Regional Arts Victoria 46th Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

Thursday 30 April 2026 | 12:15pm – 12:30pm

Online via Zoom

Meeting opened at 12:15pm

1. Welcome

Sue Hunt AM (Chair) introduced herself and welcomed Regional Arts Victoria Members, Board and staff to the 46th Annual General Meeting of Regional Arts Victoria (RAV). SH acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the lands from which Members and other attendees were joining the meeting and paid respect to Elders past and present. SH acknowledged Elders for their continuing connection and stewardship of the land, air and waterways over 60,000 years.

2. Apologies

None

3. Attendance quorum and proxies

Present

Board Members
Mark Avery
Sally Beck (SB, RAV Treasurer)
Janet Bromley
Gareth Hart
Rebecca Hosking
Sue Hunt AM (SH, RAV Board Chair)
Debra Jefferies
Tom Molyneux (RAV Deputy Chair)
Rohan Morris
Hisham Moustafa
Kendra Reid
Liz Wilson

Members
Lindsay Bamfield (Society Women Writers Victoria), Robyn Black, Danny Butt, Agnes Carlitz, Matthew Cook (Red Cliffs Players), Kathryn Fewkes (Ballarat Writers Inc.), Janice Haynes, Naomi Hobbs (Lyster Opera), Joanne Linsdell, Morrison Polkinghorne, Jo Porter, Rebecca Russell, Jaclyn Smith (Yarra Valley Arts Council Inc.), Clayton Tremlett, Gillian Turner.

Attendees
Kate Antonas (RAV Staff), Stacey Barnes (RAV Staff), Stacie Bobele (RAV Staff), Stephanie Clark (RAV Staff), Kate Gerritsen (RAV Staff), Bec Grech (RAV Staff), Bindi

Green (RAV Staff), Emma Hearnes (RAV Staff), Susie Lyons (RAV Staff), Jacki McAvenna (External CFO, We Are Lumen), Claire Miovich (RAV Staff), Lyndel Moore (RAV Staff), Jim Rimmer (RAV Staff), Eric Townsend (Auditor), Nell Ustundag (RAV Staff).

Minutes Kate Antonas (Company Manager)

Proxies None

Noted that quorum was reached with 27 voting members in attendance.

4. Approval of 2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Motion: The Chair put forward that the minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Regional Arts Victoria Board held online via Zoom on 1 May 2025 be accepted.

Motion moved by Tom Molyneux.

Motion seconded by Mark Avery.

Motion passed unanimously. The minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting were approved.

5. Chair's Report

The Chair presented.

2025 was a year of increasingly complex questions for Regional Arts Victoria and for all our Members, artists and cultural organisations in a fragmented environment. There is, however, much to celebrate and I'd like to reflect on some great 2025 highlights for RAV.

One of the most important of those complex questions is now we walk alongside First Nations people in a meaningful and respectful way. Thie year, RAV took an important step forward with the establishment of our First Nations Reference Group. The first meeting of this group took place in late 2025, and it delivered on a long-held organisational commitment to establish this Group.

We were grateful for and humbled by the experience of establishing the Group and the generosity of all members involved, and we look forward to being guided by the Group as we walk together in the spirit of reconciliation and that we put our First Nations people at the centre of everything that we do.

Membership continues to reflect a strong sense of connection and shared purpose, and we've seen significant growth in membership recently. We are grateful for the confidence our Members show in us, and the value they see in Regional Arts Victoria and the services we provide. Our annual "creative sector survey" had high engagement levels and we've had strong attendance at online and in person events across the year. This speaks to the confidence and ambition across regional creative communities, and we are very grateful to be a part of that. Long may it continue.

At local levels, RAV staff and partners have delivered important work with real impacts. Creative Social, in partnership with Fletcher Jones Family Foundations, bought together 83 participants from

seven local government areas in Victoria and interstate. It created a vibrant space for connection, mentoring and opportunity, and it resulted in new collaborations, workshops, and funded projects.

