



**BURRINJA ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**  
DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE INC.

*BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS*  
[www.burrinja.org.au](http://www.burrinja.org.au)



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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS**

### **JENNY SAULWICK**

(26.9.1934 - 20.5.2016)

With Paul O'Halloran at the opening of her retrospective 'Jenny Saulwick and Community Art' - April 2016

Jenny worked for over three decades creating art with local communities and served on the Board at Burrinja from its beginning in 1998 until 2009.



**Cover:** Knox Park Primary School students on the Burrinja stage at their annual performance

# ABOUT BURRINJA

## Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre INC

### Vision Statement

*Building Community through Arts*

### Mission Statement

*Burrinja is a living, vibrant and welcoming community cultural centre providing opportunities for artistic, cultural and environmental experiences.*

### Aims

Burrinja's function, purpose and programming are built on a multi-element vision that seeks to enable and develop experiential and extended arts practice and programs across diverse art forms and cultural activities within the region.

Burrinja supports existing and enables the development of emerging and distinctive cultural practices, promoting engaging community-connected outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy, diversity and resilience of the region.

The valuing and appreciation of Indigenous culture is embedded across the organisation's practices and programming. Burrinja values the reciprocal cultural learning offered to the region's community through Indigenous cross-cultural engagement including its collection management and curatorial practices.

Burrinja's capacity to contribute positively to the region's cultural ecology is empowered through working in partnership across a diverse range of cross-sector organisations.

### Governance

The Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc (trading as 'Burrinja') was Incorporated in July 1998 and operates under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. Burrinja operates within a triennial Partnering Agreement with Yarra Ranges Council.

### Purposes

- a. To promote, develop and present arts and culture in the region
- b. To be a public art gallery, public museum and collecting institution
- c. To support and develop the cultural identity of the Dandenong Ranges
- d. To provide opportunities for the development and facilitation of creative arts practice and enterprise including cultural development



Viewing works in the *Black Art White Walls - Anne and Adrian Newstead Collection* exhibition

## ARTISTIC PROGRAM STATEMENT | 2016-2020

The purpose and rationale of Burrinja's artistic and cultural development programming is, in the broadest sense, to fulfil the vision of *'Building Community through Arts'* and the organisation's strategic aims and purpose. Burrinja's program encourages the emergence of distinct cultural practices by developing and extending arts practice experience through diverse art forms and cultural activities across the region.

The artistic program aims to impact positively on community by achieving outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy, diversity and cultural ecology of the region.

Burrinja will develop, produce and program holistically and innovatively across art forms and seek to create a sustainable, resilient arts and cultural sector in the region through audience development and engagement within its program.

The program seeks to work in partnership across a wide range of cross-sector organisations that strengthen programming and delivery capacity and the impact of program outcomes.

The program works across Burrinja's **'Five E's Strategic Framework'**:

**ENABLE (I):** *venue; operational; resources; accessibility; governance; staff*

**ENABLE (II):** *supporting artists & community to make great art – facilitate/ co-produce/ logistics /mentor/ funding/ auspice/ programming*

**EVENT:** *programming across sectors/ mediums/ audiences; ticketing; marketing*

**EXTEND:** *build capacity; sustainability; develop audiences; community partnerships*

**ENGAGE:** *existing audiences; new audiences; enhance experience; repeat experience; quality and distinctive program; partnerships in programs; diversity; vibrancy*

**EDUCATE:** *resources; workshops; public programs; Art of Place; training; mentoring; volunteering; seminars; professional development*

The valuing and appreciation of Indigenous culture is embedded across the organisation's practices and programming. We aim to provide exhibitions and accompanying resources and programs that offer broad opportunities for learning and research, and which further the community's connection to and engagement with the McLeod Gift Collection.

The annual program is also referenced to the core objectives of our Partnering Agreement with Yarra Ranges Council in regard to providing arts and cultural services in the Dandenong Ranges. This partnership increases Burrinja's capacity to contribute to the region's cultural ecology.

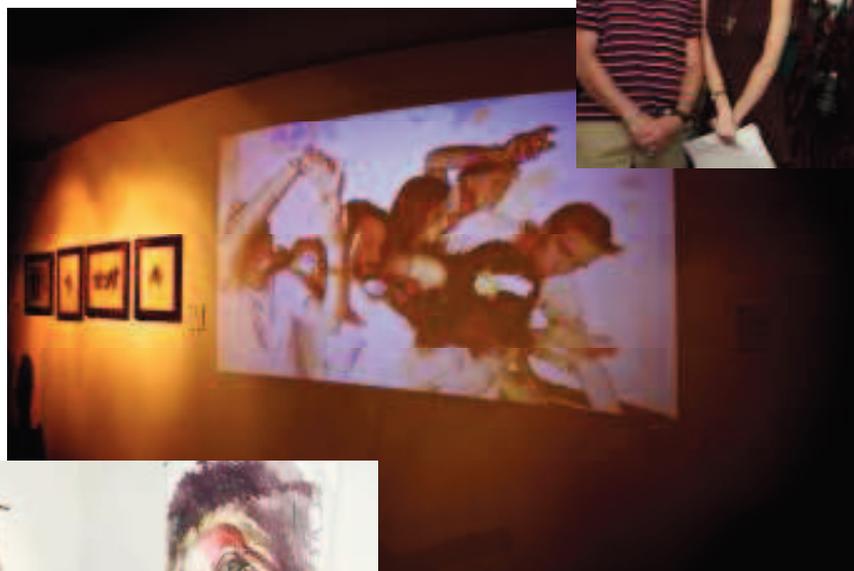
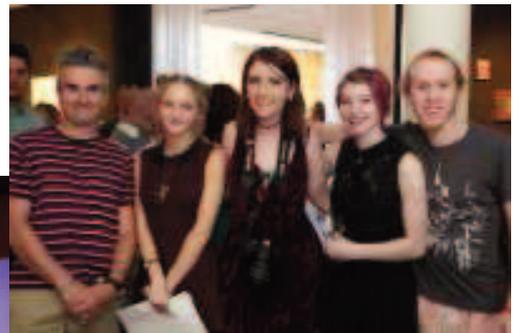
Increased patronage through engaging quality programming provides greater economic capacity both for the region's artists and arts sector and for Burrinja, building on the organisation's capabilities to support and enable artistic programs and practice in the region.



Dancers from the Melbourne Ballet Company meet and greet fans young and old after their sell-out performance of *Arche* in 2016

## ARTISTIC PROGRAM STATEMENT | 2016-2020

Visual Arts	Performing Arts	Community Cultural Development.	Public Programming/ Education
<p>Develop an innovative and engaging visual arts program across all mediums encompassing Indigenous, contemporary and local artists and arts practice, including developing touring and curated exhibitions and utilising the McLeod Gift Collection.</p> <p>Enable and support distinctive regional visual arts practice through studios, projects, programming, partnership and development.</p>	<p>Develop an innovative and engaging performing/ live arts program across all mediums. Create deeper engagement and participation in region's performing arts through co-produced and supported new, emerging and community work, professional touring presentation, schools and workshop programs.</p> <p>Enable and support distinctive regional performing and live arts practice through studios, projects, programming, partnership and development.</p>	<p>To be the cultural hub for the community of the Dandenong Ranges. Support existing and enable the development of emerging and distinctive cultural practices and programs, providing community-connected outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy, diversity and cultural ecology of the region.</p> <p>Partnering with artists, organisations and projects to enable cultural outcomes that engage with community.</p>	<p>Incorporate and embed nationally recognised, engaging and experiential public and education programs across all elements of arts and cultural programming at Burrinja and in the region.</p> <p>Work across education, NFP and other sectors to create, develop and provide innovative and effective public program outcomes.</p>



**Top r:** students and teachers inc Nadia Rankin and Zoe Amber celebrate the VCE Creative Expressions exhibition opening

**Middle:** Open Studios Micro/Macro, featuring video installation by Steven Firman

**Bottom l:** VCE artist Nadia Rankin, Upwey HS, with her work

## CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—projects for community

Our new 2016-2020 Strategic Plan further reinforces our already historically strong emphasis on community cultural development process, practice and outcomes.

As noted in the Executive Summary, *Burrinja works to 'build community through arts'. The centre's function, purpose and programming are built on a multi-element vision and program across diverse art forms and cultural activities. Burrinja is a cultural hub for the Dandenong Ranges that supports existing and enables the development of emerging, experiential and distinctive arts practice, providing engaging outcomes and positive impact that contribute to the vibrancy, diversity and cultural ecology of the region.*

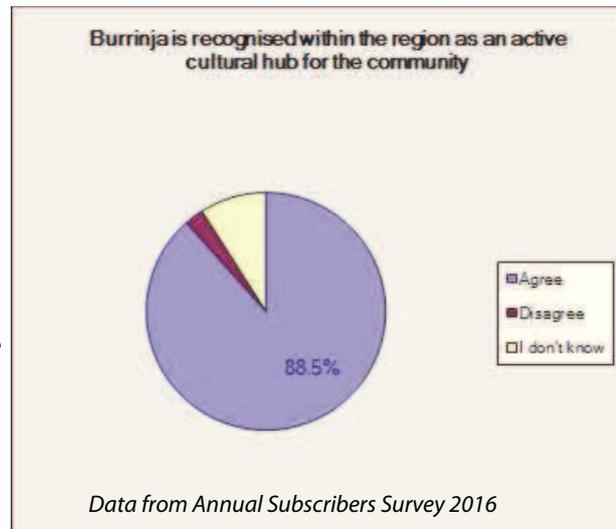
Burrinja strives to enable, facilitate and support those in the community to achieve great arts outcomes, not only at Burrinja but throughout our region, townships and found-spaces. These events are supported by Burrinja in various ways; they may be coordinated, co-produced, facilitated, auspiced or provided logistical, governance and other resources.

It is reassuring to see that 88.5% of our survey respondents agree that Burrinja is 'recognized within the region as an active cultural hub for the community', with most others in the 'don't know' category.

Having worked with Burrinja on a number of projects during the past years that have been great examples themselves of cultural partnerships—such as hillsceneLIVE—it was fabulous to be able to take on the role of Community Cultural Development Officer for 12 months from June this year as Amy Middleton takes maternity leave.

Here is a key summary of just some of the projects and outcomes for 2015-16 enabled by Burrinja.

**GARETH HART | CCD Officer**



### VCE Creative Showcase

Each year the creative excellence of VCE students from across the Yarra Ranges is celebrated through the VCE Creative Showcase. Students studying Art & Studio Arts are offered the opportunity to have their work presented in a professional gallery context including an opening night celebration and exhibition catalogue.

In 2016, 37 graduates from eight local schools took part in the eighth showcase hosted by Burrinja. The exhibition delivered a diverse and revealing collection of works by our freshest and most inspiring emerging artists. Artists involved in the VCE creative showcase continue to engage with Burrinja, with some artists now transitioning to participation in the annual Dandenong Ranges Open Studios program through our development of the financially supported 'emerging' artists program.



Paul Scott with his VCE work—2016 exhibition

## CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—projects for community

### Dandenong Ranges Open Studios

...is an annual regional arts event that invites art-lovers from all over Victoria to visit the studios of artists in the Dandenong Ranges, for a weekend in Autumn. Visitors have a unique chance to see inside the creative space of the artist, and engage directly with skilled creative artisans as they work.

#### Artist Participation 2016

30 studios and over 40 artists participated in the Open Studios program in 2016. This year we further developed the opportunities provided through the **Emerging Artists** program introduced in 2015 for those in the first five years of their practice, including supported studio spaces at Burrinja and financial support for their participation.

#### Total Visitation Number

The overall visitation was again estimated at over 7500 studio visits to the participating artists over the weekend, with approximately half of all visitors being local residents from Yarra Ranges, the rest being cultural tourists. A small number of interstate and international visitors were also present. The program included 40 events hosted by the artists, each engaging with a number of visitors.

#### Outcomes for Artists

Program evaluation from the artists reports that the Open Studios program provided an opportunity to progress their professional development skills as an artist, encouraged creativity and connected them with other artists. Artists reported over \$50,000 in sales.

#### Open Studios Group Exhibition

The annual Open Studios Exhibition was presented in the Burrinja Gallery. The exhibition theme 'Macro-Micro' was selected by the artists, and presented a range of mediums from the participating studios.

#### Community & Cultural Impact

Data from the 2015 study by Council—*Cultural and Economic Industries Economic Analysis*, shows us that:

*Open Studios ...is a prominent example of how arts tourism can quickly offer positive returns on investment both economically and culturally, especially when professionally run.*

The Dandenong Ranges Open Studios can be extrapolated from their figures to create the equivalent of 7 jobs and \$1.45M in overall output each year. \*

Community, cultural and creative outcomes are just as impressive, and include:

- Increased cultural tourism to the region
- Increased profile of individual artists in the region
- Supporting emerging artists in the region
- Making studio spaces available to emerging artists
- Increased artist networks and professional development opportunities
- Increased community awareness of their local arts community
- Increased economic activity for and viability of individual artists
- Increased visitation numbers to venues in the region
- Increased media coverage and profile of local artists
- Artistic, business and marketing development for participating artists/ studios;

Dandenong Ranges Open Studios has been granted a three year Partnering Funding Agreement with Yarra Ranges Council, securing this event until at least 2018, and thank Council for their on-going support of this event.

*\* Source: Council modelling based on REMPLAN model. Multipliers that a new economic activity like an event generates in other parts of the economy*



l: 2016 artists on the promo trail - at the Micro/Macro Exhibition  
r: Artists and guests at the exhibition opening

## CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—projects for community

### End of the Line Festival - Partnership

Burrinja extending its support of this popular arts festival in November 2015.

End of the Line Festival is a free community arts event that showcases the work of hundreds of musicians and artists in a variety of media drawing our diverse and colourful community together to share, explore and celebrate the arts. The whole of Belgrave village comes alive with artistic expression to be found in over 20 venues and locations, including public spaces, local shops, alleyways and even the laundromat!

Volunteers from the Belgrave Community Arts Partnership, with support from Burrinja and funding from Yarra Ranges Council passionately piece together the festival each year, but this event relies solely on the passion and generosity of the community, the traders of Belgrave and every participating artist.



In 2015 Burrinja increased our commitment to the festival via a formal Memorandum of Understanding that included our contribution of Burrinja staffing hours to curate the Visual Arts program for End of the Line. Amy Middleton worked since early in the year on applications, locations, and installations to bring this arts activation of public space together with the Festival coordinators.

The event was once again hugely popular, bringing people of all ages into the spaces of Belgrave to experience music, street art, performance, installation works, poetry, spoken word and so much more, with estimates of over 10,000 attending throughout the day.

A huge community thank you to the main event organisers CJ Baxter and Kathleen Snowball (Snowy) for all their work and commitment to make the 2015 event happen.

As we write, a 2017 event is very much in the 'maybe' zone due simply to the volunteer effort and hours required to make these festivals happen, and the very limited potential for earned revenue in open 'found space' type venues.



### Belgrave Survival Day

Belgrave Survival Day is an annual event on January 26th (Australia Day) which creates an important opportunity to celebrate the survival of Australian Indigenous people, their culture and heritage. Belgrave Survival Day is organised by a group of volunteers and operates as a Sub-Committee of Burrinja. Burrinja supports this event through the provision of Funding Auspice, meeting space for the BSD Committee, Public Liability Insurance for the event, , funding application reviews, risk management plan review and marketing assistance for the event.

The 2016 theme looked to tie in with events around Australia and emphasise the growing sentiments that there is "NO ROOM FOR RACISM". The festival's feature performer was the legendary Kutcha Edwards, one of Australia's most respected and inspiring Aboriginal singer/songwriters. Also taking the stage were 'The Deans', the fabulous voices of the Mullum Mullum Choir and the vibes of the Hip Hop Crew, plus an opportunity to participate in a Digeridoo Mediation with Gnarnayarrahe Waitiarie (Uncle Joey). The Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony were led by Wurundjeri elder and educator, Uncle Bill Nicholson, followed by traditional dances performed by 'The Djirri Djirri' dance mob.

Our thanks to all of the BSD Committee who volunteer their hard work all year round to coordinate this annual event, plus other events supporting Indigenous culture.

