria in Residence events in Tallarook and Charlton in 2024.



“The most valuable part of mentoring is the commitment to care. We all need ways to scatter our light differently on the canvas. Outside supports are critical to this. Being a mentor offers this to another. Plus, facilitating a mentee's self-reflection also catalyses one's own.”

2022-2023 Connecting Places Mentor

Capacity Building Program

Project / Program: Mentorships

Highlights: In 2023, four Connecting Places mentorship pairs completed a 12-month program of mentorship between an established and emerging presenting organisation. Three new mentorship pairs began their 12-month program in late 2023.

Outcomes:

- Survey and evaluation of 2022–2023 mentorships demonstrating the value of the program and importance of Regional Arts Victoria setting up a mentorship framework and regular check-ins.
- Three new mentorship pairs were established, with community presenter mentees working closely with their mentors on youth engagement, governance and event delivery.

Project / Program: Skills development

Highlights: In response to the feedback provided in our 2023 Community Presenter Survey, the 2023 Connecting Places skill development program focussed on the following areas:

- engaging young people
- grant writing
- fundraising
- individual one-on-one support
- connecting and sharing with other Community Presenters.

Outcomes:

During our annual Connecting Places regional visits, we connected with more than 28 Victorian Community Presenters (for example, volunteer hall committees and arts councils), providing one-on-one support and advice on a range of topics, and discussing requirements and options for booking touring shows.

We also delivered a suite of other skills development opportunities and resources, including:

- A new Knowledge Exchange program whereby Community Presenters were given the opportunity to submit an expression of interest to be matched with other Community Presenters from across the State to share knowledge including their challenges, opportunities as well as innovative ideas and upcoming projects. The participants were provided with an introduction and travel stipend by Regional Arts Victoria.
- An online Grant Writing presentation designed for Community Presenters and community groups interested in applying for the Small Regional Presenters grant, the Regional Arts Fund and other creative and community grant programs.
- Two online videos prepared by our 2022–2023 mentors and mentees focussing on engaging with young people and sustaining yourself as a creative community leader.



2023 Community Presenter mentorship video screenshot, with Nikki Ralston and Xan Coleman.

Creative Learning

Our Arts & Education Program became the Creative Learning Program during 2023. The program encourages young people to develop their creativity and enhance awareness and participation in the arts through accessible creative learning opportunities. It is curated to support positive mental health and wellbeing, celebrating self-expression and learning with curiosity.

Creative Learning specialises in touring high-quality and educationally relevant arts experiences directly to schools and in presenter venues. It is designed to engage, educate and empower young people as artists and audiences through a range of creative approaches,

Creative Learning offers a suite of online and in-person performances, workshops and residencies across a range of art forms, suitable for primary years through to VCE students.

We support artists and arts companies to reach Victorian teachers and students. We work to reduce barriers that prevent Victorian students from accessing educationally relevant arts programs and provide teachers with professional development opportunities and resources.



“It was absolutely fabulous! It would be great to be able to ‘afford’ this type of thing on a more regular basis. It engaged even the most disengaged students.”

Kim Fitzpatrick, Teacher Charlton College

The team also specialises in developing longer-term artist in residency programs in schools, as well as creative opportunities for young people in a community context.

In 2023, this work focused on projects with and for young people in the Gippsland regions through the VicHealth-funded Future Reset Initiative. A co-design process informed development of a series of mentorships, workshops and events aimed to engage young people aged 12–25, offering opportunities to participate in accessible creative experiences in a community context and to experience social connection.

Project / Program: Creative Learning touring

A Taste of Africa Tour

Ana's Big Adventure by Imaginary Friends

Comic Art with Fingle Sin

Crow Kid by Lemony S Puppet Theatre

Impro Melbourne

Highlight: *A Taste of Africa* tour

Outcomes:

- Toured the interactive performance and workshop to 17 regional schools and venues and one metro school, reaching a total of 2,227 students.
- Received overwhelming positive feedback from students and teachers.

Highlight: *Comic Art* with Fingle Sin

Outcomes:

- Toured to eight regional schools reaching 495 students.
- Employed a regionally based artist.
- Received overwhelming positive feedback from students and teachers, with reference to relating to students and celebrating strengths, making them feel valued and increasing knowledge about career pathways as a visual artist.



Student artwork from Pyramid Hill College workshop with artist Fingle Sin. Photo: Fingle Sin.



“Loved my day at Manangatang P-12 College. I was set up in a big old art room and the kids were eclectic, vibrant, and funny. I especially enjoyed the older kids who were hard to engage but proved to be creative and brave once they got going. I was treated like a king. The staff knew that I had been travelling in an area with limited options and had made sandwiches and cakes as they worried that I had not been eating well (they were right!) I left feeling appreciated, well-fed, and energised for the next leg of the journey.”

Fingle Sin, Artist

Project: Parallel Wilds

Highlights: Regional Arts Victoria delivered Creative Recovery Residency Program Parallel Wilds in three schools in the northeast, funded through the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal in response to the Black Saturday bushfires in 2019–20.

Outcomes:

- The program offered opportunity for students from Carraragamungee, Oxley and Milawa primary schools to collaborate on a creative project together, deepening connections with one another and to their local natural environment, and which was used as a theme for the work.
- Students learned skills in creative writing and digital photography and filming.
- The project had an environmental focus which included engaging local Landcare group and purchasing native plants local to the area from a local nursey to plant onsite at the schools.
- Students’ work is now housed in an interactive online platform.

Project / Program: Australian Children’s Theatre Foundation

- **Highlights:** The Australian Children’s Theatre Foundation’s 2023 Commission was awarded to regionally based theatre company Lab Kelpie for the development of new children’s theatre work, *Reasons to be Invisible*. Lab Kelpie was awarded the

Commission to develop a new work in collaboration with award winning playwright, Katy Warner.

Outcomes:

- Provided Lab Kelpie the opportunity to engage a team of creatives (including actors, director and a set designer) and pay them accordingly for their time to develop the work.
- Supported Lab Kelpie to host a showing of the development in the Daylesford Town Hall providing an important opportunity to test the work on a live audience of all ages, as well as to invite the local community to view work made by a professional company in their own town.



Reasons to Be Invisible by Lab Kelpie in development at Daylesford Town Hall. Photo: Courtesy of Lab Kelpie.

Facilitation

Artist-led responses to significant issues facing regional Victoria

Future Reset

Highlights: The VicHealth funded initiative Future Reset: Young People, Arts & Mental Wellbeing is a three-year initiative focused on young people (12–25 years old).

The objectives of Future Reset are to:

- Create opportunities for young people to have new, increased and meaningful social connections.
- Increase opportunities for young people to engage in the arts.
- Develop new, practical, and transferable skills for young people involved in the creation, development, and production of arts projects.
- Establish new partnerships between organisations.
- Offer young people opportunities for social connection through creation of safe spaces offering meaningful, arts-based activities.



2023, Participant of oil painting workshop in Cann River with facilitator Nadine Lineham. Photo: Stephanie Clark.

Outcomes:

- Twelve circus -focused workshops planned and executed in partnership with GippSport in all six LGAs in Gippsland. Over 75 participants aged 12–18 years joined the program.
- Planned and executed a three-month mentorship program in partnership with *Gippslandia*, a quarterly magazine in newspaper format for, and about, Gippsland. The program had seven *Gippslandia* contributors act as mentors to 16 young people who joined the program from across the six LGAs in Gippsland. 15 young people attended each session of the program, and 14 will feature in issue 30 of *Gippslandia* published in March 2024.
- Short workshops in Wellington Shire and East Gippsland focusing on music, and how to launch a band into the creative industry, as well as workshops in oil painting.
- Created connections with new partners in Baw Baw Shire and Latrobe City to expand Future Reset’s programs in 2024.
- Continued planning four new 2024 programs including: Bastion Festival Mentorship Program, Young Producers Program and Xpressions Festival in partnership with West Gippsland Arts Centre, Bad Kids Project in partnership with JOF Makes Art, Wellington Shire Council and East Gippsland Shire Council and Latrobe photography workshops in partnership with Latrobe Regional Gallery.

