

Murray Arts is the Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO) in the Border and North East region and services six local government areas across New South Wales and Victoria.

We work at a grass roots level to collaborate with artists, communities and local government, developing projects and ideas which support the identity and growth of our regional communities.

Murray Arts is a not-for-profit organisation governed by a volunteer board. Murray Arts is primarily funded through the NSW State government via Create NSW and through our local government partners.

Our Purpose

To actively assist in the ongoing development of, and participation in, arts and culture throughout the Border region.

We Value

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

2016 – 2018 Strategic Plan identifies five goals which underpin the operations of Murray Arts:

- Information and communication
- Forging strong partnerships
- Building community capacity
- Strategic project delivery
- A sustainable organisation

Board

Murray Arts is a not-for-profit incorporated association, governed by a volunteer Board.

Tahni Froud *Chair*
Jennie Star *Deputy Chair*
 Councillor, Towong Shire Council
David Thurley *Treasurer*
 Councillor, AlburyCity Council
Deborah Ross *Secretary*
Diane Shephard
 Councillor, Indigo Shire Council
Annette Schilg
 Councillor, Greater Hume Shire Council

Outgoing board members 2017:
Glenn Mancer
Denise Osborne

Staff

Alyce Fisher
Executive Director
 Started January 2017
Vivien Naimo
Finance & Administration Officer
 Retired May 2017
Carolyn Doyle
Communications Officer Finished December 2017
Maggih Coates
Aboriginal Arts Officer
 Finished July 2017
Rod Bramich
Sub-contracted book keeper
 Started March 2017
Timeeka George *School Based Trainee*
 Started June 2017
Bethany Thornber *Aboriginal Arts Curator – Emerging burraja gallery*
 Started October 2017

860  Newsletter Subscribers

SOCIAL MEDIA



 955  1,373  892

Thanks to our Funding Partners



Comprehensive Annual Report and audited financial statements for 2017 are available for download at murrayarts.org.au



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Murray Arts

PROGRAM REPORT



2017

2017 was the year of welcomes and farewells at Murray Arts, as we welcomed new Executive Director Alyce Fisher to the team in January, and Bethany Thornber as Aboriginal Arts Curator. We bid sad farewells to staff members who have been our comrades for many years: Vivien Naimo, Maggih Coates and Carolyn Doyle; and board member Denise Osborne after 20+years. My heartfelt thanks to these incredible souls who have worked so hard for artists in this region.

Change was a constant theme at Murray Arts in 2017 with a board level focus on review of structure, policy and governance. I look forward to unveiling our new board in the near future, as we head into wide community consultation for our new strategic plan.

On the project front, 2017 saw Murray Arts continue to provide fantastic opportunities for young people in the region to access a wide variety of the arts through Month in the Country workshops, School Drama and our Art & Science project Gliding into the Future. I was thrilled to see our Aboriginal Arts program continue to with 287 students attending NAIDOC Pre School workshops, an incredible exhibition celebrating Eddie Kneebone's work at Artspace Wodonga, pop up exhibitions and growing sales at burraja gallery.

Finally, as I write this we have just welcomed two new staff to the team for 2018: Kellie Sutherland as Communications Officer and Tiffany Ward as Aboriginal Arts Officer. Please pop into burraja gallery and the Murray Arts office to say hello. Thank you to Alyce and all of the staff (new and old), the board, and of course all of the artists and arts lovers across the region. Thank you to our local government partners who show their commitment to arts and cultural practice in their communities through their ongoing financial support of Murray Arts.

Tahni Froud
 Chair of Murray Arts

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 for Primary School Teachers focused on English & Literacy. Our local Teaching Artist's embark on a unique co-mentoring partnership with a teacher, for seven weeks. Sydney Theatre Company again strengthened their commitment to the program in 2017 with seven schools completing the program, Wodonga South PS, St Francis Xavier Primary Urana, Lavington Public, Beechworth Primary, Eskdale Primary, Wodonga Primary and Beechworth Montessori School. The program employed two local performing artists Rachel McNamara and Alyson Evans and received high praise from the participants.

THIS HAS SHOWN ME A NEW WAY TO STUDY A TEXT. ALL OF THE DRAMA STRATEGIES I USED ARE EXTREMELY EASY TO IMPLEMENT ACROSS A NUMBER OF AREAS... I WAS ABLE TO TRIAL NEW THINGS EACH WEEK AND EXPAND ON STRATEGIES I HAD PREVIOUSLY USED.

Madeline Dunston, Beechworth Primary School



Gliding into the Future

Murray Arts as the Murray Science Hub embarked on a journey to highlight the plight of the local Squirrel Glider Population. We worked in-partnership with scientists and local Squirrel Glider champions from Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre (WEEC), Petaurus Education Group and ANU and then commissioned Eaton Gorge Theatre Company to write, develop and perform a Theatre & Education production all about the nocturnal mammals. The small tour was a great hit with performances in Savernake, Burrumbuttock and QE11 Square in September.



4 Gliding into the Future Performances

545+

Total Audience

LOVE THE CREATIVE WAY TO PRESENT SCIENCE.

Sue Rose



BURRAJA GALLERY 2017

Sales | Total sales
71 | **\$6,585.80**

ABORIGINAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT

EDDIE KNEEBONE BONES OF CONTENTION

Total Visitors **3,447**

NAIDOC PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

11 Workshops | 287 Participants

Aboriginal Arts Development is a major focus for Murray Arts. We have a well-established Aboriginal Artist Network (AAN), offer skills-building opportunities and provide consistent, tangible support to local Aboriginal artists at each stage of their artistic journey.