*Belgrave Survival Day is supported by Yarra Ranges Council, and we thank Council for their on-going support of this event.*



## CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—projects for community

### Belgrave Lantern Parade—turned TEN!

2016 was, amazingly, the tenth annual Belgrave Lantern Parade—a significant milestone in a community run event. Our 10 year old lantern that has been in every parade, Mr Radiance led a parade of hundreds of Lanterns as over 10,000 people came out into the streets and celebrated!

Each year the Lantern Parade brings together the community of the Hills in a highly inclusive celebration of friendship and creativity at Winter Solstice. The street is reclaimed for the people and thousands flock to take part in one of the best and biggest community-made spectacles as hundreds of lanterns line the main street, accompanied by drummers, dancers and performers. There's also a fabulous lineup of performers and events before and after the Parade.

This year we added the Lantern Village to the program, with amazing teepee sized 'lanterns' created by Renate Crow with the assistance of many—where people could sit inside and congregate, plus a chai tent and other great additions to the food stalls. There were circus performances under the lights provided by SES, star-gazing with the Mount Burnett Observatory crew, firepits to sit and sing around and much more going on. And that's all in addition to a huge parade with lots of large community lanterns joining in this year in addition to all of the families with their lights - big and small.

A big big thank you to an expanded team of coordinators in 2016 who made this possible:

Marina Scott (BCAP / Traders) leading all the logistics and trader engagement, Renate Crow and Glenn Scolyer (artists), Kieran Dennis, Toni Main and Justine Walsh (parade, village and performance coordination), Ruccis Circus, Belgrave Rotary, SES, Scouts, DRERS, Belgrave Library, VoKallista, tiger MC, Mike Clark, Roderick Mcleod, CFA, all the volunteer team and to everyone who made 2016 such a fabulous ten year celebration event!

### Cultural, Social and Economic Impact

Based on a 2015 Council survey and REMPLAN data multipliers, the Belgrave Lantern Parade resulted in an influx of local income that equates to the equivalent of 6 jobs and \$1.3M, a significant boost to the local economy,

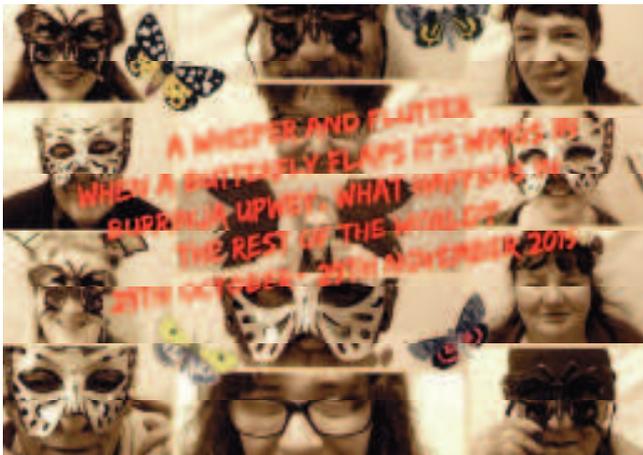
Yet even more important is the contribution this event makes to inclusive, creative community engagement every year. The Lantern Parade takes a 'place' and activates it as a community 'space' in which to belong. It brings together an incredible diversity of volunteers – from artists to the local SES and CFA, Rotary and street performers to name but a few – who combine to create more than the sum of their collective energies in this event. Burringja supports this event in partnership with the Belgrave Traders Association, and this year's support of the festival included facilitation of planning meetings, provision of funding Auspice, Public Liability Insurance for the event, risk management plan review, marketing assistance and volunteering at the parade.



Belgrave Lantern Parade is funded by Yarra Ranges Council through Belgrave Community Arts Partnership.

## CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—projects for community

### The Burrinja Arties



#### Planned Activity Group - Home and Community Care

This was another wonderful and creative year for the Burrinja Arties. The Arties is a group of adults of all abilities that meet weekly for an art program with Creative Arts Therapist Lynette Forrest and her amazing band of volunteers'.

We danced with the Sound Beam with Libby Price & Mel, held a Butterfly Ball with our guests from Sherbrooke Cottage Planned Activity Group, had a beautiful film made of the event by Alice Hallyar, and our first song written and composed for and about the Arties by Nicole Rizzo from Harmonious Melodies. Then to top off the year a feature article in Foothills Magazine on Art and Mental Wellbeing and a successful exhibition: 'A Whisper & Flutter', inviting Mountain District Learning Centre & Sherbrooke Cottage to exhibit with the Arties

and attend the opening.

This exhibition looked at Climate change, with a focus on how pesticides affect butterflies, moths, bees, dragonflies, and our endangered local lyrebirds and helmeted honey eaters who eat these whispering and fluttering insects.

The Arties members' lives are as fragile as the butterflies and the environment, with their personal stories of mental health issues and difficult group living situations. This makes their art even more poignant.

*Arties member Craig says: he misses the group when it is not on and when he was in hospital, It gives us something to do, and gets us out of our heads and negative thoughts.*

We held our first silent auction of the Arties creations, and many ethical sustainable local gifts were purchased and generous donations made, so each Artie went home with \$100, allowing them to define themselves as artists, a wonderful boost to their self esteem, exhibiting and selling and being celebrities at a wonderful professional community gallery.

This is all thanks to the generosity and help of Burrinja, Funding from the Department of Health and Human Services and the friends of the Arties and dedicated volunteers.

**LYNETTE FORREST** | Creative Arts Therapist



## CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITY

### Burrinja Kids... Stay and Play

Burrinja aims to be a welcoming environment for families to engage with the arts in a practical and affordable way, throughout the year. Developed by Burrinja in collaboration with local artists, 'Burrinja Kids... Stay and Play!' is an exciting initiative that invites children and families to engage with art through a range of hands-on activities. The program celebrates the Burrinja exhibition program by creating interactive avenues to ignite the imagination and creativity of our young patrons.

The Kids Stay n Play region has become a highlight for visiting young people, and indeed their parents. The rotation of artists allows for dynamic, engaging and high calibre participatory arts activities to be available for children all year round.

Over the year, the Kids Stay n Play activities have seen creative engagement from over 1000 young people. During this time four talented local artists were funded to create interactive works for children: Clare James, Jenni Irvin, Amy Laker-Bruni and Nadia Turner.

For the third year now Burrinja hosted the **National Gallery of Victoria's Kids on Tour** program, sharing with children contemporary art and summer exhibitions on display at the National Gallery of Victoria. 2016 was a treat including Andy Warhol | Ai Weiwei, and Our Land is Alive: Hermannsburg Potters for Kids. From artists Andy Warhol and Ai Weiwei's shared love of cats to the local landscapes of the Hermannsburg Potters, children visiting Burrinja during January and February were inspired to unleash their creativity in this range of FREE activities.



### Burrinja with Attitude—DRMC

The 2015 Burrinja With Attitude program saw DRMC partner with Burrinja on the delivery of an all abilities event on October 18, 2015.

This event encompassed workshops in: Recycled Art, Auslan Interpreted music and song-writing, dance, soundbeam movement and activated sound and textile weaving with Michele Fountain.

The day also featured live music performances from: Sweet Sassafras Community Choir, Kalulu Ukulele Band and Michelle Chandler.

Theatre performances on the day included: Snow White Scene – Attitude Players, Adam Bond 007 film – Knox-brooke Media Adam James, Melinda Smith & Dianne Reed – Dance Improvisation, Attitude Song Writers – Auslan interpreted with Cath, Stephen & Rachel, Ad Hoc Rock – Rock Band, Supernaturals – Interchange Sponsored Rock Band Full Mental Jacket – Rock Band

*Below - Burrinja Arties Program in action*





Hillscene is an important partnership and creative outcome for Burrinja and the community – a voice and outlet for so much that is happening in the hills *community, culture, environment*.

We thank **Fletchers Real Estate** for their continued sponsorship and support in 2016.

**ZINE**

The hillscene magazine continues to be a high quality, much sought after publication. Under the drive and guidance of Adriana Alvarez in partnership with Burrinja, the hillscene continues to support, promote and advocate for 'community, culture and environment' in the hills region.

The magazine now boasts 24 full colour issues, and recently celebrated it's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. A wonderful lineage and history that continues to showcase the creative and community focus of the region.

*hillscene* magazine, now enjoys an expanded editorial committee, encompassing:

- Adriana Alvarez (editor / designer)
- Ross Farnell (writer)
- Amy Middleton (writer)
- Gareth Hart (writer)
- Jen Angel (photography)
- Anna James (sub-editing)
- Justine Walsh (writer / poet)

We continue to support the hillscene magazine which passes on this support to a range of local writers, photographers and artists. In total, the past twelve months of the hillscene featured 46 guest contributors to the 4 issues of the magazine.

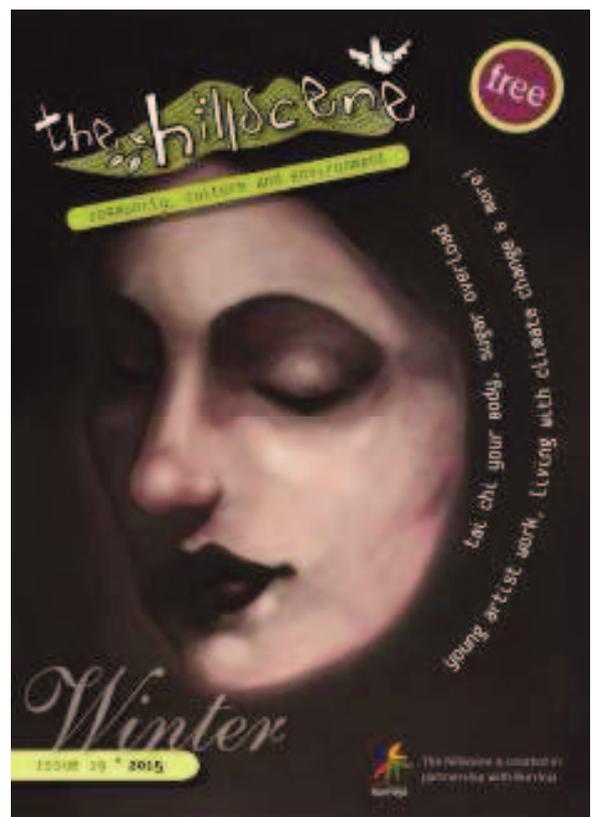
In total, 4000 copies of the hillscene landed on the streets during the past financial year.

Online readership is also strong, reaching an average of an extra 1000 people per year (via ISSU.com)

Having your artwork featured on the cover of hillscene has become a much sought after recognition.

**BLOG**

The hillscene blog has continued to attract new subscribers and readers during the past year, and publishes new posts regularly with a wide range of contributors and topics. The blog provides an effective medium for regular arts and culture stories from the hills and for younger and emerging writers and photographers to develop their craft and be published. It also spreads the hillscene brand to a readership far beyond the hills.





### Hillscene LIVE 2015

A massive one day live art festival in Monbulk Victoria, featuring Theatre, Dance, Sound, Installation and more. The 2015 festival supported over 20 artists.

The annual program of artistic support expanded considerably in 2015, with the establishment of a cultural leadership committee, who undertook a professional mentorship in cultural leadership and festival management. Justine Walsh, Toni Main and Alana Michaud were appointed as the first cultural leadership committee for hillsceneLIVE.

hillsceneLIVE also took up a 3 month residency in the Project Studio at Burringja, as a festival hub leading up to the event, which acted as both an administrative base, and also a place for artists to connect with the festival.

During the lead up to the festival, hillsceneLIVE hosted a series of professional development workshops, opening up conversation and critique of issues and interests to contemporary performance culture. The sessions hosted a range of industry experts to steer and contribute to the discussion, thus connecting hillsceneLIVE and Burringja with larger arts organisations throughout Victoria. These sessions provided vital dialogue in the community around a number of key ideas, namely:

Responsibilities of Risk: The delicacies of Cultural Programming (Led by Angharad Wynn-Jones)

Communities, Culture and Council (Led by Megan Rowland / Ross Farnell / Cr Fiona McAllister)



Socially and Community engage practice (Led by Jade Lillie)

Authorship, Authenticity and Autonomy (led by Tiffany Bishop)



### Hillscene LIVE 2016

In 2016 hillsceneLIVE continues to grow and expand, with:

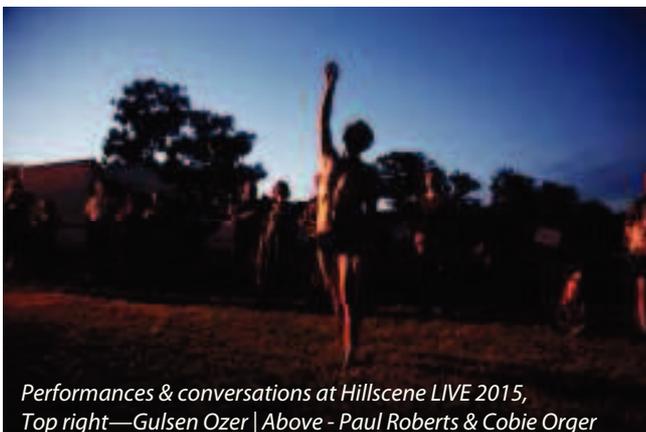
An expansion of the program to a full three day festival, featuring 25 events and over 40 artists

Festival Director Gareth Hart being selected to sit on the assessment panel for Creative Victoria's ArtsVic Grant applications.

A whole new funding model underpinned by a successful crowdfunding campaign, supported by Creative Partnerships Australia with Burringja.

Continued interest and attention from the wider Victorian Arts Sector

An increase in business sponsorship



Performances & conversations at Hillscene LIVE 2015, Top right—Gulsen Ozer | Above - Paul Roberts & Cobie Orger

## VISUAL ARTS



*Women Painting Women gallery installation*

*Below— JD Mittmann, Wendy Garden, Joy Serwylo, Ross Farnell, BCCB award*

The year 2015-16 was marked by challenges, changes and successes – not all of them necessarily related.

Burrinja presented an ambitious and varied exhibition program, which included regular annual shows such as the *VCE Creative Showcase* and the ever-popular *Open Studios Exhibition*, as well as a mix of local artists' showcases and touring exhibitions.

Highlights are always difficult to pick, but among these were certainly the exhibition *Black Art White Walls* from the amazing collection of Anne and Adrian Newstead, director of Coe-ee Gallery in Bondi. Works in the exhibition traversed the history of Aboriginal art from the beginning in the 1970's, presenting a fascinating overview of artwork from desert to contemporary urban art.

The exhibition *Women Painting Women* brought together seven realist painters from Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, and at the grand opening even some of their female sitters. In the context of the arguably overrated Archibald and Salon des Refuses exhibitions this modest show proved to be a remarkable showcase of great quality and was very popular among audiences - something to be continued.



Another highlight was the inaugural Burrinja Climate Change Biennale, which attracted good interest from artists and had a great turn-out for the official opening. About half of the exhibited artworks had been produced in the region, while a handful of submissions were from interstate.

Joy Serwylo took out the Biennale's Award Prize (of \$3000) for her work "At this point of time it appears that we had not yet established a Plan B". Wendy Garden, Senior Curator at Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery and myself were the judges, and we congratulate Joy for her outstanding work. There was a concerted push through this exhibition to engage public dialogue, including the development of in-gallery social media streaming for feedback and comments.

Exhibitions of this nature will take some time to establish and find their footing and following amongst the plethora of established art awards. However, it is a timely endeavor, considering the necessity to encourage public debate and the need for urgent action. It is a good sign of awareness and foresight on Burrinja's behalf to tackle the theme of 'climate change' and to promote artistic engagement.

Among the challenges for the exhibition program over the last few years has been the question how to fill the multiple spaces sufficiently, while presenting an exciting and efficient program manageable with existing resources. With the venue's extension as part of the construction of the theatre in 2011, Burrinja received an additional 100 linear metres of wall space. However, neither the foyer nor the upstairs spaces (nor the Café in this context) are designated gallery spaces, and present inherent problems.

## VISUAL ARTS

It was therefore decided to halt programming in those spaces and bring all exhibitions into the Burrinja Gallery. An additional wall has been installed in Burrinja Gallery to allow for a zoning of three spaces. This presents the opportunity for local artists, Open Studios and community groups to present in the main gallery among the large exhibitions, and smaller exhibitions to run parallel.

