



Murray Arts
Program Report
2016



We celebrate 20 years!

Murray Arts celebrated 20 years in 2016, a major milestone for a small but busy organisation that gives its all to the creative and cultural life of our region. My upmost thanks must go to the staff, my fellow board members and the local governments that make up our members: AlburyCity, City of Wodonga, Towong, Federation, Indigo and Greater Hume, for their tireless support and dedication to the arts.

In celebration, 2016 was certainly another bumper year delivering diverse projects and creative inspiration to our community. In a first for Murray Arts we launched BILLET-DOUX Postcard Prize. As part of our arts and science strategy Go Wild in the Garden was a great success and I'm particularly proud of Murray Arts' ongoing commitment to Aboriginal Arts development officially opening BURRAJA ARTS Enterprise and shop front gallery. We continued to roll out School Drama with our partners Sydney Theatre Company and HotHouse Theatre and in August we bid farewell to Karen Gardner, who capably led the organisation for the last eight years. On behalf of the board and the team I want to thank Karen for her dedication to Murray Arts and its communities, and congratulate her on all she achieved during her time with us. Finally, thank you for your support of Murray Arts over the years!

Tahni Froud
Chair of Murray Arts

Board

Murray Arts is the Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO) in the Border and North East Region and services six local government areas: AlburyCity, Greater Hume and Federation in NSW and City of Wodonga, Indigo and Towong in North East Victoria. Murray Arts is a not for profit incorporated association, governed by a volunteer Board.

Tahni Froud	(Chair) General Manager, HotHouse Theatre
Glenn Mancer	(Deputy Chair) Head of Performing Arts, Trinity Anglican College Thurgoona
Deb Ross	(Secretary) Community Representative
Denise Osborne	(Treasurer) Community Representative
Peter Croucher	Councillor, Indigo Shire Council (until Oct 2016)
Diane Shephard	Councillor, Indigo Shire Council
Fiona Schirmer	Councillor, Corowa Shire (until May 2016)
Mary Fraser	Councillor, Towong Shire Council (until Oct 2016)
Jennie Star	Councillor, Towong Shire Council
David Thurley	Councillor, AlburyCity Council
Stuart Heriot	Councillor, Greater Hume Shire Council (until Oct 2016)
Annette Schilg	Councillor, Greater Hume Shire Council

Staff

Karen Gardner	(Sept 2016) General Manager
Vanessa Keenan	(Oct 2016 – Jan 2017) Interim Executive Director
Vivien Naimo	Finance & Administration Officer
Carolyn Doyle	Communications Officer
Maggih Coates	Aboriginal Arts Officer

Marg Murray Brooch, 2015, Emu feathers, Quandong seed



...most visual artists live below the poverty line...and present our work as though we have all the support in the world, when we don't. It is against this backdrop that I find your Grants page so helpful, as there is no other compilation so well aimed at helping artists. So thank you.

Gail Hastings

About Murray Arts

Murray Arts believes in telling regional stories and sharing them. We believe our community has the capacity to produce great arts events, exhibitions and experiences. We work at a grass roots level using cultural development principles to collaborate with communities and artists, developing projects and ideas which support the identity and growth of our regional communities. We employ artists to work on our projects - giving them creative opportunities to develop and share their arts practice. We are always looking for new ways to build audiences, be creative and connect with our community.

Core Service Delivery

One of Murray Arts' key roles in the community is to support artists, communities and local government in developing arts and culture in their communities. This role takes on many forms, from business and marketing advice to professional skills development. In addition, Murray Arts offers expert advice to local, state and federal government peak bodies, providing a valuable link between government and the community.

We Value

- Artistic endeavour, creativity and integrity.
- The arts as a medium to challenge us and explore our humanity.
- The opportunity to participate and express ourselves.
- Community wellbeing, connection and lifelong learning.

Strategic Objectives

2016–2018 Strategic Plan identifies **Five Goals** which underpin the operations of Murray Arts.

1. To be the central point of information and communication for the arts across the region.
2. To forge strong partnerships with local government and other arts organisations.
3. To build the capacity of artists and communities in the arts.
4. To develop strategic projects of regional significance.
5. To ensure the ongoing sustainability of Murray Arts.



Alyson Evans, School Drama Teaching Artist at Yackandandah Primary School

School Drama

A revolutionary partnership between Sydney Theatre Company, Murray Arts and HotHouse Theatre has seen the School Drama program delivered to teachers, right in the heart of their classrooms! School Drama is a professional learning program with a difference — a performing teaching artist embarks on a unique co-mentoring partnership with a teacher, for seven weeks. Sydney Theatre Company doubled their commitment to the program in 2016 with five schools accepted into the program: Lavington Primary School, Victory Lutheran College, Yackandandah Primary School, Lavington East and Belvoir Special Development School. The program employed two local performing artists as teaching artists, Rachel McNamara and Alyson Evans.

School Drama has changed the way I look at every single picture book I pick up or see on our classroom shelf. It gives you the skills, tools, support and confidence to effortlessly meld drama into an enriching English curriculum.

Brendan Hogan, Yackandandah Primary School

881 

Newsletter
Subscribers

34

Stop Press
inbox blasts

 **70.5%**
Hits to website
were new visitors

**SOCIAL
MEDIA**
 835
 1,285
 536

BILLET-DOUX Postcard

Murray Arts knows that good things come in small packages – part of the region’s very first postcard sized exhibition of artworks, all exactly 8x10 inches. BILLET-DOUX featured 60 ‘sweet-note’ works by 24 artists at Creators Artspace, Gateway Island Wodonga. This program was specifically developed to deliver high quality, artistic marketing collateral. Five artworks were licensed and reproduced on postcards to promote the work of Murray Arts, promoting the message #createaconversation.

I am incredibly grateful to have been able to work at Murray Arts and be a part of some amazing projects. I would like to thank all the communities we have worked in and the artists who enrich our lives on a daily basis.

Karen Gardner

Go Wild in the Garden

Murray Arts, as the Murray Science Hub, commissioned internationally renowned, local sculptor Joanne Diver, to run a series of workshops on how to make a Pollinator Inn. 78 Go Wild in the Garden participants were treated to a ‘walk& talk’ session with Dr Manu Saunders and Karen Retra to introduce pollinator spotting, counting and identification practices. Go Wild in the Garden was a partnership project between Murray Arts, Inspiring Australia (NSW), Halve Waste and the Wild Pollinator Count with support from the Sustainable Activity Centre, Albury Botanic Garden, local Community Gardens in Yackandandah and Corowa, Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, Birrale Park Neighbourhood House Wodonga and the Stephanie Alexander Garden in Corryong.



Go Wild in the Garden workshop participants

Is it a bird, is it a plane ? No, it’s two blokes looking for bees. Thanks to Murray Arts for **Go Wild in the Garden**. We love our new pollinator.

Mary-Anne Scully via facebook



Karen Gardner, former General Manager



Go Wild in the Garden workshop participants



3,700+

people engaged with the various events, exhibitions and workshops as part of our extensive Aboriginal Arts Development program

Phil Murray *Shield*, Redgum 2015

Aboriginal Arts Development

We connect local Aboriginal artists through an extensive and well respected Aboriginal Artists Network. Murray Arts proudly supports Aboriginal artists on their journey and continues to be proactive in this sector.

Art keeps our culture alive. Our artists come from different Nations and I am grateful to have been able to listen to their stories and share in their work and creativity.

Maggih Coates, Ganai / Dhudhuroa Nations Murray Arts Aboriginal Arts Development Officer

Burraja Arts Enterprise & Gallery Launch

Using a social enterprise model, Burraja Arts offers a genuine connection to local Aboriginal artists. On Wednesday 1 June 2016 Murray Arts launched the Our Stories | Our Voices publication, in conjunction with the Burraja Arts Enterprise and Gallery in the shop front at our Gateway Village Office.