Murray Arts is humbled to have gained the reputation as the go-to organisation for all enquires relating to local Aboriginal Arts Development. We facilitate partnerships between artists and organisations or individuals within the wider community, forging new connections through art. In 2017 we delivered a variety of projects and forged many new partnerships.

North East Water Aboriginal Arts Exhibition

As part of 2017 NAIDOC celebrations, we conceived and curated an exhibition for North East Water, featuring 13 local Aboriginal Artists. The exhibition allows North East Water to continue their commitment to forging connections with the local Aboriginal community. Karin McMillan took out the inaugural commission with her piece titled 'Dhumamungee' which is now part of

WHAT A TERRIFIC CELEBRATION... IT SHOWED TRUE COLLABORATION IN ACHIEVING A GOAL, AND EDDIE WOULD HAVE LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

Jennifer Gordon, Wodonga TAFE

Eddie Kneebone, Bones of Contention Exhibition

In July 2017, Murray Arts, in partnership with Arts Space Wodonga and Wodonga TAFE, proudly presented the series *Bones of Contention*, the last works by the late Eddie Kneebone. The series had not been exhibited locally for 11 years and was a rare chance to view the detailed, stunning and sometimes confronting series. It was a privilege to work collaboratively to present this show with local organisations and Eddie's family and friends. The coming together of some many groups, the packed room at the opening and the stories shared, highlight the enormous impact



NAIDOC Week Preschool Workshops

Our sort after NAIDOC Week Preschool workshops were popular again in 2017. Facilitators present an immersive journey through storytelling, craft and play to deliver an authentic Aboriginal Cultural experience to the youngest people of our region. Local Aboriginal Artists Marlene Plunkett & Dr Treahna Hamm visited 11 pre-schools/kindergartens, with a total of 287 participants, in the Murray Arts footprint as part of this program.

burraja gallery

burraja gallery is the only dedicated local Aboriginal Art Gallery for this region. It continues to grow in popularity with locals and visitors who are seeking an authentic connection to indigenous artwork. The continual evolution of the gallery involved us finalising the logo design & branding, launching social media accounts and put plans in place for a gallery renovation. In October, we welcomed Bethany Thornber to Murray Arts as the Aboriginal Arts Curator for burraja gallery.



Community Assistance – Aboriginal Arts Development

Our reputation as the go-to organisation for all things Local Aboriginal Arts Development means that we are regularly called upon to provide assistance in numerous ways:

- Assisted with promotional campaigns for Coranderk (at The Cube Wodonga) and Hart (at HotHouse Theatre)
- Sponsored Aunty Pam Griffin and Karin McMillan to take part in a Professional Development Print Making Workshop with Basil Hall at Creators Artspace, Wodonga.
- Fostered a partnership between Department of Justice and GIG's Gallery which resulted in an exhibition Flow of

the River which featured an extensive collection of local Aboriginal artwork from a competition/commission held by the Department of Justice in Wodonga.

- Staged several burraja gallery Pop-Up exhibitions; Hart at Hot House, Busting for a Break Through at La Trobe, NSW Local Government Aboriginal Conference at Albury Entertainment Centre and for the Dean Street Market Place.
- Wodonga Council sort our guidance with a sculptural commission at David Winterbottom Park and with the ephemeral commissions which were part of their NAIDOC 2017 program.

CORE SERVICE DELIVERY

One of Murray Arts' key roles is to support artists, communities and local government to develop arts and culture in their communities. We also provide an advisory and information service and aim to be the central point of communication for the arts across the region.

Community Assistance highlights:

Headlie Taylor Header Museum, Henty
Developed, released and managed an EOI artist brief for a sculptural commission.

Global Sisters Dolphin Tank
Panel member, marketing and mentoring assistance.

The Sum of Us
CASP funded project involving local museum collections is hosted on the Murray Arts webpage with an online gallery - excellent hero images by Nina Obrien

'Then He Came Home'
A documentary by Leisa Whyte & NOMAD Films - auspiced funding

International Tap Dance Event
Auspiced funding

Wetlands Photography Project with Department of Environment and Heritage
Auspiced project assistance

GIG's Gallery
Auspiced wages for Art Gallery Coordinator

Country Arts Support Program (CASP) 2017

In partnership with Create NSW and Regional Arts NSW, Murray Arts continues to administrate and deliver this fantastic grass roots funding round locally. In 2017, we supported:

Albury West Primary School P&C
Pixelated Words

Lutheran Aged Care
Music for the Generations

Community Garden (East Albury)
Sensory Sound Spiral

Savernake School of Arts
The Exotic Lives of Lola Montez performance August 2017 – SOLD OUT

Federation Council
Little Libraries Project

Henty Library
Eco Regalia

Professional Development & Education Opportunities

Each year Murray Arts presents a series of professional development events that are of interest to a broad audience.

A Month in the Country (AMITC) – 2017

Our partnership with Hot House Theatre which see's us work with AMITC resident artists to deliver sought after community workshops. In 2017 we delivered 6 workshops to a total of 129 participants at Albury High School, Billabong Highschool, Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre, Beechworth Secondary College, Talgarno & Bethanga Primary Schools and at the LibraryMuseum Albury.

Professional Development Events

- 'Want to learn about Podcasts' workshop delivered by Producer Bethany Atkinson-Quinton,
- Hosted our peak state body Create NSW who held an Idea's Clinic at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus building and
- John Saunders, Education Manager from the Sydney Theatre Company delivered a PD day about the School Drama™ program

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT