



MURRAY ARTS

Regional Arts Development



Clockwise from top: Pygmy Perch 360 Tour© Dirk Wallace, burraja gallery © Nat Ord, Kinder Kulture program, Consequences exhibition artwork by Dr Trehna Hamm

ANNUAL REPORT

DIGITAL VERSION

2019

WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Murray Arts continues to be a unique organisation in our local cultural landscape, at once an artistic producer of projects that connect artists and audiences; an advocate for regional arts development at all three levels of government; and a champion for a growing cultural sector in our Border North East region.

2019 was another significant year for the organisation as we continued to develop and deliver on our five priorities – communication, partnerships, capacity building, project development and sustainability.

burraja gallery, originally launched in 2016, further cemented its place as the only gallery dedicated to the work of First Nation artists, who live, work and connect with the Murray Arts Footprint. I am so proud that under the close curatorial eye of Bethany Thornber the sales of burraja gallery increased 18% and with \$17,382 paid out to local artists in 2019. The introduction of the burraja gallery shop, also saw a 78% increase in the number of works sold, and a number of strategic partnerships have increased sales to local corporations, most significantly through the North East Water Aboriginal Acquisitional Arts Prize, now in its 3rd year.

Other highlights for Murray Arts included the tour of locally produced, Pygmy Perch 360 to 3 other towns in our region, Holbrook, Tumbarumba and Corowa. Increasing the audience for work created in our region is a high priority. And we entered the 5th year of partnership

with Sydney Theatre Company and HotHouse Theatre to deliver the unique English & Literacy professional development program School Drama™. Since 2015, 18 Schools and 39 teachers in the Murray Arts Footprint have participated in this program.

A big thank you to our incredible team who worked so hard and achieved so much in 2019 – particularly a big thank you and fond farewell to Bethany Thornber who is leaving burraja in 2020 to pursue a career in teaching and arts practice, and to Julianna Toth who returned to Melbourne mid-year. A huge welcome to Nat Ord, a celebrated local photographer, radio producer and our new Engagement & Communications Officer. Our continued thanks to Alyce Fisher, Executive Director extraordinaire, Tiffany Ward, Aboriginal Arts Development Officer, and Rod Brammich Bookkeeper. Thank you to our dedicated Board and Strategic Advisory Council.

We know that 2020 is going to present challenges we have never thought possible, but I have no doubt that our excellent team with a diversity of skill, experience, and a unifying dedication to the cultural community will see Murray Arts come out the other side, and support our local artists to thrive.

TAHNI FROUDIST
CHAIR
MURRAY ARTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

I have now been in the role of Executive Director for Murray Arts and calling this region home, for 3 years, how time has flown. Over these three years, Murray Arts & burraja gallery have undergone significant transformations and it has been an honour to guide and witness these changes. We are striving to be a much more sustainable organisation, in every sense and it was awesome to achieve some big goals financially this year with 22% of our revenue coming from sources other than traditional grant funding. Our aim was to maintain our sales figures for burraja gallery, and we ended up increasing them by 18% and we also delivered a few projects solely on user-pay models, Kinder Kulture & Connect + Weave.

Big gratitude to the Murray Arts Team who go above and beyond, are always discovering the joys of that line in their job description 'all other duties' and who bring much laughter to the office. We deliver far too much considering our FTE is 2.6, we are all so passionate about supporting the local Creative Industries, which keeps us all showing up week after week.

As I write this the Creative Industries globally is suffering significantly, due to the restrictions that have been put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever the world is realising the significant cultural & financial impact of the Creative Industries.



Our role remains the same during this time, continue to champion all things that come under the Regional Arts Development umbrella, in the Murray Arts footprint and support our greater community in the best way we can. So, looking forward to when we can leave our homes, gather as communities and rejoice in the considerable contribution that all thing arts & culture gives to us.

Click below and watch our '2019 It's a Wrap Video' which gives a snapshot of a year in the life of Murray Arts & burraja gallery.



ALYCE FISHER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MURRAY ARTS

THE 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.

Chair Tahni Froudist (Secretary & Public Officer)
Deputy Chair Diane Shephard
Treasurer David Thurley
Richard Hull
Rachael Gadd
Donna Caffrey
David Gordon
Position vacant
Position vacant for MASAC Member

Governance Update

The Murray Arts Board: In 2018 Murray Arts shifted from a Representative to a 9 member Skills Based Board structure and adopted a New Constitution at our AGM on 26 April 2018. This move was due to a report and subsequent recommendations from Create NSW for the whole NSW Regional Arts Development Organisation network.

Murray Arts Strategic Advisory Council (MASAC): Part of the shift saw Murray Arts also launch MASAC, which is made up of, up to 10 representatives from across our footprint who help feed into our strategic direction and planning. Three spaces on the Murray Arts Board are reserved for MASAC members.

Our Inaugural MASAC Members are:

Cr David Thurley - representative from AlburyCity
Cr Diane Shephard - representatives from Indigo Shire Council
Cr Gail Law - representatives from Federation Council
Cr Annette Schilg - representative from Greater Hume Council (until Sept 2019)
Simone Hogg - representative from City of Wodonga
Jenni Star - representative from Towong Council
Julia Simpson - OGA Creative
Dr Treahna Hamm - Yorta Yorta & Wiradjuri woman, member of burraja gallery Aboriginal Artist Network
Daren Pope - Beechworth Arts Council
Cr Lea Parker- representative from Greater Hume Council (from Sept 2019)
Position vacant

Board Attendance 2019

Board Meeting → Member ↓	21 Feb	11 April	13 June	1 Aug Stat Planning	11 Oct
Chair- Tahni Froudist	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deputy Chair- Diane Shepheard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Treasurer- David Thurley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard Hull	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Donna Caffrey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Rachael Gadd	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
David Gordon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

MASAC Attendance 2019

MASAC Mtg → Member ↓	11 April AGM	1 August Strat Planning
Cr David Thurley - AlburyCity	✓	✓
Cr Diane Shepheard - Indigo Shire	✓	✓
Cr Gail Law - Federation Council	✓	✗
Cr Annette Schilg -Greater Hume Council	✗	✗
Cr Jenni Star - Towong Shire Council	✗	✓
Simone Hogg - City of Wodonga	✓	✓
Julia Simpson - OGA Creative	✗	✗
Daren Pope - Beechworth Arts Council	✗	✓
Dr Trehna Hamm - Aboriginal Artist Network	✗	✗

THE STAFF

Alyce Fisher – Executive Director (from January 2017)

Bethany Thornber (Wiradjuri) - Aboriginal Arts Curator (from October 2017)

Julianna Toth - Communications Officer (from Sept 2018 until July 2019)

Nat Ord - Engagement & Communications Officer (from July 2019)

Tiffany Ward (Yorta Yorta)- Aboriginal Arts Officer (from January 2018)

Rod Bramich - Sub-contracted bookkeeper (from March 2017)

Andrea Briggs (Wiradjuri) - Consequences Project Curator & Researcher (from April 2019 until December 2019)

Bethany Thornber - Consequences Project Curator & Researcher (from April 2019 until December 2019)



Alyce, Julianna, Tiffany, Bethany



Murray Arts team at Bethany Thornber's exhibition
'Parks & Wreck' at MAMA

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 grassroots 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.

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

The opportunity to access, participate and express ourselves

Community wellbeing, connection and lifelong learning

2016 -2020 Murray Arts Strategic Plan identifies five goals which underpin the operations of Murray Arts.

Goal One: To be the central point of information and communication for the arts across the region

Goal Two: To forge strong partnerships with local government and other arts organisations

Goal Three: To build the capacity of artists and communities in the arts

Goal Four: To develop strategic projects of regional significance

Goal Five: To ensure the ongoing sustainability of Murray Arts



Consequences project curators Bethany Thornber & Andrea Briggs

COMMUNICATIONS

Murray Arts

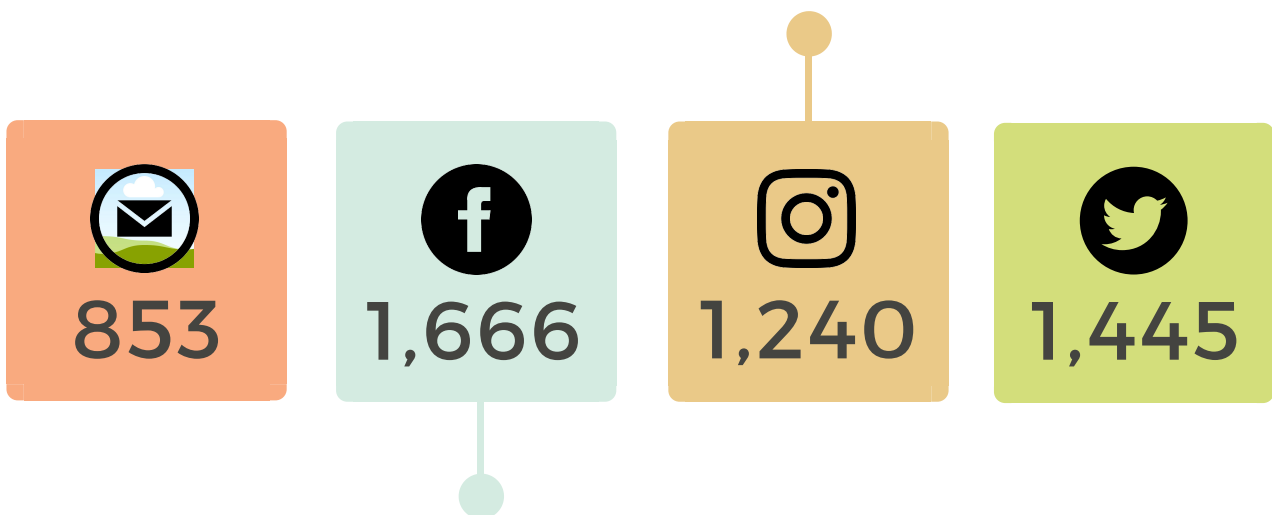
With an extensive newsletter subscriber base, as well as an active social media following, Murray Arts' communications is targeted, effective and well respected.

The Murray Arts newsletter is a comprehensive monthly publication of local arts news, grants and funding opportunities, stories, jobs and events. Local arts organisations and art workers have informed us that they will often point people in the direction of Murray Arts and especially the newsletter. The newsletter is popular, enjoying above the average industry standards for open and click rates, demonstrating our reputation as the "one-stop shop" for all arts-related information in the region.

Murray Arts social media following is active and positive, engaging in call-to-actions and competitions run on all platforms.

In 2019 Murray Arts secured a regular fortnightly segment on ABC Goulburn Murray. Murray Arts Executive Director Alyce Fisher chats with Presenter Sandra Moon about all things arts including funding, events and opportunities. [ABC Goulburn Murray](#) has a broadcast catchment far beyond the Murray Arts footprint and has approximately 250,000 potential listeners.

Murray Arts also created a new website toward the end of 2019 which not only saw a fresh new look but greater efficiency and capability into the future.

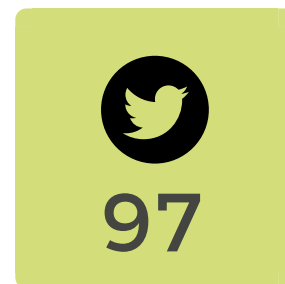
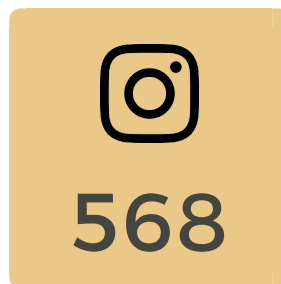
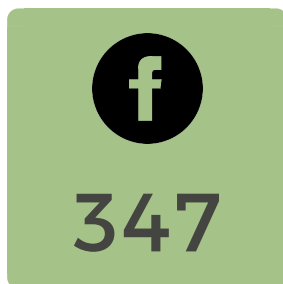


burraja gallery

Communications for burraja gallery are unique and distinct from Murray Arts.

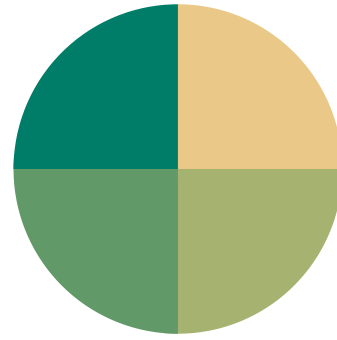
burraja gallery shares the same engaged newsletter subscriber base as Murray Arts. However, burraja gallery has its own unique social media audience - including a supportive Aboriginal artist email network that actively engages with gallery events, local opportunities and news.

burraja gallery's social media grew in 2019 and saw Facebook increase by 157% , Instagram increase by 68%, and Twitter increased by 49%. In 2019 the burraja gallery team trialled a Facebook Shop for online exposure and sales helping us to get one step closer to launching burraja gallery's own online sales platform.



The Murray Arts Artistic Program is centered on four key areas:

- Regional Arts Development
- Aboriginal Arts Development
- Capacity Building
- Core Service Delivery



REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Key deliverables

GOAL	ACTUAL
Annual Art & Science Project: Since 2012 Murray Arts has been the Regional Science Hub for the Murray Region. In 2019 we plan on building on the highly successful LIMELIGHT: Art - Science - Light event we launched 2018.	We developed a program for the second iteration of LIMELIGHT: Art - Science - Light, which is grounded in engaging locally based artists & developed a proposed budget. We then went about sourcing funding to again, deliver the favoured event. We were successful & received funds from the Regional Arts Fund NSW to deliver the event in October 2020.
Circuit 2019: Is an open studios program that engages artists, galleries and studios from across the Murray Arts Footprint to open their doors on one weekend in winter.	Circuit 2019 was not able to be achieved due to staffing and an already overcommitted workload. In late 2018 we were approached by the Albury LibraryMuseum to partner with them to deliver their Consequences: Exploring the Aftermath of World War One project. This was a major undertaking which involved us managing the artist in residence program & payroll for the Project Curators & Researchers.
Beyond YOLO: Stories of local youth resilience. The legacy of this project is something we are very interested to explore.	The fourth and final episode as part of the inaugural podcast series was released during youth week April 2019 and we also had an official launch for the podcast.
Pygmy Perch 360: After the many hours and creative problem solving that went into the development of this work we are keen to ensure that we give it further opportunities for screenings. Again exploring the legacy of this work.	Funding from Inspiring Australia saw us deliver 3 screenings of Pygmy Perch 360 in NSW Science Week 2019.

Consequences

Consequences: Exploring the Aftermath of the First World War. Consequences was a regional networking project rolled out by AlburyCity, Greater Hume Shire, and 6 volunteer run regional museums. It was jointly funded by a Create NSW Regional Partnerships Grant, AlburyCity and Greater Hume, with support from the Murray Arts Team and the Museum Advisor program.

The First World War, often known as the Great War or 'the war to end all wars', had a huge impact across the globe. Consequences was a new exhibition that explored the impacts of this conflict on Albury and surrounding regional communities - impacts which are still felt to this day. The exhibition studied the stories of those returning home from the war, of their families, and of the industrial, commercial and agricultural developments that occurred as a result of the war. It also uncovered some lesser known stories including the post-homecoming lives of Aboriginal service people.

Consequences showed visitors both the expected and the unexpected consequences of the Great War. It had strong links with all levels of the Australian Curriculum and included interactive discovery activities for children to explore the exhibition with their families. The major outcome was an exhibition at the Albury LibraryMuseum from 11 November 2019 until Sunday 26 January 2020. We also delivered satellite exhibition installations to the 6-volunteer run regional museums and held regional bus tours out to visit each site.

Consequences was a complex partnership project which encountered many challenges and really would have benefited from more time to explore the themes and mount the exhibitions.

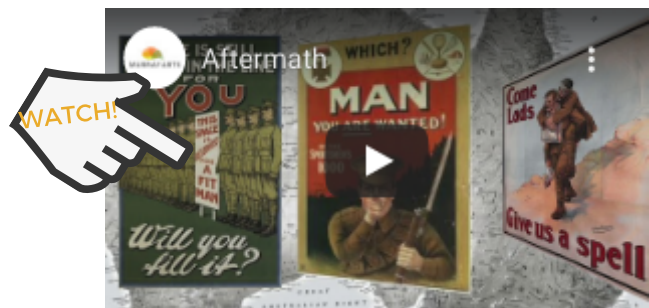
Participants included:

- 2 councils AlburyCity & Greater Hume Council
- 7 different collections/museums LibraryMuseum, Jindera Pioneer Museum, Headlie Taylor Header Museum Henty, the Woolpack Inn Museum, Holbrook Pioneer Museum, Wymah Museum, and Culcairn Station House Museum
- 1 RADO Murray Arts Inc
- 1 museum advisor Kim Biggs & Vanessa Keenan (shared role)
- 3 artists in residence Dr Treahna Hamm (Yorta Yorta & Wiradjuri), Stephanie Jakovac, the Facing Australia team of Karen Donnelly, Raimond de Weerd and Tony Nott
- 2 curators in residence Andrea Briggs (Wiradjuri) and Bethany Thornber (Wiradjuri)
- and 3 additional creatives employed to create specific work for the project, Tracie MacVean, Jacque Schulz & Nomad Films in partnership with Leisa Whyte.

TESTIMONIAL

'It was an honour for me to be engaged with Aftermath/Consequences project. I was given an opportunity to research the events of WWI and It helped me to unveil some of my own long-term connections with the WWI consequences due to my grandparents on both sides and gave me an opportunity for better understanding of my own self.'

-Stephanie Jakovac, Artist in Residence for the Consequences project,



CONSEQUENCES:
Exploring the Aftermath of the First World War.

Pygmy Perch 360 Tour

Pygmy Perch 360 is an immersive, 5-minute, short film experience, which was developed by the Murray Science Hub in 2018 to highlight the plight of the threatened local Pygmy Perch. Screened entirely in the round, using a KMART trampoline frame and rear projection technology, audiences can enter the world of Pygmy Perch and truly learn about the species' struggle. The film is not only an educational tool to stimulate discussion about river health and the plight of a threatened species but is also a technological & artistic piece of wonder and excellence. The 2019 tour saw the film screened in Holbrook, Tumbarumba & Corowa and each screening was FREE and ran for 2 hours. It appealed to a broad age range, 2 to 102 and was embraced by each community.

The 2019 tour was held indoors, and each screening was attended by Luke Pearce, our resident champion of Pygmy Perch so that those who were keen could learn more; we even had a fish tank with a few real-life Pygmy Perch on show.

Our tour of Pygmy Perch 360 aimed to inspire an enthusiasm and interest in local scientific research by presenting it in a contemporary and engaging experience. Pygmy Perch 360 was developed by a local team of creatives & experts, Helen Newman (Nomad Films - Albury) is the filmmaker & screen architect, Luke Pearce (DPI Fisheries Manager - Albury), Kirrily Anderson (Paper Trail Studio - Chiltern) is the illustrator, Nina Edwards (Narration - Yackandandah) and Adam Boon (Professional Audio Services - Wodonga) is the projectionist & sound guru.



Venue	Date	Time	Audience #
Holbrook Shire Hall	Wed 14 August 2019	4:30pm-6:30pm	50+
Tumbarumba High School	Thurs 15 August 2019	4pm-6pm	70+
Corowa Memorial Hall	Friday 16 August 2019	1pm-3pm	130+

TESTIMONIALS

"Well done to all involved - can see how technically challenging it was!!! The result looks magical."
 – Bev Hoffman

"Looks beautiful. My kids were lucky to experience this."
 – Defying Gravity Home Educators



Pygmy Perch 360 on tour at Corowa.
 Photos: Dirk Wallace

BEYOND YOLO: YOUTH RESILIENCE PODCAST SERIES

Beyond YOLO unearthed young people's real-life stories of strength and resilience – unravelling here and now in the Border North-East region. The podcast series follows the distinctive interpretations of what it means to live as a young person and the unique challenges that arise.

The official launch of the series was held on 10 April 2019 at the Retro Lane Cafe Albury to coincide Youth Week.

Local writers, producers and storytellers Aimee Chan, Kate Rotherham, Alison Plasto, Tony Grace and Kyle Walmsley worked with local young people to uncover stories of youth resilience and create this locally produced podcast series.

Sheridan, Daniel, Tyson and Sophia shared their challenges, growth and strength as they shape their futures – also Henry Rotherham, Forrest Dickinson and Rachel McNamara lent their voices to the series. Click below to listen to their stories.

LISTEN TO THEIR STORIES



Beyond Yolo Team: Aimee Chan, Tyson Hubbard, Kate Rotherham, Alyce Fisher, Tony Grace and Alison Plasto

TESTIMONIALS

"I can't wait to listen"
– Cam Close

"Congratulations on a fantastic initiative"
– Jackie Randles



Beyond YOLO talent Tyson Hubbard & Henry Rotherham

ABORIGINAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT

A major focus for Murray Arts is Aboriginal Arts Development; we have an established Aboriginal Artist Network which supports artists in each stage of their artistic journeys as well as forging connections through art to our greater community. Murray Arts is humbled to have gained the reputation as the go-to organisation for all enquires relating to local Aboriginal Arts Development. In 2019 we delivered a variety of projects and forged some new partnerships under our Aboriginal Arts Development umbrella.

Key deliverables

GOALS	ACTUALS
<p>5 Exhibitions for burraja gallery. 3 X solo shows and 2 X group shows. Maintain sales figures. Increase visitation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. gulpa wala - solo exhibition by Dr Treaahna Hamm (Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri) 2. My Oligog - solo exhibition by Leonie McIntosh (Wiradjuri) 3. VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH. - A group exhibition from local First Nation artists 4. in touch - A group exhibition from local First Nation artists 5. kangwano - A group exhibition from local youth First Nation artists
<p>Launch the burraja gallery shop early - mid 2019.</p>	<p>Launched the burraja gallery shop on 25 April 2019. This helped us to achieve an increase in the amount of individual items sold, take advantage of those who wanted to drop by and pick up a unique local gift and tap into the visitor/tourist market.</p>
<p>North East Water Aboriginal Acquisitional ArtPrize - For the third year in a row, partner with North East Water to deliver their annual ArtPrize. Increase artists involved and invite other businesses to also acquire artwork.</p>	<p>In 2019 the North East Water Aboriginal Acquisitional Art Prize was on Monday 18 November, was held at TAFESpace Wodonga and was open to the public from 19-22 November. North East CMA, DELWP Hume Region and Goulburn Broken CMA came on board to acquire work as part of the ArtPrize. This meant we had 4 acquisitional prizes and 3 private sales. 11 works entered and 7 SOLD - Total sales = \$6,780 - up 391% on 2018 ArtPrize sales</p>

Key deliverables continued

GOALS	ACTUALS
South East Aboriginal Arts Market - Carriage Works Sydney. burraja gallery be invited to have a stall at the market.	burraja gallery was invited to be a part of the market on 8 - 10 November 2019. Total Sales = \$4,523 - up 105% compared to 2018 sales figures.
Kinder Kulture workshops - This very popular workshop series aims to receive funding and be delivered to 6 pre-schools.	Unsuccessful in securing funding. Offered user-pay agreements to pre-schools, kindergartens and early childhood educators. 2019 - 7 preschools, 9 workshops - 168 participants in total
Explore workshop and professional development opportunities.	<p>We had been approached by many community members to hold traditional weaving workshops, so we developed Connect + Weave, which proved to be extremely popular.</p> <p>Due to lack of stock, because of so many sales, we offered a couple of printmaking workshops for artist to do another run of their 'Because of Her, We Can' prints from the 2018 NAIDOC exhibition.</p>



Bethany & Tiffany burraja gallery

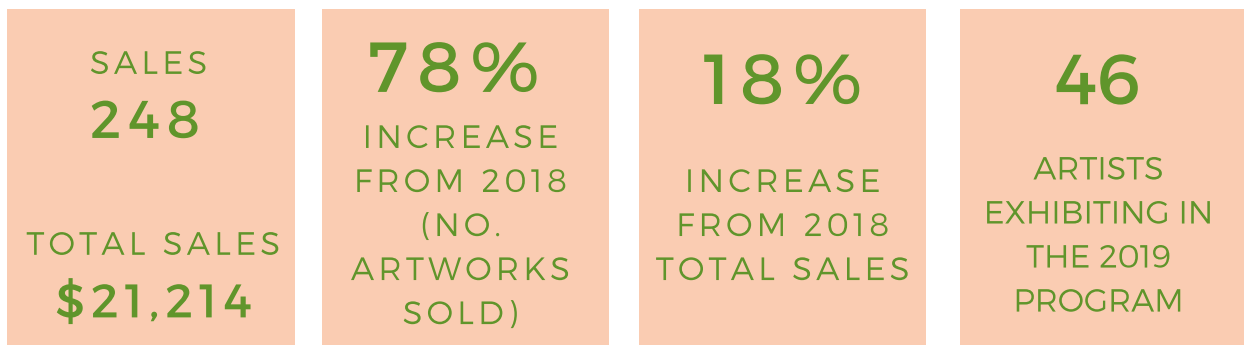
burraja gallery

burraja gallery is the only dedicated local Aboriginal art gallery in the border region. We advocate for all Aboriginal artists who live, work or connect locally, and provide an opportunity for dialogue and connection between the wider community and our Aboriginal community. Our modern and light exhibition space showcases the diversity of local contemporary Aboriginal art. In 2019 Curator Bethany Thornber (Wiradjuri) delivered an exhibition program for the gallery, along with exhibition openings, artist talks and professional development opportunities.



Launch - burraja gallery shop

We received feedback from our Aboriginal Artist Network & community that post the renovation and re-launch of the gallery in February 2018, that there was no longer much of an opportunity to exhibit or sell smaller works. We took this feedback on board, re-configured our office space, painted, purchased display shelving and launched the burraja gallery shop on 25 April 2019. This helped us to achieve an increase in the amount of individual items sold, take advantage of those who wanted to drop by & pick up a unique local gift and tap into the visitor/tourist market.



Exhibition One: 13 February - 16 April 2019

Solo: 'gulpa wala' by Dr Treahna Hamm (Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri)

"gulpa wala" (meaning 'deep water' in Yorta Yorta) refers to the unseen and fragile balanced environment along the river line and it's physical and spiritual connections that Aboriginal culture and people hold. Dr Treahna Hamm is an internationally renowned contemporary Aboriginal artist with a multi-disciplinary practice which explores the intersection of identity, belonging, culture and history.