RAV in Residence










REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA in Residence is our place-based engagement activity. It attracts both Members, who receive an early invitation to book, and other creatives, who are Members in waiting. It provides advice, support and networking opportunities usually with a local government or partner.

In 2023, we hosted four RAV in Residence events:

- Yackandandah, in partnership with Indigo Shire Council, 26 May 2023.
- Ballan, in partnership with Moorabool Shire Council, 20–21 June 2023.
- Euroa, in partnership with Strathbogrie Shire Council, 23 June 2023.
- Bairnsdale, in partnership with The Forge Theatre, 9 July 2023.



Malcolm Sanders speaking at the Moorabool Shire Council RAV in Residence Creative Funding Forum held in Ballan.

Yackandandah		Ballan	
12	One-on-one chats	23	One-on-one chats
15	Creatives networking	19	Creatives networking
 RAV Staff: Jo Porter, Kellie Sutherland and Nikki Ralston		 RAV Staff: Malcolm Sanders, Rhiannon Poley, Jo Porter	
Member venue: Sluga Gallery 		Local Venue: Ballan Arts Space 	
Euroa		Bairnsdale	
11	Creatives networking Follow up event after flood cancelled 2022 RAV In Residence	4	Members only attending Meet with RAV + free ticket to the Sea Shanty Spectacular 
 RAV Staff: Rhiannon Poley		 RAV Staff: Jo Porter	
Local Venue: Seven Creeks Park in conjunction with the ArtBox Launch Event 		Local Venue: The Forge Theatre 	



Left: Regional Arts Victoria Member Nancy Sluga of Sluga Gallery hosting a RAV in Residence event in Yackandandah, Indigo Shire. Photo: Jo Porter

Victorian Women's Public Art Program

The Victorian Women's Public Art Program, funded and managed by the Victorian Office for Women and facilitated by Regional Arts Victoria, was completed in 2023.

The program responded to the unequal representation of women in public art. At the start of the program in 2021, only 1.7% of artworks in public places in Victoria celebrated real, named women.

The Victorian Women's Public Art Program funded a grant program to deliver public art projects that celebrated women and provided employment and recognition for women artists.



At the unveiling of the statue of Zelda D'Aprano. (L-R) A Monument of One's Own co-conveners Kristine Ziwica and Professor Claire Wright, former Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and sculptor Jennifer Mann.

Outcomes:

All six funded projects were completed in 2023 and six diverse artworks created by, and celebrating, women were launched in separate celebrations across the State:

Remembering Stella Young – Northern Grampians Shire Council

Vera: Linton War Surgeon – Golden Plains Shire Council

Creative Resilience – Queen Victoria Women’s Centre Trust

Three Kurnai Women on Country- Baw Baw Shire Council

Honouring Zelda D’Aprano - Victorian Trades Hall Council

Yennaga-Yettang/Come See - Mildura Rural City Council

- The Victorian Women’s Public Art Program raised the profile of, and provided direct financial support for, 14 women artists.
- The projects celebrated, partnered with, and were led by diverse women, creatives and stakeholders, including those from or living in regional Victoria,
- First Nations artists, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and members of deaf and disabled communities were involved and represented.
- Regional communities experienced a strong sense of pride in and connection to the artworks in their local areas.
- Public awareness of and engagement with the issue of inequality in the representation of women in public art in Victoria was increased because of the program.



Remembering Stella Young, Stawell.
Photo: Malcolm Sanders.

Governance and Policy

A well-governed organisation trusted and respected by our communities and partners

Founded in 1969, Regional Arts Victoria began its life as the Victorian Arts Council, an umbrella body of regional arts councils, serving as the Victorian branch of the Arts Council of Australia (now Regional Arts Australia). Rebranded as Regional Arts Victoria in 1999, the organisation is now a company limited by guarantee with a scope encompassing all art forms, all creative practices, and all modes of artistic experience.

Regional Arts Victoria Limited is a not-for-profit company, with Deductible Gift Recipient status.

Our Constitution provides for the election and co-option of Directors. At all times, a majority of Directors of Regional Arts Victoria 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.

Throughout 2023 our values of Care, Transformation, Celebration, Equity and Leadership underpinned our work.

To learn more on the history of Regional Arts Victoria, please visit [www.Regional Arts Victoria.net.au/about/about-us](http://www.RegionalArtsVictoria.net.au/about/about-us)



The working group for the *Three Kurnai Women on Country* artwork in Drouin at the unveiling. (L-R) Jessie McLennan, Lynette Hayes, Jeannie Houghton, Rebecca Van-Dyk Hamilton, Cheryl Drayton. Photo: Baw Baw Shire Council.

Board of Directors

Sue Hunt, AM	Chair Co-opted Director 2022 - current	<p>Sue is CEO of The Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation. Prior to this Sue was Founding CEO of Carriage Works; Director of Performing Arts for the Sydney Opera House; General Manager of the Queensland Theatre Company and General Manager of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.</p> <p>She is currently Chair of Auspicious Arts Projects, a Trustee of the Penguin Foundation on Phillip Island and was Deputy Chair of Melbourne’s newest arts festival, Rising.</p>
Rebecca Brezzi	Deputy-Chair Co-opted Director 2017– September 2023	<p>Rebecca is a barrister and advisor to companies on governance, strategy and management. She has qualifications in law, psychology and business and has taught in the areas of commercial, administrative and corporate law.</p> <p>Rebecca’s experience includes over 12 years as a board director and spans the legal, telecommunications, energy, cybersecurity, data analytics and arts sectors.</p>
Tom Molyneux	Deputy-Chair (from September 2023) Elected Director 2020 – current	<p>Tom Molyneux is a Gunditjmara theatre actor, director and playwright based in Geelong, Australia. He holds a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Performing Arts from Monash University, a Graduate Certificate of Management from the Australian Institute of Business and a Master of Business (Arts and Cultural Management) from Deakin University.</p> <p>Tom has an extensive history of work as an actor, director, and playwright in successful national and regional touring theatre productions, as well as arts governance. He is currently the Manager of Indigenous Inclusion at Deakin University, and aside from Diversity and Inclusion work he is passionate about and accredited to deliver Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid training.</p>

Victoria Crane	Treasurer	Victoria is an experienced banking professional and qualified lawyer, holding a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws (Hons), having previously practised as a corporate solicitor with Allens Arthur Robinson (now Allens Linklaters), Victoria transitioned to banking and held various positions at ANZ in the Institutional Banking Division over a period of 10 years.
	Co-opted Director	Victoria's interest in early childhood education and intervention was strengthened through her roles as president of a local community kindergarten and board member of a disability service provider, which drew her back to legal practice.
	2018 – December 2023	Victoria is currently General Manager and Board Secretary of a Victorian not-for-profit disability service provider.

Sally Beck	Treasurer from December 2023	Sally is a finance professional with over 20 years' experience in the arts and not-for-profit sectors, and local government. Currently she is the Community Grants and Partnerships Manager at City of Greater Geelong.
	Co-opted Director	Sally has a Bachelor of Commerce and qualified as a Certified Practising Accountant. She has a background working in the performing arts including as General Manager of Geelong Performing Arts Centre.
	September 2023 - current	

Richard Hull **Co-opted Director**
2023 – current

Richard Hull is a producer and CEO, passionate about the arts. His early career embraced technical theatre and production before moving into executive management. In London he was manager of several West End theatres and on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, a producer with Assembly. As an independent producer, Richard toured stand-up comedy, musicals and plays around the UK and internationally.

In 2006, Richard was appointed Head of Customer Service at Sydney Opera House, a role he held for three years before joining the Sydney Fringe as Festival Director in 2010. Since 2012, Richard has been Chief Executive Officer of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Australia’s National Youth Circus, leading the company to a new era of growth and success.

Emma Jones **Elected Director**
2017– May 2023

Emma is the Program Lead of Smart Seeds, GHD’s global design-led innovation program empowering emerging leaders to develop their entrepreneurial mindsets and solve complex challenges through co-creation. Her recent experience includes a lead role in establishing Startup Shakeup, northeast Victoria’s startup ecosystem. Emma has a background as a jazz musician and brings creativity to her roles, building on her experience as a web developer, leading digital transformation projects in government, banking, education and other corporate industries.

Emma has a long association with arts organisations and projects in northeast Victoria, including King Valley Arts Inc and four years as Deputy Chair of Wangaratta Festival of Jazz. Her artistic practice spans music, printmaking and textiles.

Jes John	Elected Director	<p>Jes is one of the co-operators of Foundry, a not-for-profit arts co-operative retail store and gallery in downtown Bairnsdale, specialising in showcasing art made by artists living and working on Gunai Kurnai country. Jes also works as a finance manager for Foundry and local arts committee FLOAT. Although she is currently taking a small hiatus from the working world to raise a curious toddler, Jes' past involvements include Chair of F.INC, a successful community-based arts group in East Gippsland, leading member of (f)route and FROUTEVILLE, board member then bookkeeper for the East Gippsland Art Gallery, and various creative committees for local events.</p> <p>Jes has long recognised that art doesn't always live inside galleries – it is often found within community and builds strong connections between those regionally. Jes is a qualified digital designer and has diverged into capacity-building assisting practising artists with their business skills and finance management.</p>
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Dr Greg Pritchard	Elected Director	<p>Dr Greg Pritchard is multi-disciplinary artist with a long history as performance artist, writer, digital media artist and conceptual artist. He has worked independently and as part of various collectives and partnerships, to produce works that range in scale from the giant celebratory spectacles of Nati Frinj and Poppet Bendigo to solo site-specific works on salt lakes and golf courses.</p> <p>He is an experienced teacher and arts administrator, and has a Doctorate in Literature and Environmental Philosophy (Deakin) and a Masters in Art (Art in Public Space – RMIT). He is currently producing projects and working in both NSW and Victoria.</p>
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Hisham Moustafa	Co-opted Director 2022 - current	<p>Hisham Moustafa is a business improvement professional, specialising in risk management, governance and strategy, insurance and business continuity. Hisham is currently Director, Corporate Performance with the Victorian Department of Government Services, providing stewardship over the department's risk, integrity, corporate reporting and accommodation functions.</p> <p>He has spent more than 15 years in the Victorian public and community sector and is passionate about making a difference to the communities he serves. Hisham is also a Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Audit Committee with MCCA Ltd, a mortgage and financial services company with offices in Melbourne and Sydney.</p>
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Mark Avery	Elected Director 2023 - current	<p>Mark Avery is currently chairman of Fabelo Incorporated a not-for-profit organisation whose vision is to be a major contributor to the cultural and artistic community of South Gippsland. Fabelo auspices Fishy Stories, the Fish Creek Children's Festival of Stories and Prom Recitals, a South Gippsland classical music promoter. Prior to this, Mark worked as a CEO and a Non-Executive Director in the live entertainment industry working with global organisations, corporations and governments. He has produced and promoted 100+ tours, events and shows around the world. Mark has a master's degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Swinburne University and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.</p>
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Rohan Morris	Elected Director 2023 - current	<p>Rohan Morris is a practising multi-disciplinary artist and curator working in Northern Victoria. A passionate advocate and leader in the arts, Rohan works across multiple industries including not-for-profit, community, corporate, arts, events, education, and health.</p> <p>His passion sees him on various committees including the Magenta Art Prize and Committee of Management for the Northern Mallee Leadership Program. Founder and Creative Director of Workspace 3496, a gallery and workshop space in Red Cliffs, and Managing Director of rdot consultants, Rohan has worked in various roles and institutes including Arts Mildura, Mildura Palimpsest Biennale, La Trobe University, Sydney Dance Company, Biennale of Sydney, and the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Foundation.</p>
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Rebecca Hosking	Elected Director 2023 - current	<p>Rebecca Hosking lives on Gadubanud Country on the Surf Coast and whose committee experience includes the role of Acting President of La Trobe University Bendigo’s Student Association, a board member of the High Tide Festival, Festival of Words, Surf Coast Art Space and most recently at the Anglesea Art House Inc (AAH).</p> <p>Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Philosophy and Literature, participated in the Women’s Program at the Garma Festival of Traditional Cultures, and is currently completing a Diploma of Governance with the Institute of Community Directors Australia. Rebecca has produced art events alongside facilitating and teaching ecology and environmental education and is a practising artist.</p>
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Executive Staff

Jo Porter

Chief Executive Officer

A theatre producer and consultant in not-for-profit and commercial theatre, Jo was the Co-Producer of Victoria's inaugural Regional Centre for Culture (2018) and has worked with independent artists as a producer and in mentorship roles.

Other roles in Australia, UK and USA have included: CEO of the Queen Victoria Women's Centre, Executive Producer of Malthouse Theatre, General Manager of a range of commercial theatre productions, head of creative development at Richard Frankel Productions in New York and Head of Business Development at Really Useful Group in London.

A former Chair of Back to Back Theatre, Jo is the current Chair of Chamber Made.

Susie Lyons

Director, Strategic Initiatives

Susie is a senior arts administrator and leader with over 25 years' experience in management in the arts and entertainment industry working internationally, nationally and regionally on wide-ranging festivals, events, concert tours and arts and culture projects.

Prior to joining Regional Arts Victoria's executive leadership team in August 2022, Susie led the Arts and Culture business unit for Glenelg Shire Council for over six years, having overseen substantial change, growth and successful producing and programming of broad cultural activities, including management of the Portland Arts Centre. Through her work, Susie has been a long-time collaborator with Regional Arts Victoria.

Kate Gerritsen

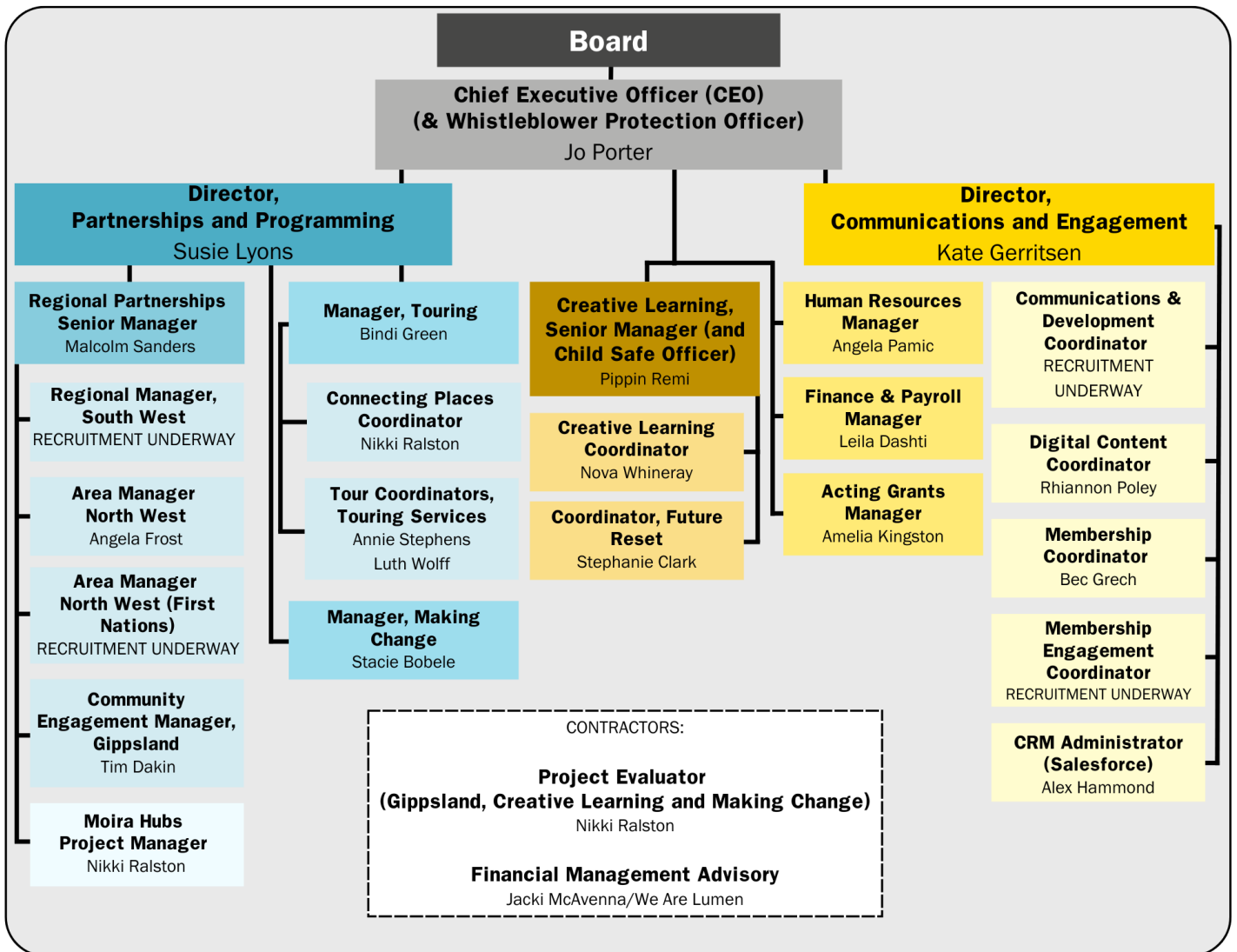
Director, Communications and Engagement

Kate has worked in arts, community and cultural development in local and State governments, not-for-profit and the private sector. She brings engagement and communications experience to her role at Regional Arts Victoria from her time managing membership at the National Gallery of Victoria and from a decade of consulting and commissioning artworks in the public realm. Kate worked for Regional Arts Victoria from 2006 to 2009 as Communications Manager and has returned in 2022.

Kate studied a Bachelor of Visual Arts and a Master of Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies at Deakin University and is a registered community engagement practitioner (IAP2). Kate lives on Wadawurrung Country and is a current Board Director of Platform Arts, Geelong.

Organisational Chart (at December 2023)

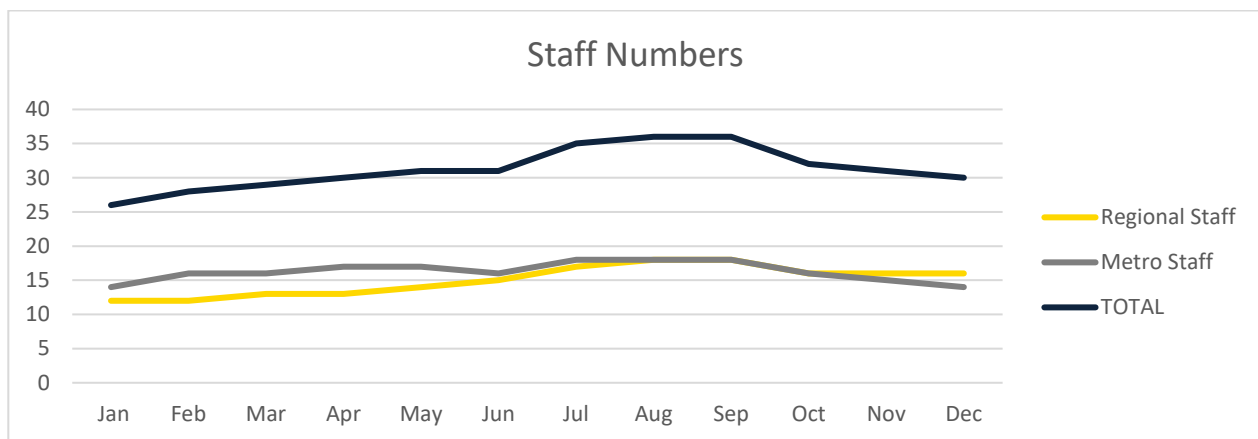
Regional Arts Victoria restructured its Operations and Communications teams during 2023 in response to strategic shift and diminishing resources. Several roles were vacant at 31 December, but filled in early 2024.



Our People

The staff of Regional Arts Victoria are based in urban, regional and remote locations across the State. Our shared understanding of what it means to live and work on the lands of First People and our role in the arts sector to listen, engage, collaborate meaningfully and respectfully is always present in our minds, internal dialogues and engagements with community.

While we are physically separated, we collaborate daily by taking advantage of online teamwork and value the diversity of our locations and the varied lived experience we bring to our work.



Staff Movements in 2023

Executive:

Jac Low, Director of Operations to March 2023.

Kate Gerritsen, Senior Manager, Communications and Engagement was appointed Director, Communications and Engagement from October 2023.

Susie Lyons' title was changed from Director, Strategic Initiatives to Director, Programming and Partnerships.

New and short-term staff in 2023:

Bec Grech Membership Coordinator from May 2023.

Stacie Bobele, Manager, Making Change from June 2023.

Angela Frost, Area Manager North West from June 2023.

Verity Higgins, Senior Manager, Regional Partnerships (long service leave cover), September to December 2023.

Brianna Kavanagh, South West Coordinator September to December 2023.

Amelia Kingston, Program Manager to March; Acting Grants Manager from September 2023.

Trent Sterling, Membership Administrator from September to December 2023.

Farewell and thank you:

Miriam Butcher, Membership Systems Coordinator to March 2023.

Jane Acopian, Membership Coordinator to May 2023.

Lorraine Little, Regional Manager North West to June 2023.

Adam Fawcett, Communications Coordinator to July 2023.

Kellie Sutherland, Creative Recovery Coordinator to July 2023.

Alicia Wyatt, Grants Manager to November 2023.

Alice Pollard, Operations and Sustainability Coordinator to December 2023.

Tim Dakin, Community Engagement Manager Gippsland to December 2023.

Jo Grant, Regional Manager South West to December 2023.

Regional Arts Victoria's Leadership

Chairs		Directors	
1969 – 1976	David Hamer	1969 – 1971	Neil Case
1977 – 1983	John Riordan	1971 – 1972	Patricia Marshall
1984 – 1988	Gwendolyn Stainton	1973 – 1974	Peter Batey
1989 – 1990	Bill Cook	1975 – 1998	Don MacKay
1991 – 1996	Brian W Hewitt	1998 – 2004	Peter Matthews
1997 – 2002	David Madden	2004 – 2012	Lindy Allen
2003 – 2008	Mike Zafiroopoulos AM	2012 – 2017	Esther Anatolitis
2009 – 2013	Dennis Goldner	2017 – 2022	Joe Toohey

2013 - 2019 Bruce Esplin AM

2019 - 2022 Kath M Mainland CBE

2022 - Sue Hunt AM

2022 - Jo Porter

Thank you

Regional Arts Victoria is supported by the Victorian Government's Creative Enterprises Program



We also acknowledge the following supporters whose funding supported 2023 projects and ongoing programs:



Regional Arts Victoria acknowledges the organisations with which we collaborated on programs and projects in 2023. In addition to the touring companies, Connecting Places and Creative Learning artists noted elsewhere in the report we worked with:



We work with a lot of people who make us what we are. Thank you.