We continued this "ground up" approach across the State, from a RAV in Residence in Yea to supporting Marruk's Hunter and Hawk in Swan Hill. In Gippsland, a strong regional partnership is building towards an ambitious creative project in 2029. This work aligns with a newly formed cohort of local government staff who meet quarterly for peer-based discussion and engagement with State and Commonwealth decision makers. We are thrilled about this progress.

We were pleased to see regional Victoria strongly represented in the State Government's Creative State 2028 policy. We are in discussions with Creative Victoria on an ongoing basis and we look forward to investment that aligns with that vision, particularly as we come up to the State Government election. We will, in a respectful but forceful way, advocate for the priorities highlighted in the "creative sector survey" to the Government and Opposition as we head towards the election.

None of this is possible without people and I want to acknowledge our small and dedicated staff, led by CEO Jo Porter. It's important to mention how much the Board and our Members appreciate RAV staff and acknowledge they are at the centre of everything that we do. The care and commitment they bring to our Members and regional creative practice is important.

I would also like to thank our Board Members who are all volunteers to the cause and give incredible time and service to RAV to protect and serve the organisation, keeping it on an even keel in these challenging times.

Thank you to our partners and supporters, we are grateful for the confidence that they show in the organisation.

Together, these supporters, Members and artists, are all part of the Regional Arts Victoria family, and we are delighted to consider ourselves a vibrant creative community.

We delivered a modest financial surplus in 2025 which set us on a stronger path than anticipated. This reflects RAV's discipline and resilience in a dynamic environment.

No questions from Members about the Chair's Report.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Chair introduced Regional Arts Victoria's Treasurer, Sally Beck, to present the Audited Financial Report for the period Jan-Dec 2025. The Chair thanked Auditor Eric Townsend of E. Townsend & Co. for the preparation of the audited financial statements.

Ms Beck reported that:

- A modest surplus was achieved based on tight budget management and implementation of cost savings.

- RAV's financial management was undertaken by Jacki McAvenna of We Are Lumen.

Ms Beck thanked RAV's Federal, State and Local Government partners, philanthropic partners and donors for their support, and thanked Eric Townsend for his work as Auditor.

No questions were asked about the 2025 Audited Financial Report or the Treasurer's Report.

Motion: Ms Beck proposed that the audited financial statements dated 31 December 2025 be accepted.

Motion moved by Sally Beck.

Motion seconded by Janet Bromley.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Auditor

The Treasurer presented.

Motion: The Treasurer proposed that Eric Townsend of E. Townsend & Co be appointed auditor for 2026.

Motion moved by Sally Beck.

Seconded by Tom Molyneux.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Board Nominations

The Chair presented.

At the close of nominations for Board positions in 2026, there were eight eligible nominations for elected members of the Regional Arts Victoria Board.

The nominees were:

- Mark Avery
- Agnes Carlitz
- Rebecca Hosking
- Joanne Linsdell
- Tom Molyneux
- Rohan Morris
- Morrison Polkinghorne
- Rebecca Russell

There were four vacancies for elected Directors and in accordance with Section 66 of the RAV Constitution a ballot was conducted.

The ballot results as advised by Returning Officer Sally Beck in descending order of number of votes received were:

- Tom Molyneux 36 votes
- Mark Avery 34 votes
- Rohan Morris 30 votes
- Rebecca Hosking 29 votes
- Rebecca Russell 28 votes
- Agnes Carlitz 25 votes
- Morrison Polkinghorne 19 votes
- Joanne Linsdell 16 votes

There being four vacancies on the Board for elected members, Tom Molyneux, Mark Avery, Rohan Morris and Rebecca Hosking will remain on the Board for another 3-year term.

The Chair congratulated Tom Molyneux, Mark Avery, Rohan Morris and Rebecca Hosking, noting their contributions as existing Board Members.

9. Other Business

No other business.

Close of AGM

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the work they are doing to bring arts and culture to their communities.

Meeting closed at 12:29pm

Date: Friday, 1 May 2026

Chair of the Meeting
Sue Hunt AM