Artwork by Dr Treahna Hamm'

Collections Exhibition Space Featured work by: Phil Murray (Yorta Yorta) and
Brendon Kennedy (Ngiyampaa).

TESTIMONIALS

"Love your depth of thought Treahna" – Lesia Whyte

"Beautiful works and A+ display" – April Phillips

"They're fantastic. And it's great to look at some of her art from the late 1990s up to the present." – Chris Little



Exhibition Two: 24 April - 25 June 2019

Solo: 'My Oligog' Leonie McIntosh (Wiradjuri)

My Oligog (Oligodendroglioma) is a body of work created by Wiradjuri artist Leonie McIntosh in response to her journey with brain cancer. The physical works present the rehabilitative process of Leonie re-discovering her dexterity through moulding, weaving and painting post-chemotherapy. Intrinsically the masks symbolise the confrontation between cancer and art, they ask the viewer to question the impact of instantaneous and uncontrollable circumstances on our identity. Stored within these masks is a complexity of experiences, reflections and emotions.

Collections Exhibition Space Featured work by: Ruth Davys (Wiradjuri), Ben MacDonald (Wiradjuri) and a documentary film by Jan Osmotherly titled 'My Oligog'.

TESTIMONIALS

"Stunning work" – Rubens Creative

"Brilliant; and confronting" – Dizerbst

"As a brain cancer survivor, I totally feel this!" – Melana Smith

Exhibition Three: 11 July - 27 August 2019 - VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH.

A group exhibition from local First Nations artists: Trish Cerminara (Gamilaroi), Annabelle Widdett (Wiradjuri), Ben Taylor (Wiradjuri), burraja gallery staff, Jaleah Firebrace (Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri), Topaz Dulvarie (Yolngu), Rubi Taylor, Elodie Dhalenburg, Stephen Berger (Central Arrernte), Dr Treahna Hamm (Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri), Mick Bogie (Wiradjuri), Chloe Price (Yorta Yorta), Tammy Campbell (Wiradjuri), Tamara Murray (Yorta Yorta) and Bethany Thornber (Wiradjuri).

VOICE.
TREATY.
TRUTH.

burraja gallery presented 'VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH.' a group exhibition from local First Nations artists who dissected and rebuilt the 2019 NAIDOC theme. The exhibition showcased contemporary reflections on colonisation, dispossession and how we got to where we stand - presented by 13 local First Nations artists through painting, drawing, ceramics, photomedia and film.



burraja gallery Curator Bethany Thornber at opening event

TESTIMONIALS

"Powerful work" – Nina Machielse Hunt

"Thank you burraja gallery for speaking strong and sharing these works in this way" – April Phillips

"Congratulations to all" – Leisa Whyte

"Very powerful. Racism takes many shapes and forms. 'Well meaning' remarks are often the most insidious as the perpetrators never consider themselves racist & so to educate is a battle.

Solidarity to the team at burraja for taking on the labour and choosing to educate." – Mitch Hibbens



Exhibition Four: 5 September - 15 October 2019 - in touch

A group exhibition from local First Nations artists: Trish Cerminara (Gamilaroi), Valda Murray (Yorta Yorta), Marg Murray (Barkindji), Dr Treaahna Hamm (Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri), Phil Murray (Yorta Yorta), Tegan Murdock (Barkindji) and gunya's & emu callers from the Burraja Indigenous Cultural & Environmental Discovery Centre programs.

in touch rejects the artificial divide between fine and applied art. This exhibition celebrated the reimagining of utilitarian and ceremonial objects traditionally used by First People over millennia. The hands which continue to weave and wrap and carve and cut, are strengthened by the ability to pass on these practices whilst also remaining 'in touch'. Featured are local First Nations artists working in weaving, sculpture and artefact-making.

TESTIMONIALS

"Another great exhibition, congrats burraja gallery, Bethany and all of the artists." – Tahni Froudist
"It was a good night; the ladies do a great job!" – Marg Murray
"So beautiful" – Tegan Murdock "Gee you're too Deadly!" – Jo Taylor
"Fantastic work" – Phil Dennis

Exhibition Five: 31 October – 16 December 2019

'kangwano' (Dhudhuroa meaning: state/time of being young). This exhibition provides an important opportunity for the young voices of our local Aboriginal communities to be heard – and for our wider community to engage with the thoughts, feelings and identities within this vibrant group of local Indigenous youth.

A group exhibition from local youth First Nation artists: Robert Walsh Wodonga Middle Years College, Shyla Turnbull (Gamilaroi) Lavington East Public School, Manyana Ost (Wiradjuri) Corowa High School, Jacob Scully (Wiradjuri) Catholic College Wodonga, Brayden Nicholas James Fallon High School, Trey Mitchell James Fallon High School, Ebony Williams James Fallon High School, Savannah Johnson James Fallon High School, Natane Steele James Fallon High School, Samuel Williams James Fallon High School, Jade Herbert Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre, Ben Taylor (Wiradjuri) Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre, Aboriginal Artist Collective from James Fallon High School Lena Clark, Cheryl Clark, Michelle Quayle, Lana Hook-Hodgkinson, Ceanne Bisset, Bella Williams and Annabelle Widgett, Doreen Johnson James Fallon High School, Tiffany James Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre, Domieka Effting (Wiradjuri) Wodonga Middle Years College, Emily Morey Wodonga Middle Years College, Alysah Ashenbrenner Wodonga Middle Years, Shakelle Brown Wodonga Middles Years College, Rhiannon Portsmouth Wodonga Middle Years College, Takessha Pearson Wodonga Middles Years College, Hailey Plunkett (Boandik Nation) Border Christian College and a coolamon & boomerangs from the Burraja Indigenous Cultural & Environmental Discovery Centre programs.



Portraits from James Fallon High



kangwano salon hang

TESTIMONIALS

"Thanks burraja gallery for giving our young ones the wonderful opportunity to exhibit their art as professionals" – Linda Fish
"This is wonderful!" – Karen Lee
"Congratulations Jacob, your photos are fantastic!" Carolyn Howard

Connect + Weave

Local First Nations weavers, Marg Murray (Barkindji) and Valda Murray (Yorta Yorta) hosted two intimate weaving workshops, with local community by the banks of the Murray River. The hands-on workshops educate and immerse participants on the ancient weaving practices as they connected with the land they gathered on. The SOLD OUT workshops were held on 20 October & 3 November with 12 participants in each.



Connect + Weave workshop Photo : Kevyn Lee



Connect + Weave workshop Photo : Kevyn Lee

TESTIMONIALS

"It was fantastic" – Rebecca Alker-Jones

"It was great to learn from the experts in this craft" – Elizabeth Muir



South East Aboriginal Arts Market - Carriage Works Sydney

burraja gallery was invited to hold a store at the 2019 South East Aboriginal Arts Market, curated by Hetti Perkins and Jonathon Jones, at Carriage Works Sydney, 8-10 November 2019. It is always an excellent opportunity to showcase the diversity of work being produced by First Nation artist in the Murray Arts footprint, an excellent opportunity to connect with a metropolitan audience & connect with artist from across the South East of Australia. We achieved excellent sales figures across the weekend and increased our sales by 105%, compared to 2018 market sales figures.



burraja gallery stall at South East Aboriginal Arts Market

Kinder Kulture Workshops

Kinder Kulture is a project that consists of local First Nation artists, delivering workshops to local pre-schools & early learning centres, to share stories about Indigenous culture in various creative, fun and interactive ways. These workshops are developed to give children a better understanding of Aboriginal culture and to educate and celebrate Aboriginal Arts and culture for NAIDOC Week acknowledgment. Previously the program has been reliant on grant funding to subsidise workshop, in 2020 we were unsuccessful in securing funds and decided to still off the program but on a fully user-pay agreement. Due the program being in its 4th year and being very popular we had 7 pre-schools book workshops and our Kinder Kulture workshops reached 168 students in 2019. Our artist who delivered the 2019 program were Mick Bogie (Wiradjuri), Dr Treaehna Hamm (Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri), Tiffany Ward (Yorta Yorta) and Bethany Thornber (Wiradjuri).

7 PRESCHOOLS, 9 WORKSHOPS & 168 PARTICIPANTS IN TOTAL

- **Bright Beginnings, Wodonga – 9 July – 25 participants**
- **Corowa Preschool – 24 July – 35 participants over two workshops**
- **Mulwala Preschool – 15 August – 32 participants over two workshops**
- **Albury LibraryMuseum – 8 October – 25 participants**
- **Tallangatta Preschool – 10 October – 16 participants**
- **Henty Early Childhood – 16 October – 16 participants**
- **Stanley Street Preschool, Wodonga – 25 October – 20 participants**



TESTIMONIALS

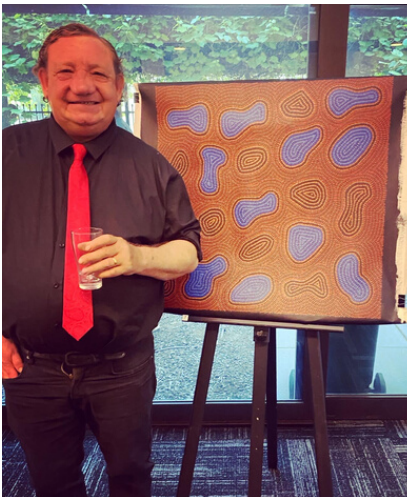
"A truly wonderful experience. Our Mulwala pre-schoolers embraced every moment of the Kinder Kulture workshops". -Donna Thornberry

"On behalf of us all here at Corowa preschool we want to say a huge THANK YOU to Beth for the inspirational work she does! Our children's lives are more enriched through the beautiful work she does! It's an absolute treat having Beth here and we are so grateful that she was able to fit us in to her busy schedule."- Cassandra at Corowa Pre-school

"The workshop was fantastic, the children seemed to take in a lot of information which was great to see! Mick presented a brilliant presentation to the children as well." - Jason at Tallangatta Pre-School

North East Water Annual Local Aboriginal Acquisitional Art Prize & Exhibition

In 2019 the North East Water Aboriginal Acquisitional Art Prize was held on Monday 18 November, at TAFESpace Wodonga, coincided with the NECMA conference and was open to the public from 19-22 November. We welcomed North East CMA, DELWP Hume Region and Goulburn Broken CMA who came on board to acquire work as part of the ArtPrize. This meant we attained 4 acquisitional prizes and 3 private sales during the ArtPrize. Artist who exhibited in the 2019 ArtPrize were Marlene Plunkett (Boandik Nation), Brendon Kennedy (Ngiyampaa), Tamara Murray (Barkindji), Tammy Campbell (Wiradjuri), Bethany Thornber (Wiradjuri), Trish Cerminara (Gamilaroi), Stephen Berger (Central Arrente), Kelly Lock (Boandik Nation), Phillip Murray (Yorta Yorta), Mick Bogie (Wiradjuri) and David Dunn (Wiradjuri).



Stephen Berger



Tamara Murray



Brendon Kennedy

11

WORKS
ENTERED

7

ARTWORK
SALES

\$6,780

SALES

391%

INCREASE
ON 2018
SALES

CAPACITY BUILDING

We provide our wide and diverse Creative Industry community with opportunities to strengthen skills and enhance abilities.

Key deliverables

GOALS	ACTUALS
School Drama: A partnership with Sydney Theatre Company which sees local teaching artists delivering a unique English & Literacy professional development program, into the classrooms of up to 6 local primary schools.	School Drama Professional Development Workshop, held on 14 March 2019, sixteen participants. School Drama Classic delivered in six schools and to nine teachers. Engaged two local teaching artists to deliver the program.
Smart Arts: Professional Development opportunities delivered in partnership with City of Wodonga. We plan to again deliver three workshops designed in response to the needs of artists and arts workers in our region. We also plan to deliver one Arts Grant Writing/Funding workshop in each of our 6 LGA's throughout 2019.	Delivered Smart Arts workshops in partnership with City of Wodonga. 'Pitch Perfect' delivered by Ben Gilbert on 28 March 2019, 18 participants. 'Make a Statement' delivered by Jacqui Durrant, 3 April 2019, 27 participants. 'Show Me the Money' delivered by Alyce Fisher, 13 April 2019, 22 participants. Other funding workshops not achieved.



Jacqui Durrant delivering Smart Arts Workshop 'Make a Statement'

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 Artists embark on a unique co-mentoring partnership with a teacher, for seven weeks, in their classrooms. Sydney Theatre Company again strengthened their commitment to the program in 2019 with School Drama classic being delivered in six schools and to nine teachers. Schools completing the program in 2019 were Belvoir Special School, Bethanga Primary School, Brocklesby Public School, Howlong Public School, Mitta Mitta Primary School & the Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre. The program employed two local performing artists as the Teaching Artists, Rachel McNamara and Alyson Evans.

TESTIMONIAL

"School Drama showed me how to activate student's minds before they delve into a literacy experience and how to better motivate them to explore reading and writing."

Amanda Gay,
Mitta Mitta Primary School



Teaching artist Rachel McNamara
Photo: Manifeasto Photography



Teaching Artists Rachel & Alyson Evans. Photo: Nisha Agiasotis

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

SMART ARTS 2019

Murray Arts in conjunction with Wodonga Council presented Smart Arts, a series of FREE professional development workshops for artists and the greater community.