In the foyer works on loan adorn the walls for now; but this solution can only be temporary: from a collection management perspective lengthy exposure is not beneficial for works of art. We continue to work toward sustainable visual art program solutions for these spaces from 2017 onward.

The reduced exhibition program makes the workload more manageable for the curator, marketing coordinator, venue manager and front-of-house volunteers, and allows more time and resources to be allocated to the existing program. In contrast, the previous year had seen 29 separate exhibitions shown across the spaces in just 12 months.

Earlier in 2015 an external consultant undertook a significance assessment of the McLeod Gift Collection (which also included an assessment of the galleries and storeroom) as part of the National Library of Australia's Community Grants Program. The consultant's report raised a number of concerns, especially related to the storing of collection and private works in the same area. This issue was addressed as a matter of priority with the situation now greatly improved, notwithstanding pending further work to finalise documentation and other loan arrangements. Concerns too around a lack of documented provenance and contextual stories for works were raised, as these narratives are so important to strengthening community connections to collections and increasing their relevance.

This is a common issue that many collections face in the changing contemporary museum environment. Finding the resources necessary to undertake these time-intensive collection-based tasks in the small to medium museum sector is an ongoing issue, and concerted efforts will need to be undertaken in the future to address this and to make the collection more visible publically and relevant.

While collection management and storage were a good deal improved earlier in the year, and valuable time was gained by reducing the exhibition program, the 'spare time' was quickly taken up by another project: the planned touring exhibition *Black Mist Burnt Country*.

After receiving initial funding for development (through NETS from the Victorian State Government, Australia Council for the Arts and the Gordon Darling Foundation) the project also received funding for a tour to eleven regional public galleries and museums in four states from the Federal Government through the Ministry of the Arts.

This was quite an achievement and put Burrinja in that funding round in the league with the Western Australian Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney and National Gallery of Australia in Canberra with a budget of over \$320,000. The exhibition was launched to great acclaim in Sydney in September and will tour until 2019.

The project is inspired by a painting by Jonathan Kumintjarra Brown, which is a key work in the McLeod Gift Collection: titled *Maralinga Before the Atomic Test* it depicts the traditional country before the destruction occurred. It became the starting point for research into the history of the British atomic tests in Australia in the 1950s and resulted in a survey-style exhibition of over 30 Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists across the mediums of paintings, screen printing, sculpture, photography, music and new media.

The exhibition has attracted a great deal of media attention already, and has the capacity to promote Burrinja beyond the hills and amongst its peers in the public galleries sector. This is something Burrinja staff and volunteers and the community can be proud of.

I would like to thank all staff, Ross, Toni, Amy, Gareth, Hannah, Bronwyn, Steve, Liam, the front of house crew and all volunteers, in particular John Grieg and Katherine Reynolds - thanks for their on-going support and encouragement.

**JD MITTMANN** | Curator & Manager of Collections



JD Mittmann (r) with Daryl LeCornu (ICAN) (l). *Black Mist Burnt Country* opening

## VISUAL ARTS

Micro/ Macro—Open Studios exhibition installation



### EXHIBITION PROGRAM 2015-16

#### Burrinja Gallery

Louise Daniels : *Unravelling* (4 Jun – 3 Jul)

Chris Lawry, Mark Noke, Betty Lawry, Kirsten Laken : *Iconic* (4 Jun – 3 Jul)

*Women Painting Women* : Vicki Sullivan, Sally Ryan, Jacqui Grantford, Avril Thomas, Fiona Bilbrough, Raelene Sharp, Heather Ellis (30 Apr – 29 May)

*Open Studios Exhibition* (18 Mar – 24 Apr)

*VCE Creative Showcase 2016* (6 Feb – 6 Mar)

*Burrinja Climate Change Biennale and Award* (3 Oct – 31 Jan)

*Points of Focus – Historic Photographs from the Pacific* (1 Aug – 20 Sep)

*Dances With Lyrebirds* : Kate Baker, Gretel Taylor, Anthony Magen (4 Jul – 26 Jul)

*Black Art White Walls : The Anne and Adrian Newstead Indigenous Art Collection* (4 Jul – 20 Sep)

#### JARMBI Gallery

Jenny Saulwick and Community Art (2 Apr – 10 Jul)

Jasmine Targett, Bethany Wheeler, Alanna Lorenzon : *Return to Nature* (26 Sep – 22 Nov)

The Arties : *Whisper and a Flutter* (29 Oct – 29 Nov)

Your DNA : *Debut 2015* (26 Sep – 25 Oct)

Yarra Valley Grammar : *Portal* (17 Jul – 16 Aug)

Helen Pallikaros : *Within, Without* (12 Jun – 12 Jul)

Katherine Reynolds, Jessie Journoud-Ryan : *Mimicry* (12 Jun – 12 Jul)

#### Foyer

Burrinja Kids Stay and Play

NGV Kids on Tour 2016 (from 16 Jan)



Jenny Saulwick exhibition opening with Paul O'Halloran

## THEATRE PROGRAM



Cast and guests in post show Q&A - They Saw a Thylacine

### PROGRAMMING 2015-16

Another big twelve months in the theatre kicked off with a huge 10 days of circus festival programming in July and came full circle to the 2016 circus carnival in 2016! We saw record numbers participating at these festivals with over 1,100 patrons for each.

Theatre patronage again increased, up by 5% on the previous financial year to just on 6,000, with Burrinja show box office revenues up 9% to \$143,000. This was pleasing given we did not re-run the DRUKE festival which contributed 520 ticket sales the previous year.

Our vision, program and marketing for the year - *re-invigorate; re-fresh; re-imagine* - clearly resonated with audiences, who saw some fabulous performances.

Burrinja continued to work on presenting co-productions with community, Ruccis Circus, the Nicholas Chamber Orchestra and the Melbourne Recital Centre / Yarra Ranges Council for Classical Tracks, Dance Tracks and other performance outcomes.

### BURRINJA THEATRE

BURRINJA CIRCUS FESTIVAL  
 MARKIYAN MELNYCHENKO  
 MELBOURNE BALLET - DIVENIRE  
 DROWNING IN VERONICA LAKE  
 ENSEMBLE LIAISON  
 NICHOLAS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Dislocate & Ruccis  
 Classical Tracks /MRC  
 Melbourne Ballet C  
 Purple Stage Prod.  
 Classical Tracks /MRC  
 Classical Tracks / Bur

CARAVAN BURLESQUE RIDES AGAIN  
 RESERVED SEATING ONLY  
 THE 39 STEPS  
 MATT WALKER & LOST RAGAS  
 THE OWLS APPRENTICE  
 SONGS FOR TOMORROWS MOUNTAIN  
 FLAK  
 DAVID BRIDIE  
 MICK THOMAS XMAS SHOW  
 HEART STRINGS - MUSIC OF TIBET  
 ORCHESTRA VICTORIA  
 KATE MILLER-HEIDKE  
 WOMANZ & WHELMED  
 ARCHE  
 4000 MILES  
 INVENTI ENSEMBLE  
 THEY SAW A THYLACINE  
 BOY OUT OF THE COUNTRY  
 MELBOURNE INT COMEDY FESTIVAL  
 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA  
 THE LITTLE PRINCE  
 DYLANESQUE  
 BURRINJA CIRCUS FESTIVAL  
 TRASH TEST DUMMIES  
 HIPPO! HIPPO!

Finucane  
 Boxing Day Prod.  
 HIT Productions  
 Premier  
 Regional Arts Vic  
 Hills Choirs/ schools  
 Michael Vietch  
 David Bridie  
 Mick Thomas  
 Tenzin & Taro  
 Classical Tracks  
 Harbour  
 Melb Fringe on Tour  
 Melbourne Ballet Co  
 Critical Stages  
 Classical Tracks /MRC  
 Performing Lines  
 Larrikin / Ensemble  
 MICF Roadshow  
 Lux Radio Theatre  
 Spare Parts Puppets  
 Jeff Jenkins  
 Dislocate & Ruccis  
 Trash Test  
 Garry Ginnivan

## ARTIST STUDIOS

As has been the trend for the past few years, studio space remains in high demand at Burrinja. At present, we have a number of artists eagerly awaiting in the wings for space to become available. This is in addition to some very creative solutions to studio space needs, including the conversion of a number of rooms into new studio spaces.

During the past twelve months, Burrinja adopted a more flexible work space situation, allowing for coLAB and shared studio spaces to house a number of new artists.

The creative network evolved through all of this arts practice has been truly wonderful, infiltrating throughout Burrinja on a daily basis.

### NEIL MCLEOD STUDIO 1

Neil McLeod has a lifetime's experience working in the field as a photographer, artist, and most importantly, as a researcher collecting, recording and preserving indigenous art and culture in Aboriginal and Papua New Guinea communities.

Neil generously gifted some 600 indigenous works from 2001 to 2004 to form the McLeod Gift Collection, housed at Burrinja.

### AMNION—RODERICK PRICE STUDIO 2

For part of the year Studio 2 was home to Matthew Riley (now in the Interspace), and is now the studio of another artist working in digital media with sound.

Roderick is a multi-disciplined artist working primarily in the field of sound design. His practice is based on a constant investigation into the different approaches both within and across music and sound design, and the practical implementation of such ideas in a variety of formats, media and products

### JACQUI GRACE & ELIZA PHILIPS STUDIO 3

Eliza works with found objects and mixed media. She is heavily influenced by literature, fairy tales in particular. Mostly working in 3D, but also drawing and painting.

Beautiful Wasteland is eco-printing textile artist. Jacqui explores the inexhaustible vitality that bursts as botanical matter, metal, cloth and water dance. Her artworks are imbued with these moments of meeting.

### MICHELE FOUNTAIN & METAFOUR STUDIO STUDIO 4

Michelle is primarily a handweaver, working mostly with rigid heddle looms. She also explores stitch and sculptural work, incorporating textile techniques and industrial materials. Metafour also offers textile supplies and weaving equipment.

### TBC AUSTRALIA - STUDIO 5

tbC engages young artists in a variety of professional art making processes, mediums, and collaborative practices.

Young artists claim professional recognition via highly 'visible' contemporary creative activity and the arts model attracts a broad and sustained youth membership.

### DAVE THOMSON—LOST FEW STUDIO 6

Dave Thomson is a sound artist focusing on the translation of spatiality in both natural and urban landscapes by means of physical and sonic transformation.

Lost Few serves as an exploration of sound design, video installation and audial journeys that seamlessly provoke and push audiences.



Dave Thomson in his studio—Open Studios 2016

### AL MCINNES LIBRARY STUDIO

Al MacInnes is an animator, musician and sound designer. His animation work has won awards and he makes films, games, installations & commercial works.

### INTERSPACE STUDIO

**Andrea Innocent**, a professional illustrator and designer with over fifteen years experience, regularly punching out snappy ideas for clients such as Microsoft, Cambridge University Press, NBN, Libra, TOLL and Cadbury.

**Matthew Riley** a designer, researcher and lecturer in animation, games and interactivity at RMIT University who has received international and national recognition for his practice.

### WORKSHOP STUDIO

**Rain White** —Rain's art is a development of a personal symbolic language and motifs.

**Steven Firman**—Steven's paintings seek to capture the irrational world of a child where real places become the setting for magical things to happen.

**Stephen Glover**—Stephen's artworks respond to experiences and memory of both people and place.

### ADMIN STUDIO

**Entwine Arts—Justine Walsh** provides engaging experiences in a dynamic, fun & nourishing environment through creativity.

## THE SKYLARK ROOM - CAFE

In April 2016 we welcomed Beth, Snowy and partners to Burrinja with their fabulous new take on the café - The Skylark Room.

By day The Skylark Room is a dynamic cafe, with great coffee and a relaxed vibe. By night it becomes a speak-easy inspired bar & iconic live music venue,- an artistic melting pot, which aims to inspire all who walk through the doors.

The entire ambience and atmosphere has been re-worked and re-vamped in an inspired nod to the vibe of the speak-easy. The team have spent much effort on putting in place new furnishings and fittings that make live music a great experience, and are now busily re-furbishing and fitting out the outdoor area to create a welcoming, self-contained alfresco area for the warmer months - opening out onto the parklands and gardens.

There is a noticeable 'cultural fit' with the Skylark Room and Burrinja, and we look forward to a long partnership.



### MUSIC program

The new Skylark Room sees the emphasis on great music programming return to this wonderful listening space, with live music every Friday and Saturday night, the Skylark Band on many Sunday afternoons, and a whole range of different events on Thursdays: Everything from Jazz to World to Folk-sie Roots.

The Blues and Roots program continues too at Burrinja, with quarterly feature events programmed by Doc White in the Burrinja Black Box space, with bar service by the Skylark Room crew.



## PEOPLE AT BURRINJA | VOLUNTEERING

The role that volunteers play in our organisation is truly significant. Burrinja would not be the place it is without the time, knowledge and experience that our volunteers bring to the organisation.

We strive to make volunteering at Burrinja a rewarding experience, giving back to volunteers opportunities to learn new skills and knowledge but also opportunities to develop lasting friendships and a sense of a connection to our community.

Burrinja's volunteers are a living embodiment of our mission statement: *Building Community through Arts.*

### Volunteering - the Numbers

Volunteers again contributed **40,000 hours** to Burrinja, across all areas including Reception/ Box Office, Gallery, Burrinja Arties, the Board, IT, Interns and work experience.

### Volunteer hours provide \$100,000 value to our community\*

This remarkable contribution - just over 2.0 full time equivalent positions - makes an enormous difference to arts and culture in the region. Burrinja simply would not be able to provide the level of programs it does without our volunteers.

(\* Based on ABS/ OurCommunity valuing of volunteer hours)

### Volunteering - the People

#### Reception / Box Office

For many of our customers the front desk volunteers are the face of Burrinja. Our front desk volunteers need to know about a vast range of activities, undertake numerous processes and all the while deliver good customer service.

Each year we must say farewell to some of our volunteers as they move either into paid employment or further studies, and we wish them the best with all their future endeavours.

Notable this year was a farewell to John Greig who retired to a life of adventure after five years of valuable contributions at box office and to the Collection; and Deborah Phillips after 3 fabulous years at the desk.

**Thank you:** *Jan Lamb, Kate Schumann, John Greig, Rowenna Ward, Leanne Morris, Deb Phillips, Susan Grist, Fay Wilson, Ann Gabsch, Caitlin Erbs, Carolyn Ebdon, Carmel Dettman, Lene Henriksen, Melanie Drewett, Anna James, Dan Draper, Linda Grace, Janet Hergt, Alice Hayllar, Ches Mills, Karin Wetter, Colby Hocking, Grace Ephraums, Stephanie Stadtmann, Jane Clark, and Emma Johnson*

#### Gallery

We would struggle to present all the exhibitions we do

without the help of volunteers. They provide much needed help in setting up and taking down exhibitions, preparing the spaces, including painting, researching, archiving the McLeod Gift Collection through to helping at openings and leading guided tours.

**Thank you:** *Katherine Reynolds and John Grieg; plus Jan Lamb, Alice Hayllar, Janet Hergt and Grace Ephraums for their assistance at Exhibition Openings*

#### Community Garden

Kate and Rowena especially have put much time and energy into further developing the community garden, which is now transitioning into a full 'sensory garden'. Thanks to them and the many other volunteers who have helped out at working bees - the arts workshop space is now enjoyed by staff, studio artists, the arties and workshop participants.



#### Burrinja Arties (HACC Program)

Our long running Arties program is supported by a dedicated and remarkable group of volunteers who contribute so much to the fantastic outcomes of this program, working with Lyn Forrest.

**Thank you:** *Antoinette Baird, Nicole Rizio, Sue Tapp, Emily Shields, Alice Hayllar, Max Kaluza, Kristy Spiker, Ches Mills and Michelle Barnes-Dunne, and our drivers Nadine Spilsbury, Rodney Lankins*

#### IT (Information Tech/ Networks)

Once again *David Jewell* has given too many hours of his time to count ensuring our IT keeps running reliably and that it evolves with all the new technologies and possibilities - it is a truly remarkable effort.

#### Burrinja Board

The Board of Management are a team of volunteers who provide governance, leadership and strategic direction to the organisation and ensure that we are in a position to be able to deliver all that we do. Find out more about our Board in the Organisation pages.

## PEOPLE AT BURRINJA | VOLUNTEERING

### The Unofficial Volunteers

Once again many partners and friends of staff have unofficially volunteered their assistance throughout the year, notably *Dennis Curnow, James Middleton* and *Tim Smith*. Thanks to everyone who lends a hand!

### Burrinja Interns Program

Burrinja Internship program provides undergraduates and recent graduates with the opportunity to work in a thriving, hands on arts organisation to develop their professional skills and resume, better preparing them for great future careers in the sector. These are terrific win-win positions, with Burrinja benefiting from the interns assistance on projects and developing great

relationships with those who will drive arts and culture into the future.

### Work Experience

Each year Burrinja makes itself available to students at local schools interested in working in the arts to gain some valuable experience of what that means, each doing a week each across administration, marketing, box office, front of house and theatre tech.

For all their support throughout the year our thanks goes to our great team of volunteers: you are an integral part of the Burrinja Family!!

Volunteer Coordinator | **TRACY HAYLLAR**

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION - SIX YEARS PLUS VOLUNTEERING

This year the Board established a formal process for the special recognition of those who have volunteered their service, time, skill and knowledge to Burrinja for six years or more, and are now retired from active volunteering.

This recognition applies to all volunteers - be they on the Board, the box office, driving the Arties or on one of our sub-committees making events happen in the hills. The recognition includes a *Theatre Seat Name Plaque* in their honour and a listing on a new *Foyer Board*.

As the formal recognition only occurs once they have retired we have quite a number of 'still serving' volunteers who have been supporting Burrinja for more than six years who are not yet listed here.

*Our heartfelt thanks to the following who have given long service to 'building community through arts':*

Name	Com-menced	Retired	Role	Total years of Service
<b>Susan Amico</b>	1998	2016	Board – Treasurer	<b>18</b>
<b>Sid Lawrence</b>	1999	2013 (dec)	Board – Secretary, other volunteering	<b>14</b>
<b>Jenny Saulwick</b>	1998	2009	Board – President/ Public Officer	<b>11</b>
<b>Rachel Burke</b>	2005	2015	Board – President	<b>10</b>
<b>Samantha Dunn</b>	2005	2015	Board – Lyster Ward Councillor	<b>10</b>
<b>Kieran Dennis</b>	2006	2015	Board - President	<b>9</b>
<b>Carolyn Ebdon</b>	1999	2007	Board	<b>8</b>
<b>Elizabeth Conolly</b>	2005	2013	Board	<b>8</b>
<b>Stax</b>	2006	2013	Board – Secretary	<b>7</b>
<b>Marina Scott</b> (nee Dennis)	2006	2016	BCAP sub-committee – Lantern Parade	<b>10</b>
<b>Peter Chandler</b>	1999	2009	Reception/odd jobs	<b>10</b>
<b>Sharyn Schnidala</b>	1999	2009	Reception	<b>10</b>
<b>Iain McLean</b>	2005	2015	Arties Driver	<b>10</b>
<b>Daryl Carter</b>	2002	2012	Reception	<b>10</b>
<b>Carolyn Macdonald</b>	2006	2014	Arties	<b>8</b>
<b>Shirley Day</b>	2001	2008	Reception	<b>7</b>
<b>Neen Gaywood</b>	2003	2009	Reception	<b>6</b>
<b>Yvonne Wallace</b>	2007	2013	Arties Driver	<b>6</b>

## PEOPLE AT BURRINJA | BOARD & STAFF

### BOARD

2015—16

**Matthew Posetti** | President

**Mary Fitz-Gerald** | Vice President

**Sue Amico** | Treasurer

**Paul O'Halloran** | Secretary

**Holly DeMaria**

**Louis Delacretaz**

**Zac Exner**

**Annette Rudd**

**Janet Turpie-Johnstone**

**Cr Noel Cliff & Cr Mike Clarke** | YRC Appointed Representation



Burrinja box office in action—Classical Tracks 2016 launch event

### STAFF

**Ross Farnell** | Executive Director

**Toni Kirk** | Venue Manager

**JD Mittmann** | Curator and Manager of Collections

**Anda Petrapsch** | Front of House and Box Office Coordinator

**Hannah Raisin** | Marketing Coordinator

**Amy Middleton / Gareth Hart** | Community Cultural Development Officer

**Steve Wickenton / Liam Mitchinson / Trevor Ploeg** | Venue Technical Coordinators

**Tracy Hayllar** | Volunteer Coordinator

**Katherine Reynolds, Tracy Hayllar, Jane Thomas, Bluzal Field, Melanie Berry** | Duty Managers

**Bronwyn Millen** | Bookkeeper

**Lynette Forest** | HACC Arts Facilitator

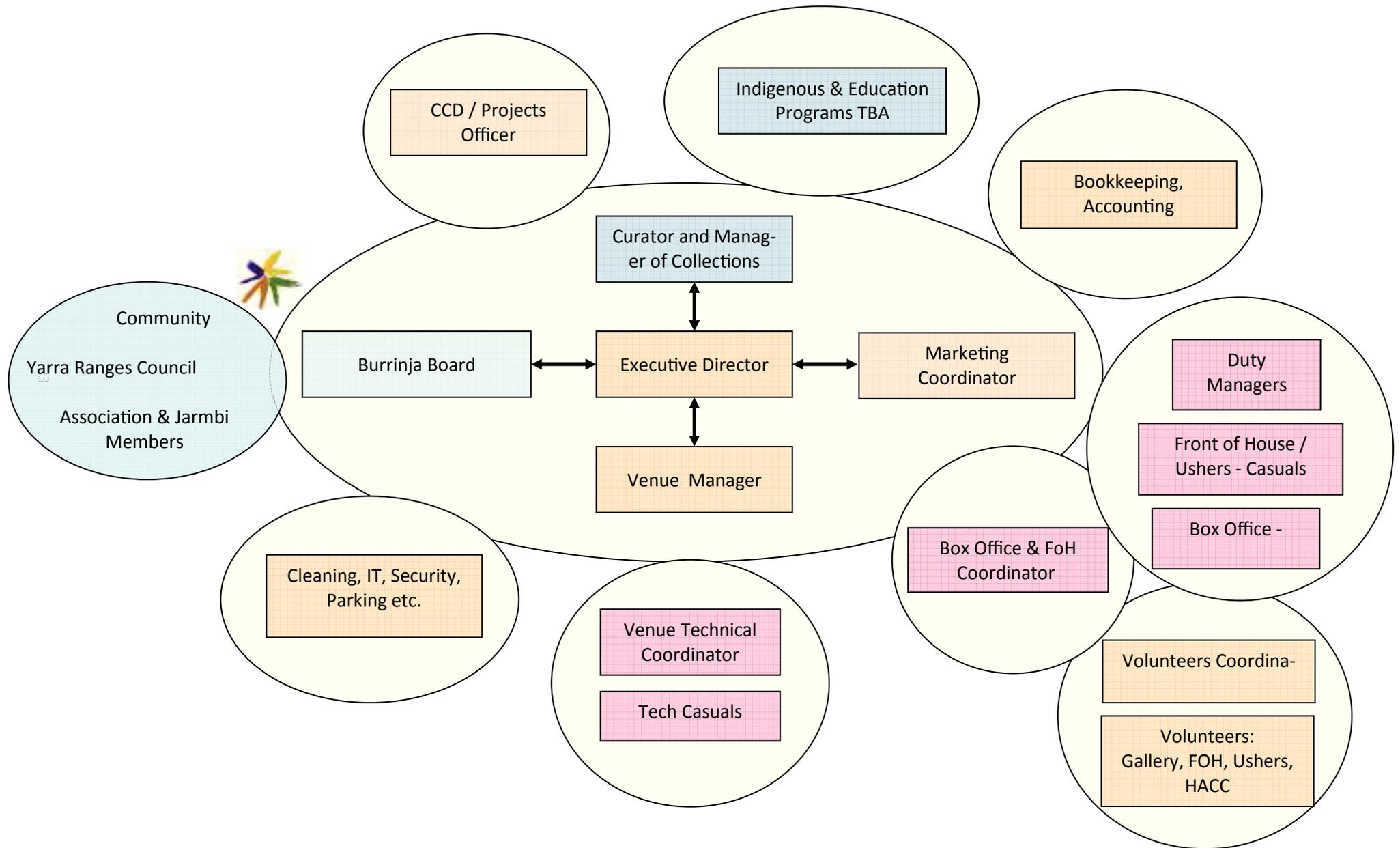
**Gill Cruikshank** | Rainbows & Sparkles - workshops

Our fabulous Casual Box Office/ Theatre Crew | **Kieran, Britt, Jake, Dallas, Dan, Lene, Anna**

Super Casual Theatre Tech Crew | **Denis, Kate & Gary**

And our Parking Marshalls | **Laurence, Mitchell & Dan**

# PEOPLE | ORGANISATION-STRUCUTRE



## ORGANISATION—BOARD & GOVERNANCE

**The Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre** (trading as Burrinja) was Incorporated as a not-for-profit cultural organisation in July 1998.

The organisation received Charity status for taxation purposes in October 2015.

Board Members serve 3 year rotating terms.

The Board of Management met for 11 ordinary meetings from Nov 2015 to Oct 2016 on a monthly basis, with the Executive Director in attendance.

**abn** 23 672 833 616

**Inc** A0036860V

### IN PARTNERSHIP - YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

The Partnering Agreement between Burrinja and the Yarra Ranges Council establishes 'a mutually beneficial alliance between Burrinja and the Council to ensure effective planning, development and delivery of arts and cultural services for the Dandenong Ranges region in keeping with the aims and objectives of Burrinja and relevant Council policies including Vision 2020 and the Cultural Policy and Action Plan.

Burrinja has recently finalised negotiations with Council on its next three year Partnering Agreement to 2018.

### SUB COMMITTEES: 2015-16

The following sub-committees pursued specific tasks with regular, scheduled meetings throughout the year.

#### GOVERNANCE

Mary Fitz-gerald, Paul O'Halloran, Annette Rudd, Zac Exner

#### FINANCE

Sue Amico, Louis Delacretaz, Matthew Posetti, Jon Whitehead (June 2016)

Jon Whitehead has deputised ex-officio with the Treasurer since June - succession planning.

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

Matthew Posetti, Mary Fitz-gerald, Paul O'Halloran, Annette Rudd

#### BELGRAVE COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP (Lantern Parade)

Burrinja Reps: Ross Farnell.

#### BELGRAVE SURVIVAL DAY

Burrinja Rep: Aunty Janet Turpie-Johnstone

#### PUBLIC FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (ROCO)

Sue Amico, Mary Fitz-Gerald, Cr Noel Cliff (YRC), Janet Turpie-Johnstone, Dr Ross Farnell

The public fund sub-committee was re-convened in 2015-16 with the granting of charity status and fund-raising activities.

Burrinja is also represented by the Executive Director Ross Farnell with the following peak organisations:

- YARRA RANGES TOURISM:  
Chair Arts & Culture Working Group; Member Marketing Sub-Committee
- PUBLIC GALLERIES ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (PGAV)
- VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTRES (VAPAC)
- MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA) - with JD Mittmann

### STRATEGIC & BUSINESS PLAN : 2016-2020

Burrinja developed and adopted a new combined four year Strategic and Business Plan in April 2016, updating all aspects of the previous 2013 plan. It is designed to be concise, actionable and measurable, guiding the Organisation operationally and creatively until 2020.

Key Goals and KPIs are in this report with current benchmarks and targets.

The full plan is available on the Burrinja web site.



Uncle Ray Davison—Black Mist Burnt Country opening. Welcome to Country

## ORGANISATION—BOARD & GOVERNANCE

Name	Member since	Position	Key Skill Sets	Ordinary Meetings 2014-15	Sub-committee Meetings
Matthew Posetti	2012	President	Tertiary & Cultural Sector Planning and Co-ordination, Performing Arts Management	10	3
Mary Fitz-gerald	2008	Vice President	Education Sector and Management, Financial, HR, Governance, Strategic Planning	8	3
Paul O'Halloran	1999	Secretary	Education sector. Risk Management, Health, Projects and HR. Strategic Planning	10	3
Susan Amico	1999	Treasurer	Treasurer. Business & Administration, Financial, Planning	11	2
Holly DeMaria	2015	Ordinary	Arts & Community Cultural Development, Youth, Events, Local Government, Business	7	0
Louis Delacretaz	1999	Ordinary	Leadership, Business, Governance, Finance and Community, Strategic Planning	9	2
Zac Exner	2015	Ordinary	Marketing, Publicity, Promotions in the Arts. Festivals, Events.	6	1
Annette Rudd	2015	Ordinary	Governance, Project Management, Strategic Planning, Health & Arts, Evaluation	6	1
Janet Turpie-Johnstone	2014	Ordinary	Aboriginal Equity, Governance, Leadership, Training, Assessing	7	2
Cr. Noel Cliff	2008	YR Council	Local ward Councillor..	5	0
Cr. Mike Clarke	2015	YR Council	Local ward Councillor.	10	0

\* Total Ordinary Board Meetings from Nov to Oct was 11.



Cr Noel Cliff opens VCE exhibition 2016

# STRATEGIC & BUSINESS PLAN | 2016 - 2020

## GOALS, 2016 BASELINE & ANNUAL TARGETS

Following an extensive review Burrinja developed and adopted a new combined four year Strategic and Business Plan in April 2016. This included updating our organisation's four strategic goals, and modifying our incorporated statements of purpose. The latter was partly concerned with compliance regards our Charity status.

Our goals, aims and purpose are still well aligned with our vision - *building community through arts*.

The plan is designed to be concise, actionable and measurable, guiding the Organisation operationally and creatively until 2020. It includes revised and prioritised strategic actions to reach our KPIs, updated program plan and overview, and specifies ways of measuring outcomes.

The full plan can be downloaded from our web site.

The annual targets set in the strategic plan are based on benchmarks current as at July 2016.

Goal	KPI	Annual Targets <sup>1</sup>			
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
<b>1. Making great arts &amp; culture</b>  <i>a) To enable, facilitate and develop experiential and extended arts practice and programs across diverse art forms and cultural activities within the region;</i>  <i>b) To be recognised and valued locally and nationally for empowering artists in the development of distinctive, original arts and cultural practices.</i>	Increase organisational capacity to support artists & development of new work / arts practice <sup>2</sup>	1.9 FTE	2.2 EFT	2.4 EFT	2.4 EFT
	Develop / co-produce cross-platform/ partnered, innovative programs / tours / events <sup>3</sup>	4 per annum	5 per annum	6 per annum	6 per annum
	Support, enable, engage region's artists in their practice	450+ artists directly enabled / 35+ projects	5% increase	5% increase	5% increase
	Burrinja identified as supporting artists and creative practice in the region	75% by annual survey (2015)	+ 5%	Maintain	Maintain
	Studio practice at Burrinja is active, accessible, engaged	Studio Artist satisfaction KPIs met	Studio Artist satisfaction KPIs met	Studio Artist satisfaction KPIs met	Studio Artist satisfaction KPIs met
<b>2. Embedding Indigenous culture and cultural heritage</b>  <i>Valuing, appreciating, engaging and enabling Indigenous culture is embedded across the organisation's practices and programming, including museum standard collection management and curatorial practices</i>	Indigenous artists/ cultural workers engaged in programs / program delivery	Minimum 10 Indigenous arts workers engaged	Minimum 10 Indigenous arts workers engaged	Plus 15%	Plus 15%
	Indigenous community is actively engaged formally & informally	Negotiate relationship with current network	Formal Partnership created – developed	Partnerships maintained	Partnerships increased
	Increasing Burrinja identification with Indigenous culture (Annual Survey)	70% by Survey (2015)	70% of surveyed	75%	80%
	Museum Accreditation certification and collection / ethical best practices maintained	Successful 3 Year MAP Review	Maintain MAP and review standards	Maintain MAP and review standards	Maintain MAP and review standards
	Community engages with accessible Indigenous cultural programming (Annual Survey)	Not surveyed	25%	30%	35%

## STRATEGIC & BUSINESS PLAN | 2016 - 2020

Goal	KPI	Annual Targets <sup>1</sup>			
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
<b>3. Community connections - Audience engagement</b>  <i>To extend Burrinja's cultural reach into and engagement with the community including non-traditional arts audiences regionally and beyond. Programming and facilitating shared and captivating community cultural events that contribute to the vibrancy, diversity and resilience of the region's cultural and social ecology.</i>	Increase attendances by 10% per annum	65k	71k	78k	86k
	Regular Qualitative program participation surveys measure engagement, impact and level of service provision inc Cafe. <sup>4&amp;5</sup>	Report October	Report October	Report October	Report October
	Burrinja impact on region's cultural and social fabric recognised in community. <sup>4</sup>	80% by Survey	80% by Survey	85% by Survey	85% by Survey
	Burrinja is strongly connected with region's arts community and leaders	Active within key regional arts / cultural events	Regional event stakeholders maintained	New stakeholders engaged	New stakeholders engaged
	Brand, Values and CCD recognition increased. <sup>4</sup>	75% by survey	80% by survey	85% by survey	85% by survey
	Extend Membership & Volunteer support base	Membership +20%	+10%	+10%	+10%
<b>4. Good governance</b>  <i>A healthy and sustainable organisation that enables goals and strategies to be achieved and exceeded, valuing creativity and innovation.</i>	Board governance, skills and professional development reviews. <sup>6</sup>	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
	Professional & creative development – Staff, volunteers.	PD as identified	PD as identified	PD as identified	PD as identified
	Generate a minimum 2.5% surplus each year	As % of operational budget			
	Diversify and strengthen revenue sources inc non-government / philanthropic - foundation and other government	Earned Income 42%	Earned Income 40+% / other non-Govt revenue 3%	Earned Income 45% / other non-Govt revenue 4%	Earned Income 45%+ / other non-Govt revenue 5%
	Improve facility sustainability, gallery & studio usability & visibility, patron access. Reduce running costs.	Pitch concepts to government	Obtain feasibility & design funding	Leverage feasibility to secure Interface funding	Internal Capital works program undertaken
	Risk Management Plan monitored, assessed, updated regularly. Actions completed. staff & Board	Actions/risks reviewed bi-annual-staff, annual-board			
	Implement Continuous Improvement (CI) Policies and Plans across the organisation. Linked to Risk	CI Policy developed, review, adopted	CI implementation Plans developed	CI plan targets met	CI plan targets met

- 2016-17 Annual Targets are Current Benchmarks as achieved at July 1 2016
- Increases in FTE resources for CCD dependant on increased income, donations or funding.
- Annual targets re programming are linked to increased EFT resources for CCD roles.
- Based on Annual Survey which precedes each year's Annual Report and AGM.
- Survey's included customer service measurements for both the Organisation and for the Café operated via the Catering Services Agreement. See separate KPIs for CSA.
- Annual pre-AGM 'self-assessment' process by Board Members comprising updating Skills Matrix and Board Effectiveness Survey, with professional development needs and opportunities identified.

## A YEAR AT BURRINJA IS...



OVER **90,000** ATTENDING BURRINJA & SUPPORTED EVENTS | **20,000+** TICKETS SOLD | OVER **7,500** PERFORMERS ON OUR STAGE | **200+** PERFORMANCES – DRAMA, COMEDY, DANCE, PHYSICAL, MUSICAL, FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S THEATRE | **18** EXHIBITIONS - HUNDREDS OF ARTISTS | BURRINJA **THEATRE SEASON** - 30+ SHOWS, 5,900 PATRONS | **378 WORKSHOPS** - CREATING, ENGAGING, LEARNING, ENJOYING | DANDENONG RANGES **OPEN STUDIOS** – 36 STUDIOS, 7,500 VISITORS | BELGRAVE **LANTERN PARADE** – 10,000 PARTICIPANTS, TENTH YEAR CELEBRATION | BELGRAVE **SURVIVAL DAY** – CELEBRATING CULTURE WITH KUTCHA EDWARDS | **END OF THE LINE** FESTIVAL – 10,000 ATTENDING | **HILLSCENE ZINE** – 4 FABULOUS ISSUES | **HILLSCENE LIVE** – DOZENS OF PERFORMANCES | BURRINJA **ARTIES** – SUPPORTING THOSE AT RISK THROUGH ARTS | **MORE ARTIST STUDIOS @ BURRINJA** – **ENABLING ARTS PRACTICE** | **SCHOOLS** – A DOZEN SCHOOLS; THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN **PERFORMING** | **VCE** EXHIBITIONS – OVER 30 **EMERGING** YOUNG ARTISTS | **EDUCATION** PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS | **COMMUNITY THEATRE** | **CIRCUS FESTIVAL** – 1000+ PARTICIPANTS - WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCES | **EMERGING ARTISTS** – OPEN STUDIOS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT | **DANCE TRACKS**—DANCE HERE, NEW WORKS, NEW AUDIENCES | **MCLEOD GIFT COLLECTION SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT** | **INDIGENOUS** CULTURAL PROGRAMS | BURRINJA **KIDS STAY & PLAY** - 4 CURATED ACTIVITIES | **CULTURE TRACKS** - REGION-WIDE CULTURAL PROGRAM | **40 VOLUNTEERS** SUPPORTED | **4000 VOLUNTEER HOURS** | **CLASSICAL TRACKS** - 12 OF THE FINEST CLASSICAL MUSIC PERFORMANCES REGION-WIDE | SUPPORTING **LOCAL MUSICIANS** THROUGH THE NICHOLAS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA | OVER **7,000 E-SUBSCRIBERS** | BRINGING **MELBOURNE FRINGE** TO THE HILLS | **CO-PRODUCING NEW WORKS** WITH INDEPENDENT ARTISTS | AUPSICING **GRANTS** FOR NUMEROUS ARTISTS AND THEIR **PROJECTS** | DEVELOPED **BLACK MIST BURNT COUNTRY** NATIONAL TOURING EXHIBITION | **MELBOURNE NOW** KIDS ON TOUR



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past twelve months have been overwhelmingly positive both for Burrinja and in turn, for arts and culture in the Dandenong Ranges. As a centre and organisation, I believe we have been more engaged with the community, our artists, stakeholders and the broader arts sector and peers than ever before.

There were some key developments at both the State and Local Government levels in arts and culture. Continuing its transition from Arts Victoria to Creative Victoria, the State Government worked on developing its new Creative State industry strategy. Burrinja ensured it was an active player in the consultation process, resulting in a comprehensive response from the Board to the creative industries task force. Our submission included valuing cultural integrity over 'excellence', strategies to create a truly inclusive cultural ecology, embedding Aboriginal culture across the entire sector, and the need for consistent, affordable sector-wide social impact measurement tools for the arts.

Like most local government areas, Yarra Ranges Council undertook comprehensive reviews of departmental structures in response to the implementation of rate-capping – and the Arts, Culture and Heritage department was no exception. As Council's major Partnering organisation in this sector, Burrinja's operations and deliverables were also scrutinised as a part of this service review.

There was great news for arts and culture across the whole region, with 200,000 people using cultural facilities annually, 150 community groups utilising the venues, over 500 programmed events annually and 20 festivals and events funded each year – and that's really just the tip of the iceberg. It was also found that arts and culture has reduced its actual cost to council over the past three years.

More specifically the Board was extremely pleased with the review's finding that:

*Council's investment in Burrinja is well utilized. ... The deeper community involvement in the governance and operation of Burrinja ... developed through nearly 20 years of community participation... is an added value beyond the financial. The participation, community involvement, activity generated and cultural outcomes achieved indicate that the Burrinja model of arms length operation is both efficient and effective in its delivery.*

We look forward to continuing our long and productive partnership relationship with the now re-structured Department of Creative Communities and with Council more broadly.

Our organisation also undertook a full review of its own strategic plan, and in May 2016 we adopted the new Strategic and Business Plan 2016-20. This plan brings together our strategic and business plans for the first time into one comprehensive and concise document that signposts our clear priorities and direction for the coming four years. It incorporates refinements of our strategic goals and purposes, along with the KPIs and prioritised strategies to achieve the desired outcomes for the organisation and for cultural development in the region. The plan places a strong emphasis on enabling and facilitating vibrant arts and cultural development, and we have witnessed some great outcomes in those areas this year.



The past twelve months has again seen Burrinja enable a whole raft of events that activate our region's townships and spaces – from Dandenong Ranges Open Studios and the Belgrave Lantern Parade, to Belgrave Survival Day, the End of the Line Festival and HillsceneLIVE. We were particularly pleased to be able to work with the HillsceneLIVE team this year to develop and successfully put in place an alternative funding model with Burrinja's support that has ensured a fabulous 3 day festival of live art in October 2016.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued*

Our artist studio spaces have never been more active or oversubscribed, with lack of space to meet demand now becoming our key challenge. Fourteen artists now share a variety of permanent and semi-permanent spaces at Burrinja – creating new work and contributing to our cultural hub. We are looking at both short term responses to expand artist accommodation as well as pursuing master planning and funding to implement a capital works program that will increase building efficiency and reduce costs, while improving internal layout to the gallery, studio and café spaces, providing better usability, visibility and patron flow for all spaces.

Innovative programming is always pursued and Burrinja is pleased to have teamed up with Gasworks Art Park, the City of Kingston and other partners on the Small Gems consortium. Small Gems aims to develop and support new performing arts work by commissioning independent works that are of professional quality and contemporary interest across various performance genres in order to help create new work, support artists with a track record of high quality production output, and contribute positively to the Australian theatre scene.

In the education sphere we have officially partnered with the Victorian Association of Philosophy in Schools to deliver into Burrinja the Ethical Capabilities curriculum, utilising both Burrinja itself and cultural artefacts at the centre as the key launching pads for ethical inquiry by students. With pilot programs beginning late 2016 we look forward to this program rolling out over the next few years.

The successful funding, development and delivery of the Black Mist Burnt Country national touring exhibition – Testing the Bomb, Maralinga and Australian Art – has been an enormous undertaking for Burrinja that is taking us onto the national and international stage. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Curator JD Mittmann in successfully bringing this project to fruition, a remarkable achievement. We look forward to the exhibition travelling Australia for 2 years before coming to Burrinja in late 2018.

On the home front an unexpected termination of the 2015 catering services agreement to operate the café was initial cause for concern. The process to find a new operator was pursued quickly and strategically with many diverse options and models explored. We were delighted to secure the Skylark Room partnership to operate the café from May this year. They have a significant emphasis on curating creativity and are well aligned with Burrinja's core purpose, creating a terrific cultural fit and we look forward to our ongoing partnership.

My thanks to all our volunteers whose dedication and commitment are gratefully acknowledged. Burrinja simply would not operate without their contribution and support across so many facets of what we do and achieve. Thank you also to Yarra Ranges Council and the staff of Creative Communities especially for their ongoing support and spirit of creative partnership.

Finally as President on behalf of the board I would also like to acknowledge and applaud the dedication, leadership and unwavering energy of our Executive Director, Dr Ross Farnell, as well our broader staff and leadership team at Burrinja.

**MATTHEW POSETTI** | President



Cr Mike Clarke & guests - VCE Creative Showcase opening

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2015-16

### Foreword

As this will be the last Treasurer's report I present, I'd like to share a brief recollection of my time as Burrinja's Treasurer over the last 18 years:-

The Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre (DRCCC) held its Inaugural AGM on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1998, at which I was nominated to the Committee of Management, and then appointed to the position of Treasurer at the Committee Meeting held four days later.

Among eight other Committee members appointed at that meeting were Louis Delacretaz (Chairperson), Jenny Saulwick (appointed as Deputy Chair and Public Officer), and Paul O'Halloran, who were members of the original Special Committee of Council. Louis and Paul still hold positions as Directors on the current Burrinja Board.



Sadly, we would farewell Dennis Rowntree, our Legal Eagle on the Board, and in September of 2013 - Sid Lawrence, who gave so much of his time as a volunteer, board member and 'Mr Fix-It' – carrying out many Burrinja building projects, particularly in the early days. Jenny Saulwick became a personal artistic mentor and friend to me and my granddaughter – Jenny died in May of 2016. All three made major contributions to Burrinja and are sadly missed.

In the early days, Shirley Leembruggen coordinated a small core of generous and enthusiastic volunteers who formed 'Front of House', carrying out reception duties and assisting with admin tasks. One of our key volunteers was David Jewell, our computer guru, who to this day remains our 'go to' person for anything technical! The only staff member employed was Jane Kent who was employed in March 1998 as Executive Officer for a twelve month period. In February 1999, Sue Hewitt joined the team as part-time Administration Officer, assisting with the running of the facility and its bookkeeping.

Having previously worked for the Shire of Sherbrooke in its hay day prior to Council amalgamation, I recall in 1998 a sad, tired looking building stripped of any usable furniture and office equipment. Consequently, the first year Jane focused on administrative tasks, resourcing equipment, finding tenants and establishing initial links in the community. Board members were very hands-on and became skilled at a variety of things, including sausage sizzles! The Shire of Yarra Ranges then, as it does today, generously provided us with funding and financial assistance.

Community groups such as D.Ranged Artworks (Robyn Holtham, Joy Serwylo and others), DR LETS (Graeme Taylor), YREC Arts Incubator (a social enterprise initiative), YNET Plus (a Swinburne & SOYR joint project) and Dandenong Ranges Folk Alliance occupied studio spaces and created great activity within the Centre. Neil McLeod also leased a sizeable portion of the building from Council and using his artistic genius had created the indigenous gallery called 'Burrinja' and the most wonderful café and music venue, 'Uncle Neil's Place'. With deep ochre and ocean blue curved walls, this would become the inspiration for the Centre in its earlier years. I still miss Neil's full size cast crocodile that hung on the wall, watching over the café patrons! Neil was, and still is, an important influence, contributor and creative presence at Burrinja.

In February, 1999 the Committee advertised the position of Executive Officer and on April 6<sup>th</sup> appointed Dr Ross Farnell and that's when things really started to happen for the organisation. We suddenly had a Venue Brochure, a



Facilities Questionnaire, a quarterly DRCCC Newsletter, hiring discount initiatives and an increased media presence. Ross was, and continues to be, a master at writing funding applications and, as a result, exciting projects were finally achievable, including the Children's Literacy Centre - a passion of Paul O'Halloran's. Through the years, the number of successful grants has been extensive, along with the long list of projects and events that have been achieved, the ultimate success being the \$9.6 million combined government grant that saw the building of the Theatre, Jarmbi Gallery, administration offices and a new foyer, including the long awaited elevator! The 400 seat Theatre opened in July 2011.

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2015-16 *continued*

Here's a snapshot of then and now -

	<u>1998 – 1999</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Revenue & Funding	\$73,573	\$1,075,172
Staff	1.2 (FTE)	7.5 (FTE)
Volunteers	16	32

As the Centre began to grow, so did the staff and volunteer numbers. I was pleased to be a part of the Interview Panel that interviewed and appointed JD Mittman and Toni Kirk – we interviewed Toni via Skype as she was in the UK!

In the year 2000, Neil McLeod donated a large collection of Australian Aboriginal and South Pacific art and artefacts to the Shire of Yarra Ranges, which became the McLeod Gift/Burrinja collection and was to be managed on behalf of Council by DRCCC. This led to Burrinja's touring exhibition 'Footprint of the Spirits' in 2004 to New Zealand. These were exciting times – Burrinja was awarded 'Best Small Museum' by Museums Australia (Vic) in 2010 and 2013. In addition, and through a tremendous amount of work over three years by the Board, staff members and in particular, our Curator, JD Mittman, Burrinja achieved Accreditation by Museums Australia (Vic) in 2014.

Nowhere in my wildest imaginings, could I have envisioned in 1998 how the DRCCC over the years to come would bring together so many facets of our creative community – its artists, writers, musicians and performers. Nor could I have dreamt that the Centre would develop into the world class facility with its performance spaces, artists studios, gathering and gallery spaces that Burrinja is today. It has been an incredible, exciting journey to be a part of for so long – with so many new friendships forged through Burrinja, our Board and the arts and music community. I've gained a deep appreciation for what a community can do when they pull together for something they so dearly want and need. I smile with satisfaction when I reflect on some of the projects that we have been able to initiate or auspice – Burrinja Arties, Dance Tracks, VCE Creative Showcase, Lantern Parade, Open Studios, Hillscene and Hillscene LIVE, Belgrave Survival Day, End of the Line Festival etc. These days, when I attend events at Burrinja, I stand back and watch the Centre full of students, patrons and whole families engaging in performances and exhibitions and I feel a true sense of pride in our accomplishments.

A spinoff from being a Board Member for me was the opportunity to be involved in a couple of events that were initiated by the Board and I also had the great pleasure being involved in The Crochet Coral Reef, initiated by our Volunteer Coordinator Tracy Haylar and a number of keen volunteers - all wielding crochet hooks, armfuls of wool, plastic bags, video tape and bundles of enthusiasm! Over a year, we had an amazing time creating a wonderful exhibition and making many friends. Open Studios was also a favorite project of mine in the early days and I am so pleased to see its success.

Being part of Burrinja has been a truly rewarding experience for me on a personal level and without my involvement I may have missed meeting some incredible people and opportunities. It brought art and music back into my life after a long absence and I am continually thankful for that. Good things happen at Burrinja!

There is a fine line between maintaining knowledge, a sense of history and continuity within a management board, and on the other hand ensuring an injection of fresh ideas, with enhanced skill levels and expertise to carry the organisation forward. From that viewpoint and with the jump in our financial growth once the Theatre was up and running, I decided a couple of years ago that it was time to start considering an exit plan and to begin looking for someone who would take the role of Treasurer to another level. Together with Ross and Board Members, we started to



Mullum Mullum Choir—BSD 2016

look for someone who I, in particular, would have confidence in to hand over the role! I am happy to report that this past three months we have been fortunate to have Jon Whitehead seconded to our Board as Assistant Treasurer and who has nominated to stand at this AGM for the position of Treasurer. I'm sure you will find his CV impressive.

*And so it is with both sadness and great pride that I present my last Burrinja Treasurer's report:*

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2015-16 *continued*

The 2015-16 financial year again witnessed an above-CPI growth in income on the previous year's operations, while shifts in expenses were kept to lower than CPI during the year.

Revenue increased 5.0% on the previous year's total revenues, again surpassing the \$1million milestone in operational receipts, while expenses were just 2.4% higher, producing a small operational surplus at 1.07% of revenue.

There were no significant reportable shifts in the fiscal results for any of our key operational areas.

### **Financial Reporting - Auditor**

The Board retained for the fifth year the services of independent auditors David McBain (FCA) of McBain, McCartin and Co, Level 1, 123 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn VIC, 3103, to review the organisation's accounts and financial processes for the 2015-16 year.

This year's audit of Burrinja's bookkeeping, accounting and reporting practices and processes produced a positive audit report as regards sound accounting process, policy and practice. The Board is satisfied that the current documentation, tracking, reporting and auditing of the organisation's finances is comprehensive, accurate and appropriate for the current level of financial and associated activity such as payroll and liabilities.

With a view to continuous improvement however we are migrating in the coming 2016-17 financial year to a new cloud-based accounting package that will allow easier Board access to all aspects of the accounts and will greatly improve bookkeeping efficiencies and reduce the use of office paper.

Burrinja's day-to-day bookkeeping during the financial year was again undertaken in-house by Bookkeeper Bronwyn Millen; working with the Executive Director, Finance Sub-committee and auditors.

### **Financial Performance 2015-16**

A Net Operating Surplus of \$ 11,514 was reported for the 2015-16 year, or 1.07% of total revenue.

The Assets and Liabilities Statement (Financial Position) produced a Total Equity retained of \$42,392, increasing from \$30,878 in the previous financial year.

Total revenue for the year was \$1,075,172 including earned income, funding and trading revenue, a pleasing 5.0% increase on the previous year's revenue of \$1,023,236.

Expenditure including payroll, programming, administration and facility costs for 2015-16 totaled \$1,063,658, a small 2.4% increase on the previous year. Payroll including on-costs continues to account for just over 55% of total expenditure, a figure that has not changed substantially over the past years. Utility costs stabilised in the past year after a series of previous year increases, with their share of total expenditure now at 8.1% down from 9.2%. Marketing and Administration costs were reduced both in real and percentage terms.

Net Cash generated from operating activities was \$377,178, an increase from \$84,772 in the previous year, with Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the year increasing from \$146,973 in 2014-15 to \$515,742 at June 30, 2016.

This significant increase in cash flow and cash at end of year is due in no small part to the successful Visions Australia funding for the Black Mist Burnt Country national touring exhibition which contributed \$250,546, to be expended on exhibition development and touring costs over the next 3 years. \$59,450 of this funding was expended during the past year as the exhibition was developed for a September 2016 launch.

The Board was again pleased to produce results within budget forecasts. Gross Income was up 101.6% compared to budget; Total Expenses plus Cost of Goods combined ran at 102.4% of budget.

This result was particularly pleasing given the unexpected changeover of Catering Services Contractor mid-financial year, resulting in the Café operating on either limited service or closed for over 5 months. A rigorous process of reviewing budgets, income and expenditures across all operational areas combined with putting in place a contingency foyer-based café operation limited any impact on the end of year result.

## TREASURER'S REPORT *continued*

### **Burrinja Public Fund**

The Burrinja Public Fund has Tax Deductible Gift status through the Register of Cultural Organisations.

As at June 30, 2016 the Burrinja Public Fund had total equity of \$6,392, an increase of \$5,448 thanks to the generous donations of community members and their response to our May-June 'Keep Art Free' fund-raising campaign.

### **Charity Status**

As of October 1, 2015, Burrinja was registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission as a Charity, with the purpose of 'advancing arts and culture'. This successful Charity for taxation purposes ruling grants the organisation confirmed exemption from income tax, payroll tax, and certain limited FBT Rebate eligibility. We also anticipate benefits in dealing with the philanthropic sector in the future, and the Cultural Gifts Program.

### **Budget 2016 - 17**

Budgeting for the current financial year is based on a combination of the past three financial year trends in operating revenues and expenses, visitation and patronage along with patterns of hiring, usage forecasts and committed future bookings, as well as strategic expenditure priorities and commitments as regards arts and cultural programming, and those staffing and other resources necessary to realise those strategic and programming objectives.

While earned revenue will increase in the coming year in real terms it will reduce to just under 40% of Burrinja's total operational income due to the level of funding and expenditure coming through the Australia Council's funding of the Black Mist Burnt Country exhibition, which at \$140,000 will account for just on 12% of the operational budget in 2016-17.

Revenue from the theatre makes up over 16% of total income including staff re-charges and ticketing revenue, and income from performing arts box office sales accounts for approximately 10% of revenues. Funding from Yarra Ranges Council again reduces as a percentage to 44% of operational revenues, while we are budgeting for increased revenues from other fund-raising and philanthropic funding in the coming year.

Payroll remains the biggest cost in delivering Burrinja's services, and will account for 51% of total expenditure in 2016-17 when combined with staffing on-costs, down from 56% in the previous year.

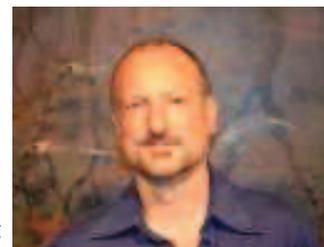
For 2016-17 Burrinja has budgeted an unusually high 9.5% increase in total operating revenue to \$1,176,000 when including all external funding. As always, expenses remain tightly controlled to produce a budgeted surplus of just over \$18,500, with the Board working toward its strategic planning target for increased organisational equity and reserves over the coming years.

*My thanks extend to many Burrinja people over the years – the generous volunteers, the wonderful staff who have given so much of themselves, their commitment, time and creativity, and the Burrinja Members and Friends. I wish to express my greatest thanks and appreciation to Bronwyn Millen and Toni Kirk for their contributions and efforts in the financial management of Burrinja. Thank you to Ross Farnell in particular, not only for his part in the financial management and close working relationship with me as Treasurer, but for his many years of dedication in leading this organisation to where it is today. It is his genuine and inclusive management style that contributes so much to making happy, dedicated staff members who want to be a part of the Burrinja family and happily spend their work days in this beautiful, creative space.*

*To my fellow Board Members, I look back fondly on our Board meetings – stimulating, sometimes contentious, occasionally celebratory (especially when STAX was on the Board), often good humoured and always creative with ideas and philosophy spouting forth (especially when Paul was in attendance)! I will miss those meetings! But I will not miss Burrinja, because I will continue to visit on a regular basis, attend exhibitions, openings, performances and 'hang out' at The Skylark Room! I wish Burrinja continued success and the recognition that it deserves for its contribution to Building Community through Arts.*

**SUSAN AMICO** | Treasurer

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Once again Burrinja has experienced a terrifically productive year. We have traversed areas as diverse as governance, where our new strategic plan will guide us over the next four years; financial management, where registered Charity status will open up philanthropic and other fund-raising possibilities; operations, where continuous improvement saw new effective procedures implemented; and of course – ‘making great arts and culture’.

As ever, this report details so many of those ways in which Burrinja has enabled, produced and presented arts and culture both within our venues and across the ranges and I encourage all to delve deep into those stories herein. It is in these stories that the true outcomes of our strategic goal ‘community connections – audience engagement’ resides, as too does the overarching mission ‘building community through arts’.

The ‘Burrinja narrative’ was a consistent theme and focus throughout this year. Whilst looking to capture the essence of that story it became clear that ours has been a resilient history entwined with community activism.

This activism and grass-roots community campaigning was here exactly 20 years ago when the community came together in protest to save the old Sherbrooke Shire offices and create what is now Burrinja. Two key speakers at that event were Louis Delacretaz – who went on to be inaugural president of the cultural centre in 1998 and is still on the board today – and artist/ activist Lin Onus who tragically passed away suddenly the day after the meeting was held. His vision for an inclusive, integrated arts and cultural centre is acknowledged with the centre named after Lin, whose Yorta Yorta name ‘Burrinja’ means ‘star’.

Many present that day and actively involved with the centre over the years to come have also been engaged in protecting their community and environment during numerous other campaigns. That activism again came to the fore in 2008 when the community mobilised successfully to have \$2m in Federal funding restored to the Burrinja Theatre project. It is that community spirit that has resulted in the lasting legacy that is Burrinja.

The importance of this legacy today is that it continues to inform the way we program and enable arts and culture, our willingness to say “yes, let’s give it a go” ; whether that be finding an alternative model to fund projects, creating more space at Burrinja for artists, or making the ambitious three year national touring exhibition Black Mist Burnt Country become reality.

I look forward to more brave choices in the future. Programs like the Small Gems consortium are a great example, with three co-produced shows in the 2017 ‘fringe’ season at Burrinja, as are exciting developments for emerging artists in Open Studios and beyond, and the commissioning of new work for our performance season.

Our new strategic plan formulates a pathway that will increase the organisation’s capacity to deliver and measure the impact of these diverse programs in the region. This aims to ensure the sustainability of current programming, while allocating increased resources to creative development, artist and community support. Resource building and revenue diversification will be pursued variously through targeted marketing strategies to increase earned revenue and venue utilisation, through activating the organisation’s charity registration and tax concessions, seeking expanded sponsorship, fundraising and partnerships, and by looking to new external funding opportunities.

Burrinja is also pursuing master planning and funding to implement a capital works program that will increase building efficiency and reduce costs, while improving internal layout to the gallery, studio and café spaces, providing better usability, visibility and patron flow for all spaces.

Burrinja is creating the vision, plan and supporting structures to see it not only strengthen its existing role as the region’s cultural hub, but to expand that role further to enable and support new arts practice and endeavour, contributing positively to the creative, social and economic outcomes that strengthen the region’s cultural ecology.

Thank you again to Greg Box, Manager of the newly evolved department of Creative Communities at Council, and to all within that team for the collaborative work undertaken throughout the year, including the service review.

Thank you to our President Matt Posetti and the Board for their unwavering support, and a special thankyou to Sue Amico whom I have had the absolute pleasure of working with as our Treasurer since I began in this role many years ago. Sue has always been the most engaged, active supporter of the centre in so many ways exceeding the Treasurer role. While she will be missed on the Board, I know we’ll see her often enjoying the centre’s cultural life.

And to the team who make Burrinja such a wonderfully creative space for ideas to grow and develop - our fabulous staff and volunteers - thanks for all of your ‘above and beyond’ support throughout the year to make all that we do possible.

**DR ROSS FARNELL** | Executive Director

## VENUE MANAGER'S REPORT

### A HOME FOR SCHOOLS IN THE HILLS

Beyond the clearly defined community cultural development projects Burrinja runs there is also a more discrete role that Burrinja plays in supporting the artistic life of our community. Every year Burrinja supports local schools to present a production. Term 3 is "school production season" as local school children, all 3000 of them, from 11 schools perform to family and friends.

In 2015-2016 7500 people came to watch the 27 school performances over the 8 week period. The benefits to schools of having a local facility that can support this type of activity are unmeasurable. Anecdotal feedback from teachers and the school communities tells us that students develop a great sense of achievement, pride and comradery performing in a professional theatre. Students return year after year and are developing a connection to Burrinja that we hope will stay with them into adulthood, creating a lifelong love of the arts and live performance.

#### The school productions in 2015-2016 were:

Belgrave South Primary School	Don't Stop Believing
Belgrave Heights Christian College	Beauty and the Beast
Fairhills Primary	The Tunnel
Ferny Creek Primary	Pirates of the Curry Bean
Macclesfield Primary	When you wish upon a star
Mater Christi College	The Wiz
Monbulk Primary	It's a kinda magic
Scoresby Secondary College	Sergeant Peppers Music Circus
St Josephs College	Seussical the Musical
St Thomas More Primary	Gladiators
Upwey South Primary	Snow White & the 7 other Dwarves



#### The Burrinja Team

All this activity requires a great commitment from our Front of House team. Burrinja is very fortunate to have a very dedicated team of Technicians, Duty Managers, Ushers and Parking Marshalls who deliver an exemplary service to patrons and venue users.

We would like to thank the team for all the hours of work they dedicate to supporting this important activity:

Technicians: Liam Mitchinson, Trevor Ploeg, Steve Wickenton

Performance Duty Managers: Jane Thomas, Bluzal Field, Gareth Hart, Melanie Berry,

Ushers: Dallas Hart, Lene Henricksen, Jake Honeyman, Britt Westaway, Ellie Dimitroff, Dan Draper, Katherine Reynolds, Kieran Dennis

Parking Marshalls: Laurence Schinina and Mitchell Cattini-Shultz

There have been a few movements within the team this year:

Ellie Dimitroff, an usher for 3 years, returned to Tasmania to complete her animation studies and to be closer to her family.

Dan Draper, a long standing volunteer, joined the usher team.

Gareth Hart stepped back from his role as a Duty Manager and was successfully appointed to the maternity leave role of Community Cultural Development Officer.

Melanie Berry was welcomed back to Burrinja as a Duty Manager following her maternity leave.

Trevor Ploeg joined the Technical team having worked for a year as a casual technician

Steve Wickenton known to many as "Magic Steve" left to pursue his passion in Magic. Steve started as a casual technician some 10 years ago and was appointed as the permanent venue technician in 2011 when we opened the theatre. We are very grateful for all his contributions over the years. His good humour and accommodating attitude made such a significant contribution to the success of the theatre and staff, volunteers and users were all sad to see him leave.

**TONI KIRK** | Venue Manager

## THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Each year Burrinja produces a detailed report on all of its activities, attendances and outcomes as part of its annual audit and measurement of performance. While these numbers do not tell the important qualitative cultural narrative of experience, outcomes and community/ social impact, they are key performance indicators of important quantitative outcomes and measures.

These results are made available also to the Yarra Ranges Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage department as part of their annual review of cultural performance across all Council venues including Burrinja, and to Creative Victoria as part of our annual reporting on cultural activity across the region.

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ACTIVITY TYPE	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	Notes
Total Attendance - All events, external, general	91,889	84,813	79,839	Inc Burrinja and off-site enabled events
Theatre audience attendance ticketed - All events	20,142	21,286	19,841	
Burrinja theatre season attendance - ticketed:	5,874	5,293	4,443	
Performance attendance - other	20,142	19,728	16,755	Includes ticketed school, dance, hire events
Theatre performers:	7,800	7,612	8,675	Includes students and dance school performers
Community Cultural Development Events / Festivals	28,000	19,000	18,855	Inc Open Studios, Lantern Parade, Survival Day, EOTL
Total number exhibitions	18	35	32	
Total exhibition days - All galleries	1,095	4,572	1,152	Days per gallery - Reduced
Total number performances	204	184	185	
Total number workshop sessions	378	311	316	
Workshop attendances	3615	4,146	4,459	
Ticketed revenue Burrinja events only	\$143,000	\$130,864	\$125,080	
External Hirers box office takings	\$283,500	\$298,219		

## MARKETING

The 2015/16 financial year saw the introduction of a number of exciting new developments in marketing and promotion at Burrinja.

In December 2015 we launched the 2016 Season online with a short film and a new fold out poster program featuring snap shot teasers of the full season and program highlights including visual arts, membership and studios. The new poster was a key marketing reference in our ticket sales tracking. We also created a promotional film which played over the school holidays at the Cameo Cinema, and in the Burrinja foyer. This received great feedback and contributed to the growth of our public profile. Also launched were new 3 and 5 show and family show packages, and we look forward to seeing the growth in uptake of these incentives.

At the end of 2015 we re-branded our 'Jambji' membership program as the Friends of Burrinja program. With a focus on supporting arts in the Hills and a complimentary ticket for paid members, we have been pleased to see membership increase by over 25% with one third being attributed to new members.

In 2016 we launched a 'Help keep art FREE' fundraising campaign focussing on Burrinja's accessible and exciting free arts programs. The campaign attracted support from a wide range of individuals and organisations and we reached almost 40% of our \$18,000 target in just one short month by June 30, with further campaigns to come. It also offered a great opportunity to promote our diverse arts and culture activities and the role we play in the region.

We continued our participation in the successful Culture Tracks program with Yarra Ranges Council in 2016, an important tool for raising awareness of the rich array of arts and cultural throughout the entire region.

Public awareness of the breadth and diversity of Burrinja programs within our community has been a focus of this year's marketing. This has included a weekly Burrinja Arts and Culture segment on *3MDR* breakfast, including interviews with studio artists, performers, festival directors, visual artists, illustrators, curators and writers who engage with Burrinja. We have also established a similar monthly model with *Radio Eastern*. General awareness of our programs continues to be promoted through online blogs and reviews, and ongoing print media coverage.

It is also pleasing to see growth in the awareness of programs with a younger audience focus, like the Burrinja Circus Festival which saw the engagement with the program and ticket sales almost double.

Visual Arts highlights in the 2015/16 financial year including the inaugural *Burrinja Climate Change Biennale*, *Dandenong Ranges Open Studios* and our first *Women Painting Women* exhibition have enjoyed wide media

coverage including *RRR*, *ABC radio*, online blogs and print such as *Fine Art Connoisseur*, *Art Almanac* and *Artist Profile* magazines, as well as *The Age* newspaper.

Burrinja Gallery was also featured in the *Art Collector Guide to Public and Regional Galleries* and *Creative Artist*, and was a driving participant of the *ART LIVES HERE TRAIL* map of the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges.

The Burrinja marketing focus continues to build on customer relationship marketing, Burrinja gallery's national profile, promoting our diverse cultural offerings, and general awareness and value of our programs and the Burrinja experience.

### E-MARKETING

In line with the new 2016 Burrinja Season launch we redesigned the Burrinja e-news format and have continued to see the fortnightly newsletter thrive with engaging content. In the past year email subscriptions have increased by 25% and now includes well over 7000 subscribers – a substantial growth with an open rate average well over the industry average at 24%. A key aspect of our e-marketing success is a result of segmentation and interactive content. Individual emails for Burrinja events continue to target specific interest segments and feature opportunities for expanded engagement like Q&A's, extra information and video clips. These targeted campaigns reach open rates of up to 72%. Almost half of Burrinja Season ticket sales are attributed to Burrinja e-news and targeted event emails.

The Burrinja website continues to be indicated by patrons as a key source for information. An increasing number of people are finding the website through online searches. Statistics also show a 5% increase in the number of first time users and a 16 % increase in the amount of time and engagement of users interacting with the website. We are seeing this result in the healthy growth of our online ticket sales.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Burrinja's marketing has continued to expand its focus on social media as a key resource for sharing and promoting stories about arts and culture to our community and growing general awareness of our programs.

The Facebook page is now on 3000 likes, with post engagement, shares, 'check in's' and reach all growing. We also continue to research, assess and utilise new social media advertising opportunities. It is pleasing to see #Burrinja maintaining strong growth.

Burrinja's Instagram account is now thriving with activity and engagement, it consistently grows it's followership which is now over 250, while the Burrinja YouTube channel has reached over 16000 views.

HANNAH RAISIN | Marketing Coordinator

## MARKETING AND SURVEY RESULTS

### BURRINJA SURVEY SUMMARY 2016

In September 2016 we conducted our annual survey, querying our patrons on a range of performance metrics around facilities, Box Office and service. We were extremely pleased this year to have 500 surveys returned, more than double the previous years, providing a good sample for our data, and lots of great feedback.

The results continue to demonstrate a consistently high customer satisfaction within the metrics.

In all areas measured the combined 'met' or 'exceeded expectations' responses exceeded **95%** - a great result.

There was some really helpful comments accompanying the basic ratings and in the 'what I like' and 'what disappoints me' questions, which we review carefully for ways in which we can improve our service to the community.



### Recognition - Community Arts and Cultural Development

We again surveyed what people know of our involvement and support for arts projects in the region. Possibly due to the increase in the reach of our survey sample, there was a disappointing drop in public recognition of our role in delivering these projects for the community and the region, so clearly more remains to be done in this area.

**Burrinja enables many projects in our region. Please select from below those projects that you know Burrinja manages, supports or administers**

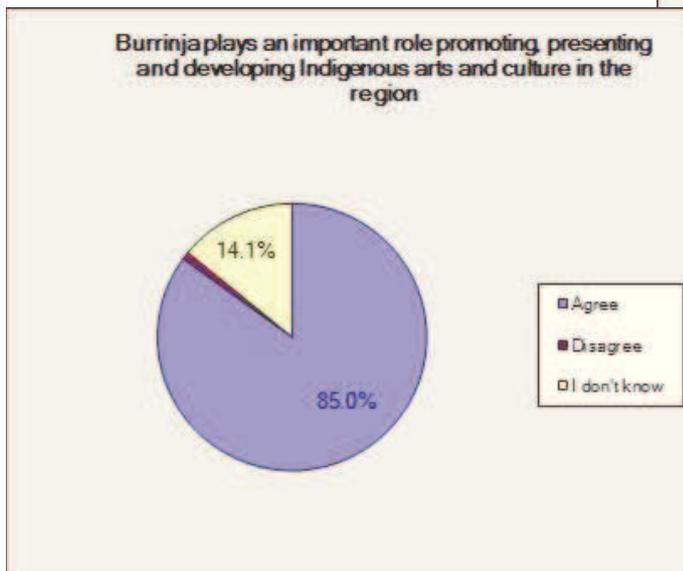
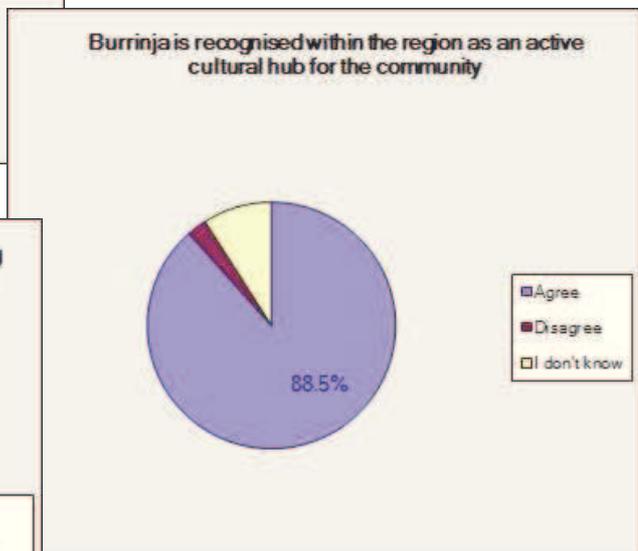
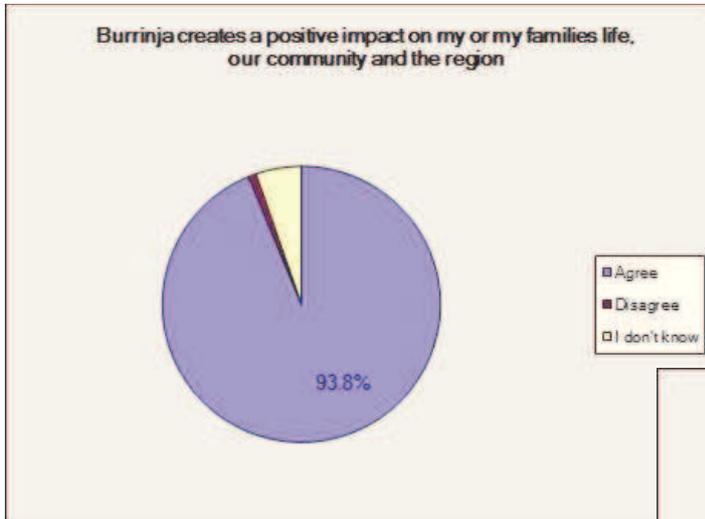
Answer Options	2014	2015	2016
Dandenong Ranges Open Studios	73.8%	75.5%	64.0%
Belgrave Lantern Parade	53.3%	60.8%	45.5%
Belgrave Survival Day	27.0%	33.3%	23.3%
Hillscene Maga'zine and Blog	25.4%	27.0%	25.1%
Hillscene Live	29.5%	21.1%	22.9%
Artist Studios and Workshop Studio spaces at Burrinja	n/a	77.9%	67.5%
Burrinja Kids Stay and Play - free family activities at Burrinja	n/a	51.0%	36.0%
Burrinja Arties Art Therapy program	n/a	n/a	21.3%
Didn't know Burrinja was involved in any	13.9%	7.8%	13.0%

# MARKETING AND SURVEY RESULTS

## Burrinja's Community Impact

**93.8%** of survey respondents agree with the statement 'Having Burrinja in our region has a positive impact on my families life, our community, and the region.'

Over **88%** recognise Burrinja as 'an active cultural hub for the community'.



## School, Hirer, Company Feedback

We love the feedback we get from our centre's users and hirers...

"Last night was amazing. Better than we could have ever dreamed off. Thank you for making it happen and to your amazing staff who were so helpful. ... we definitely want to rebook for December 2016".  
*Andrea Edwards, Templeton Primary School*

"The venue made a difference because it was accessible for people with disabilities but more importantly because it gave participants the experience of working on a large stage and raised the stakes and expectation of their work."  
*Cath Russell, Musical Director.*

## FOUNDATION MEMBERS & DONORS

Our warm thanks to the following individuals and organisations who have generously donated to the Burrinja Public Fund, and to the 'Keep Art Free' drive:

### PLATINUM

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE, BELGRAVE  
DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY BANK GROUP  
THE FULLAGAR FAMILY

### GOLD

SUE AMICO  
JESS EXINER  
VINCENT J FEENEY  
FULLAGAR FAMILY  
PETER HARRIS  
JEWELL FAMILY  
JAMES MERLINO, MP  
MILES FAMILY  
US BUS LINES  
FERNTREE PRINT  
JASMINE BRUNNER

### SILVER

BEVERLEY BROMHAM  
RACHEL BURKE & DAVID CAMPBELL  
HELEN CELERIER  
KIERAN DENNIS  
DIDGEMAN DIDGERIDOOS

ROSS, MALI, LUCA & MILES FARNELL  
HEARTLAND  
CLAIRE HENRY  
MONBULK COLLEGE, MONBULK  
RAYMOND & GRETA JUNGWIRTH  
CHEE IP  
ANNA 'LUTH' WOLFF—SOLID STATE CIRCUS

### BRONZE

PAUL BEALE, ELECTROLIGHT	JOHN & CAROL BRANDT
ELIZABETH BROMHAM	BUSINESSLYNX
JACKIE CUSACK	MILDRED DAVEY
DAY FAMILY	R N S J DEANE
NORMA DURRAND	OLIVE EBDON
FORD FAMILY	FRY FAMILY
GRIFFITHS FAMILY	WAYNE F HALL
BERNIE HERLIHY	PADDI HERLIHY
MARIAN C HILL	LYNNE JESSUP
AMELIA, BRIDIE & BERNIE LOBERT	
CHRIS LOVELOCK	ROBYN MITCHELL
MAZ MOLLIKA	JUSTICE GT PAGONE
JEAN PETTITT-BROWN	CAITILIN PUNSHON
JENNY SAULWICK	J G SAULWICK
ANDREAS SCHOKMAN	JULIAN SCHOKMAN
BEVERLEY CORNISH	RUSSELL & GEOFF, ATC
LILYDALE	
THE POSETTI FAMILY	RUSS ROBERTSON
JD MITTMANN	DANIELA TYMMS

## PARTNERSHIPS

Burrinja enjoys stakeholder relationships with a number of organisations and groups that add further to our resources, networks and capabilities to deliver programs.

### Principal Public Partner

**YARRA RANGES COUNCIL**

### Print Partner

FERNTREE PRINT

### Theatre Sponsor

RESOLUTION X

### Public Partners

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA  
VICTORIA - THE PLACE TO BE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - HACC

CREATIVE VICTORIA  
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNEMENT - VISIONS  
GORDON DARLING FOUNDATION

### Association Partners

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTRES  
PUBLIC GALLERIES ASSOCIATION VICTORIA  
DANDENONG RANGES TOURISM  
YARRA RANGES REGIONAL MARKETING  
MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA

### Corporate and Public Project Partners

BELGRAVE TRADERS ASSOCIATION  
BELGRAVE SURVIVAL DAY  
BCAP - LANTERN PARADE  
DANDENONG RANGES MUSIC COUNCIL  
PROJECT UPWEY  
FLETCHERS REAL ESTATE

**DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL  
CENTRE INC. (BURRINJA)**

A.B.N 23 672 833 616

**COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Your committee members submit the financial report of Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc. trading as Burrinja for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The names of Committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

President	Matthew Posetti	(appointed on 25 October 2015)
President	Rachel Burke	(retired on 25 October 2015)
Vice President	Mary Fitz-Gerald	(appointed on 25 October 2015)
Vice President	Louis Delacretaz	(resigned on 25 October 2015)
Treasurer	Susan Amico	
Assistant Treasurer	Darryl Shatte	(retired on 25 October 2015)
Secretary	Paul O'Halloran	
Committee Member	Kieran Dennis	(retired on 25 October 2015)
Committee Member	Louis Delacretaz	
Committee Member	Darryl Shatte	(retired on 25 October 2015)
Committee Member	Janet Turpie-Johnstone	
Committee Member	Holly DeMaria	(appointed on 25 October 2015)
Committee Member	Zac Exner	(appointed on 25 October 2015)
Committee Member	Annette Rudd	(appointed on 25 October 2015)
Council Representative	Cr. Noel Cliff/ Cr. Mike Clarke	- Council appointed
Executive Director	Ross Farnell	

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to provide community cultural services, facilities and programs.

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**OPERATING RESULT**

The net current year profit for the year amounted to \$11,514 (2015: loss of \$16,673).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Committee.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Posetti  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Amico  
Treasurer

Dated this 6th day of November 2016

*AUDITOR'S REPORT contd.*



The autograph queue for Kate Miller-Heidke post-performance just kept growing! March 2016



McBAIN  
McCARTIN & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
AUDIT & ASSURANCE SERVICES

PO BOX 82 DALBY VIC  
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA 3103  
ABN 26 028 734 960

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE INC.  
(TRADING AS BURRINJA)**

***Report on the Financial Report***

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc. ("the Association"), which comprises the Assets and Liabilities Statement as at 30 June 2018, the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Certification by Members of the Committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association.

***Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report***

The Committee of Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Level 1, 125 Whitehorse Road Dalby VIC 3103

Phone: +61 3 9817 0700 Facsimile: +61 3 9817 0799 E-mail: [office@mcbaingroup.com.au](mailto:office@mcbaingroup.com.au) Web: [www.mcbaingroup.com.au](http://www.mcbaingroup.com.au)

## AUDITOR'S REPORT *contd.*

### **Independence**

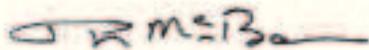
In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc. as at 30 June 2016 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

### **Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



David W McBain (FCA, CPA)  
Partner



McBain McCartin & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

Level 1, 123 Whitehorse Road,  
BALWYN VIC 3103

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016



Artists Vicki Sullivan and Fiona Bilbrough with 'subject' Katherine Reynolds in a 'live art' workshop: Women Painting Women

AUDITOR'S REPORT *contd.*

**DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL  
CENTRE INC. (BURRINJA)**

A.B.N 23 672 833 616

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Venue income	156,966	143,148
Gallery/Burrinja income	25,019	61,885
Contract revenue	35,415	43,870
Performing Arts income	163,973	160,582
Funding income	651,684	568,801
Interest income	32	347
Other income	42,083	44,603
	<u>1,075,172</u>	<u>1,023,236</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff costs	602,922	586,265
Depreciation & amortisation	14,280	11,787
Shop merchandise	11,020	7,507
Catering expenses	3,519	8,269
Tutors/Workshops fees	18,704	12,842
Utilities	87,072	87,403
Marketing expenses	44,254	53,895
Administration costs	48,727	58,307
Ticketing costs	12,438	11,704
Theatre Consumables	6,421	3,802
Facility costs	47,592	48,792
Equipment & Hire expenses	1,874	6,146
Exhibition fees	48,129	19,805
Performance fees	111,523	116,502
Artist fees	-	2,771
HACC Expenses	3,676	2,941
Other expenses	1,507	1,171
	<u>1,063,658</u>	<u>1,039,909</u>
<b>Net current year profit/ (loss)</b>	<u>11,514</u>	<u>(16,673)</u>
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	30,878	47,551
<b>Retained surplus at the end of the financial year</b>	<u>42,392</u>	<u>30,878</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

AUDITOR'S REPORT *contd.*

DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL  
CENTRE INC. (BURRINJA)

A.B.N 23 672 833 616

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	515,742	146,873
Accounts receivable and other debtors	3	19,673	161,206
Prepayments		47,259	32,727
Inventories, at cost		3,608	4,133
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>586,282</u>	<u>345,039</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment	4	110,089	115,960
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>110,089</u>	<u>115,960</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>696,371</u>	<u>460,999</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable and other payables	5	120,420	129,725
Other current liabilities	6	437,685	208,687
Tax liabilities	7	24,280	27,279
Provision for employee benefits	8	49,003	51,794
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>631,388</u>	<u>417,485</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provision for employee benefits	8	22,591	12,636
		<u>22,591</u>	<u>12,636</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>653,979</u>	<u>430,121</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>42,392</u>	<u>30,878</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		42,392	30,878
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>42,392</u>	<u>30,878</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

AUDITOR'S REPORT *contd.*

DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL  
CENTRE INC. (BURRINJA)

A.B.N 23 672 833 616

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from customers		415,779	454,381
Receipts from funding		651,684	427,317
Payments to suppliers and employees		(783,866)	(877,815)
Net GST received		93,581	80,909
Net cash generated from operating activities		<u>377,178</u>	<u>84,772</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payment for plant and equipment		(8,409)	(17,263)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(8,409)</u>	<u>(17,263)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		368,769	67,509
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		146,973	79,464
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	2	<u>515,742</u>	<u>146,973</u>
<b>NOTE</b>			
<b>CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>			
<b>Reconciliation of cash flows from operations with net loss</b>			
Net current year profit/ (loss)		11,514	(16,673)
<b>Non-cash flows in net surplus from ordinary activities</b>			
Depreciation & amortisation		14,280	11,787
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>			
(Increase)/ decrease in receivables		127,001	9,664
(Increase)/ decrease in inventories		525	1,029
Increase/ (decrease) in payables		(9,305)	8,400
Increase/ (decrease) in other current liabilities		228,998	60,973
Increase/ (decrease) in tax liabilities		(2,999)	3,755
Increase/ (decrease) in provisions		7,164	5,837
Cash flows generated from operations		<u>377,178</u>	<u>84,772</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL  
CENTRE INC. (BURRINJA)

A.B.N 23 672 833 616

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements cover Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc. trading as Burrinja (Burrinja) as an individual entity. Burrinja is an association incorporated in Victoria under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

**Basis of Preparation**

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**Accounting Policies**

**a. Revenue**

Revenue is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any discounts. Any consideration deferred is treated as ticket deposits received or unearned income.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which, for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt. If the conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**b. Income Tax**

Burrinja is exempt from income tax as it is registered as a cultural organisation and maintains a public fund.

**c. 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 (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable and payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables and payables in the statement of financial position.

**d. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash at banks, deposits held at-call with banks, bank overdrafts and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**e. Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL  
CENTRE INC. (BURRINJA)

A.B.N 23 672 833 616

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

**f. Plant and Equipment**

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses recognised either in profit or loss. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present (refer to Note 1(f) for details of impairment).

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income and expenditure statement.

The cost of fixed assets constructed within the association includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income and expenditure statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

<u>Class of Fixed Asset</u>	<u>Depreciation Rate</u>
Theatre Equipment	5 - 30%
Furniture, Fittings and Office Equipment	5 - 30%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

**g. Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the Committee reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income and expenditure statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

**h. Accounts Payable and Other Payables**

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability

DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL  
CENTRE INC. (BURRINJA)

A.B.N 23 672 833 616

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

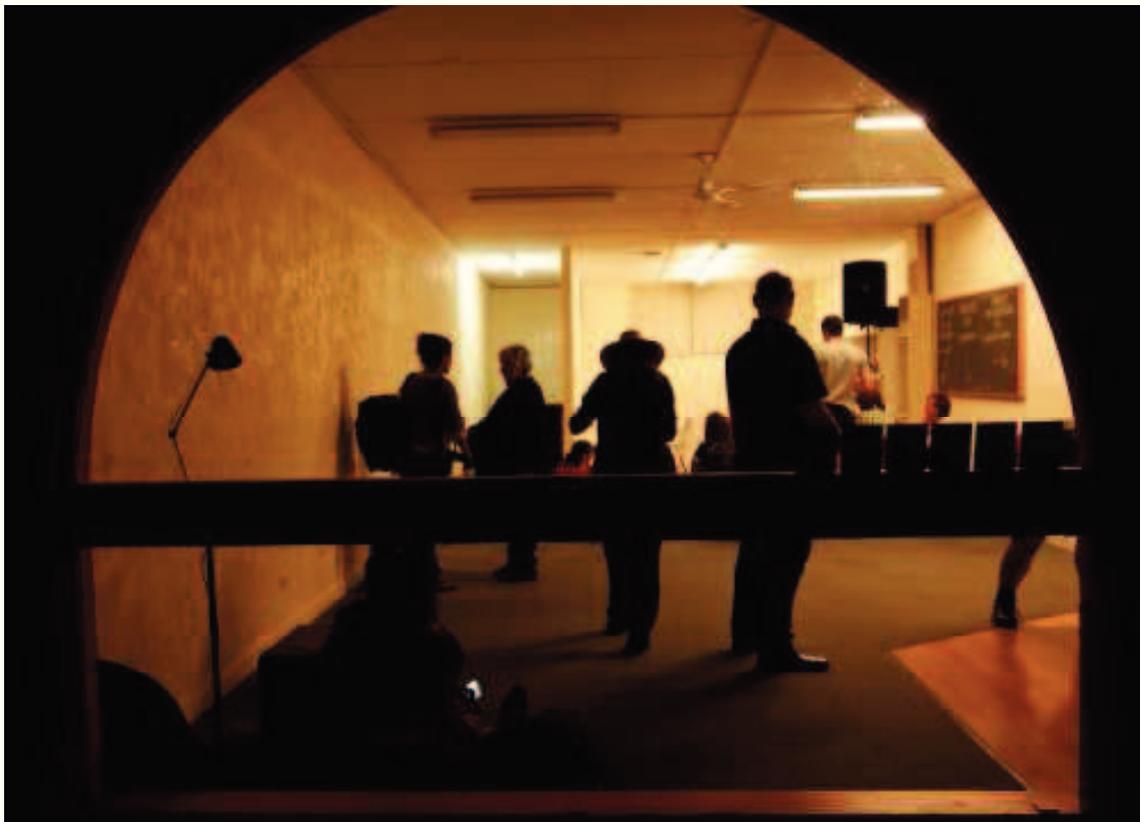
**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

**i. Provision**

Provisions are recognised when the association 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. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**j. Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.



Monbulk shop front venue for Hillscene LIVE 2015  
Image Amelia Ducker

AUDITOR'S REPORT *contd.*

**DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY CULTURAL  
CENTRE INC. (BURRINJA)**

A.B.N 23 672 833 616

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash on hand	950	700
Cash at bank	507,219	145,329
Cash at bank - Public funds	<u>7,573</u>	<u>944</u>
	<u>515,742</u>	<u>146,973</u>
<b>NOTE 3: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND OTHER DEBTORS</b>		
Trade receivables	17,585	160,112
Other debtors	<u>2,088</u>	<u>1,094</u>
	<u>19,673</u>	<u>161,206</u>
<b>NOTE 4: PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Theatre Equipment - at cost	98,716	97,013
Less : Accumulated depreciation	<u>(35,337)</u>	<u>(23,253)</u>
	<u>63,379</u>	<u>73,760</u>
Furniture, Fittings and Office Equipment - at cost	78,584	71,878
Less : Accumulated depreciation	<u>(31,874)</u>	<u>(29,678)</u>
	<u>46,710</u>	<u>42,200</u>
Total Plant and Equipment	<u>110,089</u>	<u>115,960</u>
<b>NOTE 5: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
Trade payables	41,546	20,822
Deposits on ticket sales/ Unearned income	29,331	47,863
Other payables and accrued expenses	<u>49,543</u>	<u>61,040</u>
	<u>120,420</u>	<u>129,725</u>
<b>NOTE 6: OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Funding in advance	<u>437,685</u>	<u>208,687</u>
<b>NOTE 7: TAX LIABILITIES</b>		
GST and pay as you go withholding tax liabilities	<u>24,280</u>	<u>27,279</u>
<b>NOTE 8: PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		
Current liability:		
Employee liabilities	49,003	51,794
Non-Current Liability:		
Employee liabilities	<u>22,591</u>	<u>12,636</u>
	<u>71,594</u>	<u>64,430</u>

## BUDGET 2016-17

ITEM	2016-17	%
<b>Income</b>		
Event Income	166350	14.1%
Venue Hire Income	192140	16.3%
Other Activities and Income	71500	6.1%
Local Government Funding	522634	44.4%
Australia Council Grant	140000	11.9%
Victorian State Funding - Creative Vic/ GAL	42000	3.6%
DHHS Funding	20085	1.7%
Cash Sponsorship	4000	0.3%
Foundations / Philanthropic / Fundraising	18000	1.5%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,176,709</b>	100.0%
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salaries, wages, fees - Performers, artists, arts workers	190680	16.5%
Salaries, wages, fees - Management, administrative	407745	35.2%
Production, exhibition and touring	163015	14.1%
Fees - performances, exhibitions,	93000	8.0%
Other programs and expenses	24821	2.1%
Marketing costs	48750	4.2%
Infrastructure expenses (Administration costs)	230165	19.9%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,158,176</b>	100%
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$18,533</b>	
Equity carried forward from 2015-16	42392	
<b>Reserves (Total Equity)</b>	<b>\$60,925</b>	

## PARTNERSHIPS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



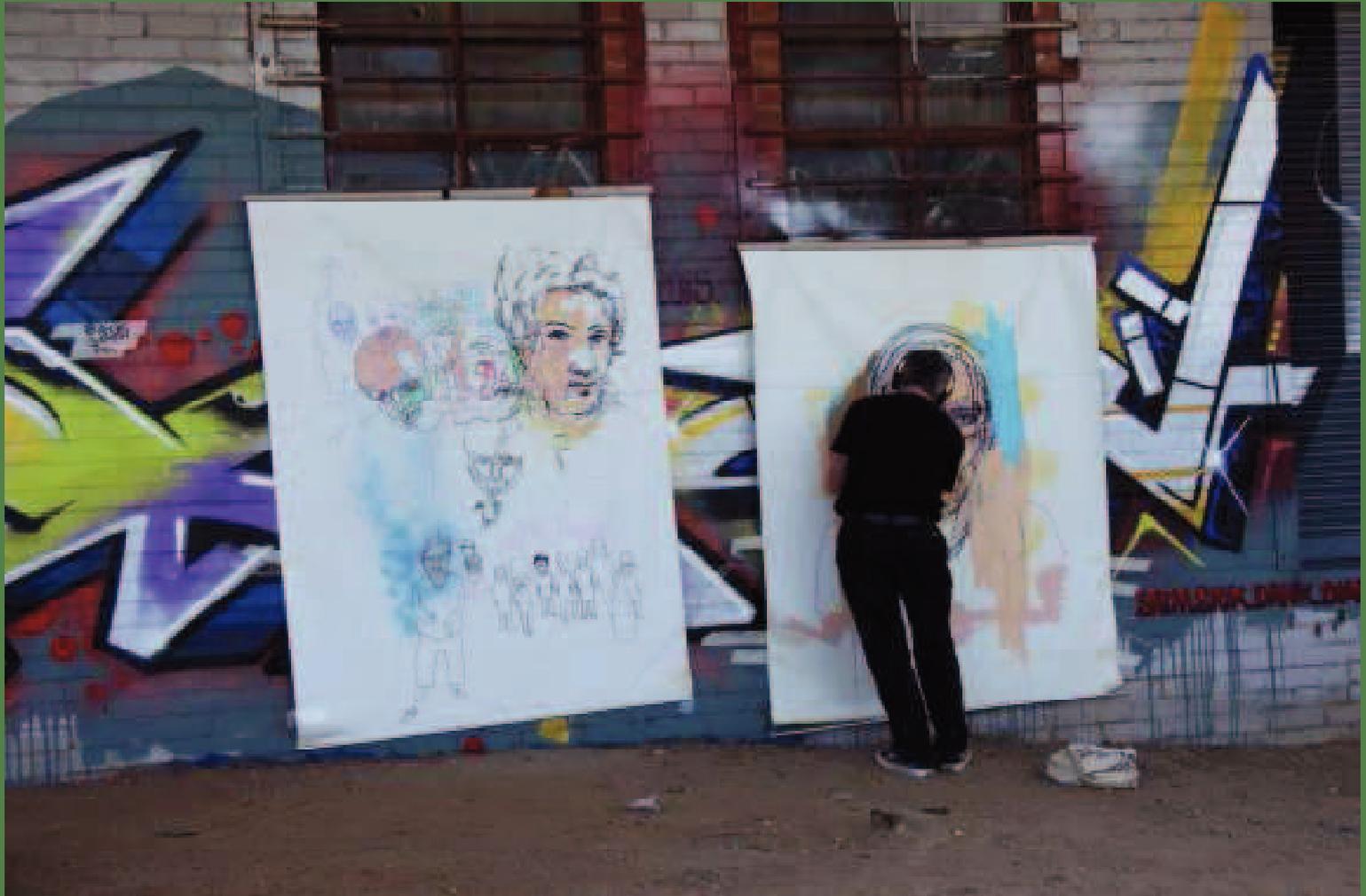
In Partnership

### TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Burrinja (the Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc) acknowledges the peoples of the **Wurundjeri** and of the **Kulin Nation**, traditional custodians of this land. We pay respect to their Elders past and present, to their history, traditions, culture and beliefs.



Back | End of the Line Festival 2015 -  
Diarmaid Fennessy creating live art in Blacksmiths Way



BURRINJA

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[www.burrinja.org.au](http://www.burrinja.org.au)



*In Partnership*