NAIDOC Preschool Program

The 2016 program employed local Aboriginal artists to deliver an authentic Aboriginal cultural experience to 12 preschools, to acknowledge NAIDOC.

Our Stories | Our Voices Annual Exhibition

Our Stories | Our Voices exhibition was a wonderful tribute to the incredible growth of Aboriginal art in our region. The artists who participated in the printed publication Our Stories | Our Voices created new works for this exhibition, of the same name at Arts Space Wodonga, August 5 – August 27 2016.

Black Arts Market Sydney

Carriageworks was the perfect destination for a Murray Arts road trip to Sydney for the Black Arts Market. Burraja Arts Enterprise filled two tables with Aboriginal artwork for sale. It was an opportunity to make new contacts, network professionally and promote further sales opportunities.

Stencil Project working with Young Aboriginal People

Supported by the City of Wodonga, artists Linda Fish and Tamara Murray worked with young Aboriginal students to develop stencil designs. Murray Arts licensed the designs and printed them onto calico bags to be sold in the Burraja Gallery.

70

Artworks sold through Burraja Arts Enterprise and Gallery – over \$7,790

Our Stories | Our Voices



Darren Wighton *Gudylin - Ancestral Time*, 2015, acrylic on canvas



Marlene Plunkett *Baby Coolamon and clap sticks*, 2015, acrylic on wood. Woodwork by Phil Murray



Natalie Ord *Chiltern Billiards Hall* 2016 digital photo

Country Arts Support Program 2016

In partnership with Arts NSW and Regional Arts NSW, Murray Arts was thrilled to be part of the 2016 CASP recipient events and exhibitions with: AlburyCity's Voice Activated, Corowa Shire's Capture the Moment, Greater Hume Shire's Springtide Scribblers and The Sum of Us, and the Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre with their Botanical Art for Aspiring Artists.

SMART ARTS Professional Development and Education Workshops

'Smart Arts' is a program of skills and professional development workshops, which happens throughout the year for artists, community organisations and in schools.

Creative Start Ups - So you want to make a living out of the arts? with David Sharpe from 'generate', one of our favourite creative industry specialists.

Grant Writing Workshop - our most sought after workshop with Karen Gardner examined key strategies on how to write a successful grant application.

Suzanne Derry, the Senior Solicitor at ARTS LAW presented two workshops: Don't slip! Managing Risk in your Creative Practice and Artists' Rights! Copyright, Moral Rights and Intellectual Property.

A Month in the Country is a regionally based Artist in Residence program that delivered three workshops; Jodee Mundy at Albury Public School; Bron Batten at Osbornes Flat Primary School and TENT with Alyson Evans and Rachel Small at Wodonga Catholic College.

Congratulations on the launch of these wonderful projects and well done for all the great work you guys are doing with our Aboriginal communities.

Elise Armitage

Leonie McIntosh *Wiradjuri Gallingga*, 2011, acrylic gouache



Core Funding Partners



School Drama



Go Wild in the Garden



OurStories | Our Voices



Arts Law Workshop



A Month in the Country



Country Arts Support Program



NAIDOC Week Preschool Program

Proudly supported by the Australian Government.



Creative Business Workshop

Burraja Arts Enterprise

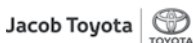


BILLET-DOUX Art Prize

Aboriginal Stencil Project



Vehicle Sponsorship



Our comprehensive Annual Report and audited financial statements for 2016 are available for download on the Murray Arts website

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murrayarts.org.au

Cover images from top left:
School Drama
Stencil Project
Marlene Plunkett *Hunting*, 2015, acrylic on wood
Wearable Art Fashion Parade
The Sum of Us CASP Funded Project



MURRAY ARTS