SMART ARTS

THINK OUTSIDE THE STUDIO



WORKSHOP ONE

Pitch Perfect:

How to pitch your ideas
With Ben Gilbert
Thursday, 28 March 2019
The Cube Wodonga

18

participants

The workshop focused on pitching for Expressions of Interest and how to pitch your creative endeavours. Participants learnt how to respond to an open Expression of Interest and how to lock in jobs with a multi-disciplinary focus. Delivered as a speed dating session where participants pitched/discussed their ideas with our local panel of Ben Gilbert (Agency of Sculpture), Rebecca Bennell (The Cube), Justine Ambrosio (Art Space Wodonga) and Alyce Fisher (Murray Arts) and then followed up with a forum where Sculptor Ben Gilbert discussed various projects he had been involved in and his numerous success and failures.

WORKSHOP TWO

Make A Statement:

How to write your Artist Bio
With Jacqui Durrant
Wednesday, 3 April 2019
Wodonga Library

27

participants

This workshop focused on how to write your artist bio. After addressing a series of intimate questions about you and your artistic practice, we workshopped the impossible task of actually describing yourself and your art, and how to do it without feeling like a fraud. Technical writing issues, including tailoring your bio to your audience, and structuring and editing the final product, was also covered.

WORKSHOP THREE
Show Me the Money:
Arts Grants writing #101
With Alyce Fisher
Saturday, 13 April 2019
ArtSpace Wodonga

22
participants

Focused on the many arts funding opportunities, fleshing out your project ideas, developing your budget and lots of general grant writing tips.



Smart Arts Workshop 'Show Me the Money'
Art Space Wodonga

TESTIMONIALS

"Having Alyce present was helpful because you got to get the perspective of an arts Administrator"

-Smart Arts Workshop 'Show Me The Money' attendee.

"The handout to use as a prompt when writing an artist statement. The idea to tailor the statement to the event or organisation."

-Smart Arts 'Make A Statement' attendee.

"The locally based information and the networking."

-Smart Arts 'Pitch Perfect' attendee.

CORE SERVICE DELIVERY

One of Murray Arts' key roles in the community is to support artists, communities and local government to develop 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.

Community Assistance Highlights

- Auspiced wages/payroll for GIG's Gallery Wodonga
- Consulting on Portals of Rutherglen, Rutherglen Arts Society
- Consulting on DELWP mural commission in Chiltern
- Linked Sydney-based Theatre Company sam. with Corowa Theatre Company, to tour their play 'Dolores' to Odd Fellows Hall on Thursday 7 March 2019
- Consulted on the AlburyWodonga Creative Industry Hotspot research, conducted by University of Newcastle
- Assisted Growing Community Music, Victoria to deliver a workshop at the Albury LibraryMuseum on 20 July 2019
- Sat on the funding panel for the Indigo Community Events Funding round
- Consulted on the Memorial Mural artist brief for Corowa
- Consulted on the plans for silo art in Rand
- Consulted on the Stronger Communities Mural commission offered by City of Wodonga, which was awarded to Tamara Murray (Barkindji), who was mentored by Dr Treaahna Hamm (Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri)
- Consulted on the Tallangatta Shop Front Revitalisation project
- Consulted on the Up The Wall mural commission EOI for City of Wodonga
- Supported Chiltern Art Prize with their projection installation in the main street during the June long weekend
- Loaned the Murray Arts Easels to Hidden Cinema, The Neighbour Project, HotHouse Theatre, Nomad Films and The Flying Fruit Fly Circus



DELWP mural commission in Chiltern

Country Arts Support Program (CASP) 2019

In partnership with Create NSW and Regional Arts NSW, Murray Arts continue to administrate and deliver this fantastic grassroots funding round locally. In 2019 we were able to financially support:



- Greater Hume Council – ‘Representations of a Communities Soul’ Portraits
- HotHouse Theatre – play reading of ‘STOLEN’ by Jane Harrison
- Howlong Public School P&C – residency & mural installation by artist David Dunn (Wiradjuri)
- Projection Dance Company – Artist in Residence

CASP – CASE STUDY- GREATER HUME |‘Representations of a Communities Soul’ Portraits

Briefly describe your CASP funded project:

Local Greater Hume Libraries along with the Local Art Groups helped to build community spirit through art and creativity by creating portraits of important community members led by a local artist Gwen Bullock. The finished portraits are now to be unveiled at the official opening held in the Henty Library, where they will be displayed on the cultural wall for the foreseeable future.

How many people attended or participated in your project:

Nine people attended and participated in the three portraits workshops led by our local artist. 12 people from the local community had their portraits created (our artist created three portraits herself).

Testimonial or quote from a participant or organiser

‘Thank you again for the opportunity the Communities Soul portrait workshops gave me. I enjoyed the experience immensely and got to learn more about art, my skill and how having a go brings success. It was a special time. To complete Deb’s portrait was exhilarating!’ – Workshop Participant

What did receiving CASP funding mean to you and your community group:

Receiving the CASP funding meant that our community had the opportunity to celebrate and say thank you to certain members that deserved the special recognition for the work and commitment that they make to their town. We were also able to celebrate the talent of our local artists and provide them with the opportunity to learn a new skill at the hands of a professional and showcase their work in a public display.



What is your advice to other community groups applying for CASP funding in the future

Our advice is to find a project that your community determines to be special. Find one that will make a difference to the lives of every member of your community and will celebrate what makes you, your town, and your community members special.

CASP – CASE STUDY- STOLEN

Briefly describe your CASP funded project:

The moved reading of Jane Harrison's STOLEN was involved a cross-generational cast of eight local Aboriginal performers. Initially working with Annie Gifford on character development and casting, the cast then underwent an intensive rehearsal period under the direction of Kamara Bell-Wykes. There were two public presentations of the work. The matinee was targeted to school audiences with the evening performance strongly supported by the local Stolen Generation group and AWAHS.



How many people attended or participated in your project:

Across the two performances we attracted 215 people, including a significant number of young Aboriginal people, members of the local Stolen Generation group and Aboriginal members of Deniliquin-based Outback Theatre.

Testimonial or quote from a participant or organiser

The project confirmed the importance of allowing our local Aboriginal artists space and time to tell their stories, in a way that is meaningful to them. From a professional development point of view - two of the cast members have gone on to work with ILBIJURI on touring shows in 2019. The reading helped strengthen the relationship between HotHouse and the local Aboriginal service organisations including Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service and Mungabareena Aboriginal Corp. Both of these organisations are a key connection to our local Aboriginal communities.



What did receiving CASP funding mean to you and your community group:

Without the CASP funding we would not have been able to engage an Aboriginal Artist of the calibre of Kamarra Bell-Wykes. Kamarra was the perfect balance of theatre craft and cultural authority. She gently led the cast through the interwoven stories and created a simple, touching and effective staging.

What is your advice to other community groups applying for CASP funding in the future

Have a clear plan/timeline of how your project is going to run. Build in time for things to not go to plan. Ensure that you allocate sufficient resources (financial, human and physical) to your project.

CASP – CASE STUDY- HOWLONG PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C - Residency & Mural installation by artist David Dunn (Wiradjuri)

Briefly describe your CASP funded project:

The mural is a teaching resource used in programs highlighting Australian history, art and Aboriginal and environmental perspectives.

The mural contains many teaching elements such as: traditional tribal life, plants, animals, meeting places, shelters, animal tracks, specific food sources and communication using symbols, colour, line and shapes.

Artist workshops were delivered which included: traditional storytelling, how art is used to communicate, artist specific techniques and students using symbols to develop ideas for the artist to adapt and use when developing the mural design.

How many people attended or participated in your project:

230

Testimonial or quote from a participant or organiser

'This mural is a key feature in our outdoor learning and play spaces. It is a resource that is used by staff when teaching art, history and aboriginal perspectives. It is also very tactile and is used by students with sensory needs. The workshops with artist, David Dunne developed student knowledge regarding symbols and their meaning in storytelling within Aboriginal culture. Our students were fascinated by this form of communicating and how it is represented artistically.' Mrs Pam Svarc – Project Coordinator ' .

A wonderful lifelong learning tool for all to admire and share.'- Community Member

What did receiving CASP funding mean to you and your community group:

The project was supported financially by our P&C, community donations and school funds. This support combined with the grant, allowed us to complete the project

What is your advice to other community groups applying for CASP funding in the future

To be clear about the grant expectations and ensure transparency of the approaches you take in working towards achieving the project. There must be a shared vision and understanding with all key stakeholders.



CASP – CASE STUDY- PROJECTION DANCE COMPANY- Artist in Residence Program

How many people attended or participated in your project:

6 key participants in the program

Testimonial or quote from a participant or organiser

"To work with Kristy and Zoe was so beneficial to my career, I became inspired to do more. I had motivation for new goals and I felt as though my path for my dance future was more clear in my eyes. They are both so friendly and nurturing that I felt as though I was in an environment with no judgment or expectations." India Stewart- Participant

What did receiving CASP funding mean to you and your community group:

Receiving the CASP funding allowed an opportunity for growth with The border regions emerging performing artists. Involving local performing artist Zoe Cavedon and Melbourne Based artist Kristy-Lee Denovan, these artists spent three weeks working on the development of a new piece with Projection Dance Company director Tim Podesta and mentored 6 Junior Artists. The Regional NSW based Junior artists making the transition from student to professional worked closely with Cavedon and Denovan in a professional studio setting. Cavedon and Denovan shared their extensive experiences with the 6 participants across the development.

What is your advice to other community groups applying for CASP funding in the future

It's a fantastic opportunity to boost arts activities in a country area, make the most of the opportunity and get as many people involved as you can.



CASP - CASE STUDY- SPEEDFORCE- Speedforce Sessions

Briefly describe your CASP funded project:

Speedforce sessions is an accessible drama group, which teaches participants collaborative theatre making skills whilst achieving their occupational therapy goals.

How many people attended or participated in your project:

We had 10 participants aged from 14 - 24 but the group has performed at various events to audiences between 80-200 people

Testimonial or quote from a participant or organiser

"It's been more fun that I could have ever imagined" - Phillip

"I feel happy" Dillon

What did receiving CASP funding mean to you and your community group:

CASP funding enabled us to pay local teaching artist Rachel McNamara and local occupational therapist Drue Mortlock to facilitate the group. The group was free for participants. It also enabled us to provide transport for participants to ensure ease of attendance for the sessions.

What is your advice to other community groups applying for CASP funding in the future

CASP was invaluable to our project. We highly recommend you apply!



INTERNAL OPERATIONS AND STAFFING

Staff Professional Development

In 2019 a significant part of the Consequences: Exploring the Aftermath of World War One project, which we partnered with AlburyCity & Greater Hume Council to deliver, was the opportunity to hire a local emerging Curator and upskill them in Museum Collections. We were able to split the role and hire Bethany Thornber (Wiradjuri) and Andrea Briggs (Wiradjuri) to share the role/opportunity. It provided significant, paid, professional development for them both.

Alyce was awarded a full scholarship from the Hugh Williamson Foundation to participate in the 2019/20 Alpine Valley Community Leadership program, also completed Blind Low Vision training provided by Description Victoria and delivered a presentation at MAAS Regional Stakeholders Forum in November.

Bethany attended the Aboriginal Cultural, Heritage & Arts Association conference in Armidale and the Murray Arts team were all at AlburyCity's Keeping It Real symposium.

The Regional Arts NSW Network meet up 3 times a year, in Sydney, to discuss opportunities for the network, share our challenges and to be presented to by metropolitan based organisations interested in engaging with the NSW Regional Arts Development Organisations.

Recruitment

In 2019 we recruited for the positions of:

- Engagement & Communications Officer
- Aboriginal Arts Curator for burraja gallery

In July we bid farewell to our Communications Officer Julianna Toth and were fortunate to have Nat Ord swiftly step in as her replacement. Bethany Thornber, the inaugural curator of burraja gallery, who was at the helm for 2yrs+, has decided to move onto explore overseas opportunities. We commencement recruitment for her replacement in late 2019 and as of early 2020 the position is still vacant.

Finance

Murray Arts is a service organisation which is reliant on Funding to keep our organisation operating. It means our time is often taken up with writing and acquitting many grants from numerous sources. Our aim is to be able to deliver more services and programs that are not reliant on funding. In 2020 we saw a real shift in where we have managed to source income from.

Our income 2019 breakdown:

- Core Funding from Create NSW & our Local Government Partners – 62%
- Grant Funds – 13%
- Auspiced Funds – 3%
- Other Income, which includes burraja gallery sales – 22%
- Our total revenue for 2019 was \$363,190 and our total expenditure \$337,619, which left us with a healthy surplus of \$25,571.

The Full 2019 Murray Arts Audited Financials are available to view via [our website](#).

Note: In 2019 we changed Auditors from Focus Partners to Johnsons MME.



Murray Arts Board Meeting at Albury creative co-working space Hustle

FUNDING AND PROJECT PARTNERS

Many thanks to our funding and project partners.

Core Funding Partners



School Drama™



Beyond YOLO



Pygmy Perch 360 Tour



Consequences



Country Arts Support Program



burraja gallery



Employment Funding



Other Project Partners and collaborators



Vehicle sponsorship





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