G21 Making Change Taskforce:

Joel McGuiness, Geelong Arts Centre
Tim Stitz, Back to Back Theatre
Ilana Russell, Platform Arts
Tonya Meyrick, Deakin University
Vanessa Schernickau, Geelong Regional Libraries Corporation
Giulia Baggio and Kate Coghlan, G21 Regional Alliance
Jason Smith, Geelong Gallery

Making Change Creatives Reference Group

Corrina Eccles, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Corporation
Andrew Ferrie, Gruff Design Torquay
Ren Inei, Boom Gallery, Geelong
Bill Hurley-Fraser, Winter Wild Festival Apollo Bay
Ange Jeffrey, First Nations artist, Colac
Ula Majewski, creative and publisher, Surf Coast
Yuhui Ng-Rodriguez, performance artist, TNA and Next Wave
Lyndel Quick, Blink Dance Theatre, Geelong
Lynne Richardson, Colac Maker's Space
Nikki Watson, Back to Back Theatre and Anglesea Performing Arts
Gruff Design, Torquay
Timothy Marriage, Photography and videography, Anglesea
Sue Doyle and Jules Cole, Latrobe Valley Authority

King Valley Arts
Arts Industry Council of Victoria
Megan J Buntine Consulting Services
Central Victorian Arts and Culture Network
Creative Ballarat Team, City of Ballarat
Ryan, Simone and Jordan at GSA Insurance
Kimberly Maxwell at Online Tree
Genevieve Lakey at Hope & Co

And of course, the dogs, cats, kids, partners, house mates and others who we see in the background on calls and who keep us sane.

South West Creative Industries Strategy - Project Control Group

Annabel Cussen, South West Community Foundation
Katy McMahon, Tammy Young, Samantha Fox, Corangamite Shire
Jayne Miller, Agostina Hawkins, Glenelg Shire
Jacquie Anderton, Rebecca Elmes, Moyne Shire
Rory Neeson, Susannah Milne, Amanda Hurley, Southern Grampians Shire
Ingrid Bishop, Ali Kemp, Warrnambool City Council
Karen Sovitslis, Sue Doyle, Creative Victoria
Seona Taylor, Lindy Watson, Regional Development Victoria
Liz Price, Great Ocean Road Tourism

South West Creative Industries Strategy - Project Advisory Group

Anthea Rafferty, Warrnambool College Art Department
Shane Bell, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Aboriginal Community Development
Jayden Bath, Loch Hart Music Festival
Loren Tuck, Hycel at Deakin University and Port Fairy Winter Weekends
Sherry Johnstone, Spirit and Soul Creations

North West First Nations Elders and cultural leaders

Aunty Deb Chaplin
Aunty Linda Ford
Aunty Stephanie Charles
Cain Chaplin
Jacinta Chaplin
Nikita Moore
Imparja Pettit
Bayden Clayton
Joanne Chaplin
Jharrad Simpson
Kenita Lee McCartney
Rex Hayne
Lyndon Perry



Supporting the arts in
Regional Victoria

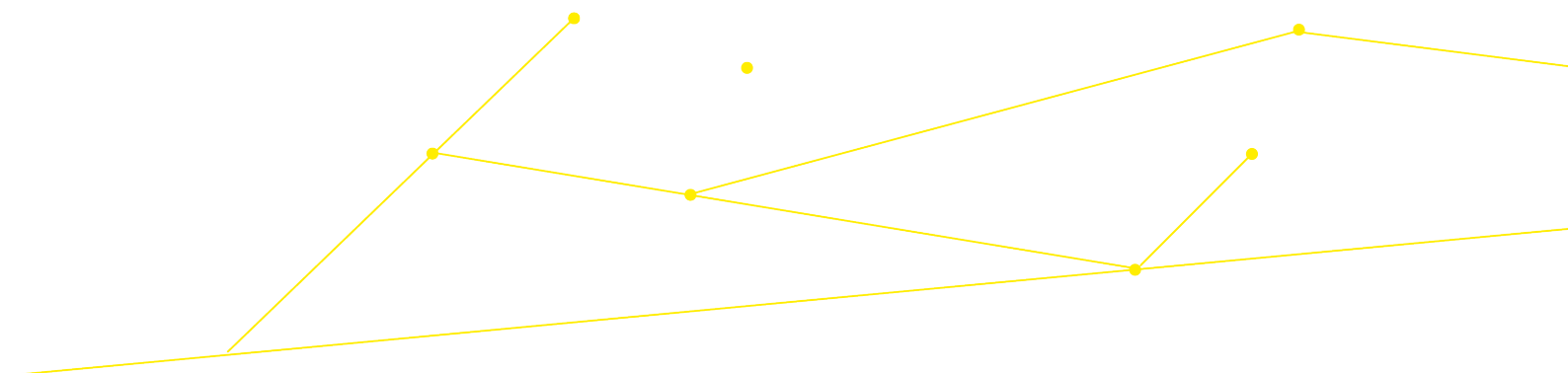
Regional Arts Victoria

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www.RegionalArtsVictoria.net.au

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REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

A.B.N.24 005 556 025

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**

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REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

BOARD'S REPORT

Your Board present this report of Regional Arts Victoria for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

BOARD MEMBERS

The names of board members throughout the year and to the date of this report were:

Chair	Sue Hunt, AM
Treasurer	Victoria Crane resigned 14 December 2023
Director	Mark Avery elected 4 May 2023
Director	Sally Beck co-opted 21 September 2023 & appointed as Treasurer 14 December 2023
Director	Rebecca Brezzi resigned 21 September 2023
Director	Rebecca Hosking elected 4 May 2023
Director	Richard Hull
Director	Jes John resigned 4 May 2023
Director	Emma Jones resigned 4 May 2023
Director	Tom Molyneux
Director	Rohan Morris, elected 4 May 2023
Director	Hisham Moustafa
Director	Greg Prichard

Each board member has been in office since the 4 May 2023 to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS IN REGIONAL VICTORIA

Regional Arts Victoria backs artists and communities across regional Victoria to make, participate in and experience creative work.

Regional Arts Victoria is an independent, not-for-profit membership-based organisation working in long-term partnerships with every level of government, fostering contemporary and innovative regional cultural practice.

OUR VISION: Regional creatives leading the way in diverse communities.

OUR PURPOSE: RAV is the peak body for regional creatives. We enable regional Victorians to make, participate in and experience creative practice. Anchored by our members, we activate our networks to inform public policy, identify resources and seek "a seat at the table" for creatives in the decisions that impact them.

OUR VALUES: Leadership, care, transformation, equity and celebration.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Our Objectives with intended outcomes and planned activities

1 Strategic initiatives: Equipping Victoria's regions with locally relevant creative strategies which nurture creativity and creative experiences.

2 Programming: Artists exchanging experiences with regional communities.

3 Facilitation: Supporting the ambitions of Victoria's artists and including them in decision making.

4 Governance: A well-governed organisation, trusted, respected, and emulated by our communities and partners.

STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES

The Board aims to maintain adequate operating funding via sponsorships, grants, memberships, fundraising and donations. A long-term objective is to ensure the regional artistic and theatrical programs presented are always maintained at the highest standard.

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the entity during the financial year continued to be to stage and conduct regional artistic and theatrical entrepreneurial activities. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The entity measures its own performance through the use of quantitative and qualitative benchmarks. The benchmarks are used by the directors to assess the financial sustainability of the entity and whether the entity's short-term and long-term objectives are achieved.

This process includes

- Establishing performance benchmarks in conjunction with funding bodies and managing and reporting against those benchmarks and budgets to those bodies.
- Assessing the achievement of the program within RAV and the artistic community
- Maintaining and including the level of programs presented and maintaining the quality of these programs

OPERATING RESULT

The surplus for the year amounted to \$596 (2022 surplus of \$240,149).

Meetings of Directors

Five Board meetings of the entity Board of Directors were held during the year and the number attended by each Director was:

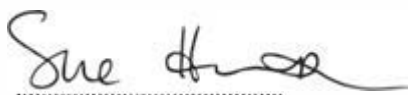
Director	Eligible to attend	Attended Board
Sue Hunt, AM Chair	5	5
Victoria Crane treasurer to 14 December 2023	5	5
Mark Avery elected 4 May 2023	4	3
Sally Beck co-opted 21 September 2023 Treasurer from 14 December 2023	2	2
Rebecca Brezzi resigned 21 September 2023	4	4
Rebecca Hosking elected 4 May 2023	4	4
Richard Hull	5	3
Jes John resigned 4 May 2023	1	1
Emma Jones resigned 4 May 2023	1	0
Tom Molyneux	5	4
Hisham Moustafa	5	4
Rohan Morris	4	4
Greg Prichard	5	5

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the lead auditor's independence declaration for this year has been received and is set out on the following page.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Dated this 29 April 2024



Sue Hunt, AM Chair
Melbourne



Sally Beck Treasurer
Geelong

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

AUDITORS' INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR- PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 AND CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE BOARD OF REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

I hereby declare, that to the best of our knowledge and belief, during the financial year ended 31 December 2023 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Name of Firm: E Townsend & Co
Chartered Accountant

13 Tudor Street
Burwood VIC 3125

Date 29 April 2024

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
REVENUE			
Total Federal Grants	2	832,627	1,640,948
Total State Government Grants	2	1,983,006	7,943,280
Total Local Government Grants	2	174,059	223,896
Total Philanthropic Funds	2	118,910	141,456
Total Grants and Sponsorship		3,108,602	9,949,580
Presenter and Booking Fees		852,482	770,819
Membership Income	2	259,600	147,037
Sundry and Investment Income		59,153	52,869
TOTAL REVENUE		4,279,837	10,920,305
OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Project and Touring Expenses		826,647	1,914,577
Administered Grants		1,162,939	5,678,695
Salary and Related Expenses		1,769,410	2,420,937
Other Operating Expenses		520,245	665,926
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE		4,279,241	10,680,135
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE INCOME TAX ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ENTITY	3	596	240,149
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		0	0
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ENTITY		596	240,149

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	2,521,069	3,837,035
Trade and Other Receivables	4	303,991	232,869
Other Assets	5	174,777	185,880
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,999,837</u>	<u>4,255,784</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	141,314	93,394
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>141,314</u>	<u>93,394</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>3,141,151</u>	<u>4,349,178</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	7	269,047	583,483
Contract Liabilities	8	2,035,709	2,915,541
Employee Benefits	9	119,951	129,820
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>2,424,707</u>	<u>3,628,844</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Benefits	9	24,813	29,299
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>24,813</u>	<u>29,299</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>2,449,520</u>	<u>3,658,143</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>691,631</u>	<u>691,035</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		691,631	691,035
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>691,631</u>	<u>391,035</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Retained Earnings	Total Equity
2021		
Balance at end of financial year	450,886	450,886
2022		
Surplus for the year	240,149	240,149
Balance at end of financial year	691,035	691,035
2023		
Surplus for the year	596	596
Balance at end of financial year	691,631	691,631

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Total Federal Grants		678,795	612,508
Total State Government Grants		1,466,985	4,616,589
Total Local Government Grants		180,806	296,628
Total Philanthropic Funds		83,060	41,456
Total Grants and Sponsorship		2,409,646	5,567,181
Performance Fees Inc GST		914,332	848,708
Membership Income Inc GST		293,102	265,384
Sundry Investment Income		58,974	39,089
Payments to Suppliers & Employees		(4,915,292)	(11,566,899)
NET CASH GENERATED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	10	(1,239,238)	(4,846,537)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchases of Property, Plant and Equipment		(116,728)	(47,330)
Proceeds from Sale of Motor Vehicles		40,000	33,909
NET CASH GENERATED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(76,728)	(13,421)
NET INCREASE/ (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		(1,315,966)	(4,859,958)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year		3,837,035	8,696,993
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR		2,521,069	3,837,035

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

The financial statements cover Regional Arts Victoria as an individual entity. It is a not-for-profit entity incorporated in Victoria under the Corporations Act 2001. It is a not-for-profit income tax exempt charity; registered under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act (ACNC) 2012.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, and the Corporations Act 2001.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

Reporting basis and conventions

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified where applicable by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Accounting Policies

Revenue

Revenue is recognised in most cases under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers where the performance requirements and timing of the contract determine the Revenue recognition.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the performance delivery of the service to the customers.

For Revenue from Grants where the Grant Agreement details specific performance requirements and time lines as is required under AASB 15 Revenue is recognised based on these specific performance timelines.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the group.

Key estimates - Impairment

The entity assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the entity that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number a key estimates.

No impairment has been recognised in respect of this financial year.

Income Taxation

The entity is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 as an Income Tax Exempt Charity, therefore no income tax is payable by the entity.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Motor Vehicles ,Office Equipment and Computers

Motor Vehicle Office Equipment and Computers are carried at cost as the entity has adopted the Cost Model under AASB116 Property, Plant and Equipment or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. All assets are depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the assets to the entity.

Depreciation

Motor Vehicle Office Equipment and Computers are depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Asset	Depreciation Rate	Method
Office Equipment	30%	Straight line
Computers	33.33%	Straight line
Motor Vehicles	20%	Straight line

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

Current and non - current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when; it is either expected to be realized or intended to be sold or consumed in the entity's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realized within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when; it is either expected to be settled in the entity's normal operating cycle it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period.

All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

Financial Instruments

Recognition

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management and within the requirements of AASB 139: Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement. Derivatives are also categorized as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Realized and unrealized gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method.

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method.

Held-to-maturity investments

These investments have fixed maturities, and it is the entity's intention to hold these investments to maturity. Any held-to-maturity investments held by the entity are stated at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method.

Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets include any financial assets not included in the above categories. Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value.

Impairment

At each reporting date, the entity assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

As a not-for-profit entity the value in use of an asset may be equivalent to the depreciated replacement cost of that asset when the future economic benefits of the asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and where the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the entity's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023 \$	2022 \$
NOTE 2 GRANTS & SPONSORSHIP		
State & Federal Funds		
Federal Funds		
Regional Arts Australia – Tourism Accelerator	0	470,571
Regional Arts Australia: RAF	624,295	516,496
Regional Arts Australia RAF Recovery Boost	208,332	208,330
Office of the Arts RISE	0	248,265
Australia Council Playing Australia	0	197,286
Total Federal Grants	832,627	1,640,948
State Government Funds		
Creative Victoria	753,785	753,785
Creative Victoria: Small Regional Presenters 2022 - 23	12,000	164,072
Creative Victoria: Small Regional Presenters 2023 - 24	50,309	0
Creative Victoria: South West Infrastructure Pipeline	0	250,000
Creative Victoria: Regional Collections Access Program	282,899	3,066,806
Creative Victoria: CEP	143,000	0
Creative Victoria: Touring Programs	0	26,952
Creative Victoria: Sustaining Creative Organisations	0	500,000
Creative Victoria: Sustaining Creative Workers	0	35,436
Creative Victoria: SCWI	0	1,025,080
Geelong Arts Centre G-21 Geelong Region	71,168	0
Department of Education & Training Circus Active	0	160,250
Department of Education & Training – Positive Start	0	200,000
Department of Education & Training – Student Voices	0	602,109
Department of Education and Training – SPP	0	42,385
Department of Health – Step Up	152,154	47,846
Office for Women (Victoria)	296,298	691,291
DEECD – South West Strategy Projects	15,000	44,880
Vic-Health	167,255	121,246
Victorian Legal Services Board	39,138	34,055
The Ministry for the Arts – Working for Victoria	0	177,087
Total State Government Grants	1,983,006	7,943,280

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

Local Government

	2023	2022
City of Ballarat	49,500	35,000
Corangamite Shire Council	12,061	11,942
Gannawarra Shire Council	0	5,971
Gleneig Shire Council	12,061	11,942
Moyne Shire Council	12,061	11,942
Southern Grampians Shire	12,061	11,942
Swan Hill Rural City Council	48,415	47,936
Wellington Shire Council	0	47,920
Local Government - Other	15,839	39,301
Warrnambool City Council	12,061	0
Total Local Government	174,059	223,896

Philanthropic Support

Australian Children's Theatre Foundation	43,910	41,456
FRRR	25,000	0
Sidney Myer Fund	50,000	100,000
Total Philanthropic Support	118,910	141,456
Total Grants & Sponsorship	3,108,602	9,949,580

	2023	2022
Earned Income	\$	\$
Royalties from Presentations	8,565	7,137
Fees Earned	780,652	702,467
Fees Other Venues	14,344	3,468
Fees Schools	73,715	85,758
Travel Fees	7,511	17,680
Less Subsidy ACTF	(23,910)	(21,776)
Less Subsidy RAV	(8,395)	(23,915)
Total Earned Income	852,482	770,819

Memberships

Memberships	72,654	58,801
Membership Insurance Administration	0	6,240
Membership PL Insurance	186,946	81,996
Total Memberships	259,600	147,037

	2023	2022
Sundry and Investment Income	\$	\$
Interest Earned	24,177	20,214
Profit on sale of Assets	21,111	16,592
Sundry Income	13,865	16,063
Total Sundry and Investment Income	59,153	52,869

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

PROJECTS FUNDED BY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Operational Funds		
Creative Victoria	753,785	753,785
Sidney Myer Fund	50,000	100,000
Total Operational Funds	803,785	853,785
	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Programming and Partnerships		
Creative Victoria: Touring Programs	0	26,952
Department of Education & Training	0	42,385
Australian Children's Theatre Foundation	43,910	41,456
State Gov't - G-21 Geelong Region	71,168	0
Australia Council: Playing Australia	0	197,286
Regional Arts Australia Tourism Accelerator	0	470,571
Creative Victoria Sustaining Creative Organisations	0	500,000
Creative Victoria : CEP	143,000	0
Creative Victoria: Sustaining Creative Workers	0	35,436
Creative Victoria: Small Regional Presenters	62,309	164,072
Creative Victoria: South West Infrastructure Pipeline	0	250,000
Creative Victoria: Regional Collections Access Program	282,899	3,066,806
Creative Victoria: S.C.W.I	0	1,025,080
Department of Education and Training: Circus Active	0	160,250
Department of Education and Training: Positive Start	0	200,000
Department of Education and Training: Student Voices	0	602,109
Department of Health: Step Up	152,154	47,846
Office for Women	296,298	691,291
DEECD: South West Strategy Projects	15,000	44,880
Vic Health	167,255	121,246
Vic Legal Services Board	39,138	34,055
The Ministry for the Arts-Working for Victoria	0	177,087
Office of the Arts - RISE	0	248,265
Regional Arts Australia / Office for the Arts -Regional Arts Fund (Standard)	624,295	516,496
Regional Arts Australia / Office for the Arts -Regional Arts Fund (Recovery Boost)	208,332	208,330
City of Ballarat	49,500	35,000
Corangamite Shire Council	12,061	11,942
Gannawarra Shire Council	0	5,971
Glenelg Shire Council	12,061	11,942
Moyne Shire Council	12,061	11,942
Southern Grampians Shire Council	12,061	11,942
Swan Hill Rural City Council	48,415	47,936
Wellington Shire Council	0	47,920
Local Government - Other	15,839	39,301
Warrnambool City Council	12,061	0
FRRR	25,000	0
Total Programming and Partnerships	2,304,817	9,095,795
Total Grants & Sponsorship	3,108,602	9,949,580

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

NOTE 3 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial period as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Current Assets	2023	2022
Cash on hand	\$	\$
Cash at Bank - Operating Accounts	34,222	480,697
Pay Pal Account	11,176	55,541
Debit Card Account	7,504	6,535
Investment Accounts	2,468,167	3,294,262
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,521,069	3,837,035
	2023	2022
	\$	\$

NOTE 4 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Current

Trade Debtors	303,991	232,869
Less: Provision for Impairment of receivables	0	0
Other receivables	0	0
Total Current Trade and Other Receivables	303,991	232,869

Current trade debtors are generally on 30 day terms. These receivables are assessed for recoverability and a provision for impairment is recognised when there is objective evidence that an individual trade receivable is impaired. These amounts (if any) have been included in other expense items.

Credit risk – Trade and Other Receivables

The entity does not have any material credit risk to any single receivable or group of receivables. The following table details the entity's trade and other receivables exposed to credit risk with aging analysis and impairment provided for thereon. Amounts are considered as "past due" when the debt has not been settled within the terms and conditions agreed between the entity and the debtor party. A provision for impairment is assessed as mentioned above

An assessment has been made that both debts within trading terms and debts that have not been impaired will be received.

	Gross Amount	Less Impaired	Within trading terms	31-60 days	61-90 days	>90 days
2022						
Trade and term receivables	232,869		232,869	0	0	0
Other receivables	0		0	0	0	0
Total Receivables	232,869		232,869	0	0	0
2023						
Trade and term receivables	303,991		303,991	0	0	0
Other receivables	0		0			
Total Receivables	303,991		303,991	0	0	0

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS

	2023	2022
Prepayments	174,777	170,946
Security Bond	0	13,454
Salary Sacrifice Balances	0	1,480
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	174,777	185,880

NOTE 6 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2023	2022
Office Equipment - at cost	15,748	53,651
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(14,432)	(40,895)
Total Office Equipment	1,316	12,756
Motor Vehicles - at cost	186,173	131,348
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(52,405)	(50,710)
Total Motor Vehicles	133,768	80,638
Computer Equipment	20,270	0
Less: Accumulated depression	(14,040)	0
TOTAL COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	6,230	0
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	141,314	93,394

Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment

	Office Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Computer Equipment	Total
Carrying amount at beginning of year 2022	17,397	76,794	10,000	89,530
Additions at Cost	8,120	39,210	8,120	47,330
Disposals Cost Value	0	(69,471)	0	(69,471)
Disposals Depreciation Written Back	0	52,154	0	52,154
Depreciation Expense	(61)	(18,049)	(8,039)	(26,149)
Carrying amount at end year	2,675	80,638	10,081	93,394
2023				
Additions at Cost	1,158	113,269	2,301	116,728
Disposals at Cost Value	0	(20,429)	(473)	(20,902)
Disposals Depreciation Written Back	0	0	0	0
Depreciation Expense	(2,517)	(39,710)	(5,679)	(47,906)
Carrying amount at end year	1,316	133,768	6,230	141,314

NOTE 7 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Trade Creditors	188,127	484,026
Other Creditors	80,920	99,457
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	269,047	583,483

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

NOTE 8 CONTRACT LIABILITIES

Payments Received in Advance	208,103	228,039
Regional Arts Australia : RAF	0	125,972
Regional Arts Australia : RAF Recovery Boost	41,324	249,656
Regional Arts Australia : RAF 23-24	516,469	0
Australia Council for the Arts : Playing Australia	0	115,036
Regional Arts Victoria in Residence	3,971	0
Creative Victoria : Regional Collections Access Program	662,147	1,054,194
Creative Victoria : Touring Victoria	274,000	500,000
Creative Victoria : Sustaining Creative Workers	0	0
Creative Victoria : Small Regional Presenters	89,691	12,000
Department of Health - Step Up	0	152,154
Vic Health (Future Reset)	159,000	46,255
VWPA	0	296,298
Ballarat Inspiration Fund	30,000	40,500
Moira Shire	0	6,299
Victorian Legal Services Board	0	39,138
S.W. Prof. Dev	9,150	0
South West Strategy Projects	5,000	0
Funding - FRRR	35,000	0
Funding in Advance G21	1,854	0
Sidney Myer Fund	0	50,000
TOTAL CONTRACT LIABILITIES	2,035,709	2,915,541

NOTE 9 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

CURRENT PROVISIONS

Annual Leave Provision	108,872	103,130
Long Service Leave	11,079	26,690
TOTAL CURRENT EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS	119,951	129,820

Non - Current Provisions

Long Service Leave	24,813	15,250
Provisions for Redundancy	0	14,049
TOTAL NON - CURRENT EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS	24,813	29,299

NOTE 10 CASH FLOW INFORMATION

Reconciliation of cash flow from operations to surplus (deficit) for the year

	2023	2022
Surplus for the year	596	240,149
Add back		
Depreciation	47,906	26,149
Increase (Decrease) in Provisions	(14,350)	(92,115)
Less Profit and Loss on Sale of Assets	(19,103)	(16,592)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase) Decrease in Trade & Other Receivables	(71,122)	352,699
Increase (Decrease) in Payables and Accruals	(314,436)	(246,436)
(Increase) Decrease in Other Assets	11,103	59,529
Increase (Decrease) in Contract Liabilities	(879,832)	(5,169,920)
NET CASH GENERATED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(1,239,238)	(4,846,537)

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NOTE 11 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The entity's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, loans and borrowings and mortgages.

The totals for each category of financial instruments is as follows:-

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,521,069	3,837,035
Trade and Other Receivables	303,991	232,869
Other Assets	174,777	185,880
Total financial assets	<u>2,999,837</u>	<u>4,255,784</u>
Financial liabilities		
-Trade and other payables	269,047	583,483
-Contract Liabilities	2,035,709	2,915,541
Total Financial Liability	<u>2,304,756</u>	<u>3,499,024</u>

Financial risk management policies

The directors' overall risk management strategy is to assist the entity in meeting its financial targets, whilst minimising potential adverse effects or financial performance. Risk management policies are approved and reviewed by the Board of Directors on a regular basis. These include credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements

The entity does not have any derivative instruments at the end of the reporting period.

Specific Financial Risk Exposures and Management

The main risks the entity is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that parties that owe money do not pay it.

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets, is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the statement of financial position and notes to the financial statements.

The entity does not have any significant concentration of credit risk exposure to any single, or group, of counter-parties under financial instruments entered into by the entity. A profile of credit risk appears above under the Note on 'Trade and Other Receivables'

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(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises due the possibility that the entity might encounter difficulty in settling its own debts or other liabilities. The entity manages this risk by managing credit risk on amounts owed to it, monitoring forecast cash flows and ensuring that adequate unutilized borrowing facilities are maintained.

Financial liability and financial asset maturity analysis

	Within		1 Year		1 to 5 years		Over 5 years		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial liabilities due for payment										
Trade and other payables (excluding employee benefit provisions)	269,047	583,483	0	0	0	0	269,047	583,483		
Contract Liabilities	2,035,709	2,915,541	0	0	0	0	2,035,709	2,915,541		
Total expected outflows	2,304,756	3,499,024	0	0	0	0	2,304,756	3,499,024		
Financial assets - cash flows realizable										
Cash and cash equivalents	2,521,069	3,837,035	0	0	0	0	2,521,069	3,837,035		
Other Assets	174,777	185,880	0	0	0	0	174,777	185,880		
Trade Receivables	303,991	232,869	0	0	0	0	303,991	232,869		
Total anticipated inflows	2,999,837	4,255,784	0	0	0	0	2,999,837	4,255,784		
Net inflow (outflow) on financial instruments	695,081	756,760	0	0	0	0	695,081	756,760		

(c) Market Risk

Interest rate risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises whereby future changes in interest rates will affect future cash flows or the fair value of financial assets and liabilities.

Price Risk

Price risk relates to the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in their market price

Sensitivity analysis

The following table illustrates sensitivities to the entity's expose in interest rates and equity prices (if equities held). The table indicates the impact on how profit and equity values reported at the end of the reporting period would have been affected by changes in the relevant risk variable that management considers to be reasonably possible. These sensitivities assume that the movement in any particular variable is independent of other variables.

	Profit \$	Equity \$
Year ended 31 December 2022		
+ or - 2% in interest rates	+/-76,740	+/-76,740
+ or - 10% in listed investments	+/-	+/-
Year ended 31 December 2023		
+ or - 2% in interest rates	+/-50,421	+/-50,421
+ or - 10% in listed investments	+/-	+/-

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(d) Foreign currency risk

The entity is not exposed to fluctuations in foreign currency.

NOTE 12 KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
The total of remuneration paid to key management personnel (KMP) of the entity during the year is as follows		
Short-term employee benefits	360,925	328,064
Post-employment benefits	38,263	33,340
TOTAL	398,188	361,404

NOTE 13 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The entity is economically dependent on Grant Funding. If funds are not spent in accordance with Grant Conditions future grants can be suspended. The entity is dependent on the continued receipt of grants.

NOTE 14 Auditors Remuneration

	2023	2022
E Townsend & Co		
Auditors Remuneration : Audit Services Including Grant Audit	6,000	5,980
: Other Services Financial Accounts Preparation	2,245	2,160
Total Audit Services	8,245	8,140

NOTE 15 CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

Operating Lease Commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalized in the financial statements:

Payable – minimum lease payments

- no longer than 1 year	0	0
- longer than 1 year but not longer than 5 years	0	0
- greater than 5 years	0	0

Total commitment

Capital Expenditure commitments

Capital Expenditure commitments contracted for:

- Equipment purchases	NIL	NIL
- Capital Expenditure projects	NIL	NIL

NOTE 16 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no transactions with related parties

Disclosures to Key Management personnel are set out in note 12.

Receivable from and payable to related parties

There were no trade receivables from or Trade payables to related parties at the current and Previous reporting date.

Loans to /from related parties

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

None of the Board Members received a salary from the entity.

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NOTE 17 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES & CONTINGENT ASSETS

No contingent Liabilities or Assets exist as at 31 December 2023 or 31 December 2022.

NOTE 18 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE YEAR REPORTING PERIOD

There have been no material non-adjusting events after the reporting date nor has any information been received about conditions at reporting date that have not been included in this report.

NOTE 19 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 these costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- (3) for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

NOTE 20 COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office of the ENTITY is:

Ground Floor 470 St Kilda Road MELBOURNE VIC 3004

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DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION PER SECTION 60.15 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION REGULATION 2013 AND THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001

The Board of Directors' of Regional Arts Victoria Limited declare that in the Directors opinion:

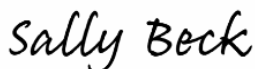
1. the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the Corporations Act 2001
2. at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company is able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15 (2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the Corporations Act 2001

Dated this 29 April 2024



Sue Hunt, AM Chair Melbourne



Sally Beck Treasurer Geelong

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Regional Arts Victoria (the Entity) which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration..

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Entity as at the 31 December 2023 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the Corporations Act 2001 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code .I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide the basis for my opinion. The risk of not

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as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists. I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease or continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Name of firm E Townsend & Co

Name of Auditor Eric Townsend

Address 13 Tudor Street
Burwood Vic 3125

Dated this 29 April 2024