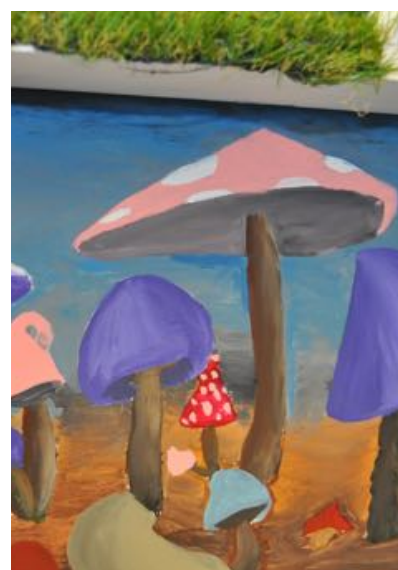




MURRAY ARTS

Regional Arts Development



Clockwise from top: The Sum of Us (detail), the new flag and logo for burraja gallery, Little Libraries (detail), Alyce Fisher with the cast of Coranderrk

ANNUAL REPORT

DIGITAL VERSION
2017

THE WORD FROM THE CHAIR

2017 was the year of welcomes and farewells at Murray Arts. We welcomed a new Executive Director, Alyce Fisher to the team in January, and Bethany Thornber as Aboriginal Arts Curator in October. 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 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 FROUDIST
CHAIR OF MURRAY ARTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it. – Michael Jordan

My first year with Murray Arts brought with it more challenges than I ever could have anticipated. Some say change brings change and this was most certainly the case for Murray Arts. When I started in January 2017, as the new Executive Director we had three long-standing team members in the Murray Arts family, and by the end of 2017 all three had stepped down for various personal reasons. I have been reassured that it wasn't just because of me!

This meant I spent much of my year not only trying to establish myself within my new role, new organisation, and new community, but also recruiting and inducting new staff members. It was a tough year all round and I want to thank our partners and participants for their patience.

Now, don't get me wrong! Although we did have to postpone several projects we had planned, we also managed to deliver an awesome artistic program, engage with each corner of our foot print and when it comes to the Community Assistance branch of our program it would have to have been one of the biggest years yet for Murray Arts.

My highlight of the year was being welcomed into the community by our local Aboriginal Artist Network and having the privilege to hear so many stories about the Late Eddie Kneebone when we worked with ArtSpace Wodonga and Wodonga TAFE to exhibit his last series, Bones of Contention, in July.

Having spent many years living and working in the South West of NSW & then overseas, it has been a joy to explore such a different region here in the North East/Border footprint with its incredible arts infrastructure and appetite for arts and cultural opportunities. My mum often comments "It's like you are living in London again as you are always off to the Theatre or an Exhibition opening!" I still have so much to explore and many more people to meet, but thank you to everyone who welcomed me so warmly into the organisation and greater community. I have so many ideas and aspirations for Murray Arts and really look forward to sinking my teeth into a (fingers crossed) more stable 2018.

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 Froudust

Deputy Chair Jennie Star
Councillor representative Towong Shire Council

Treasurer David Thurley
Councillor representative AlburyCity Council

Secretary Deborah Ross

Diane Shepheard

Councillor representative Indigo Shire Council
Annette Schilg

Councillor representative Greater Hume Shire Council

Outgoing board members 2017:

Glenn Mancer and Denise Osborne

Governance Update

Murray Arts started the process of moving from a Representative Based Board Structure to a Skills Based Board Structure. This move is due to a report and subsequent recommendations from Create NSW for the whole NSW Regional Arts Development Organisation network. We will also be implementing a new Strategic Advisory Council made up of local government representatives and local arts organisations who will meet twice a year. This has involved us reviewing, editing and then in essence overhauling our constitution which will be adopted and implemented in 2018.

THE STAFF

Alyce Fisher – Executive Director

Vivien Naimo – Finance & Administration Officer (retired in April 2017 after 10 years with Murray Arts)

Carolyn Doyle – Communications Officer (finished up December 2017)

Maggih Coates – Aboriginal Arts Officer (finished up July 2017)

Rod Bramich – Sub-contracted book keeper (started March 2017)

Bethany Thornber – Aboriginal Arts Curator – Emerging (started October 2017)

Timeeka George – School Based Trainee (started June 2017)

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.

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 -2019 Murray Arts Strategic Plan identifies five goals which underpin the operations of our organisation.

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



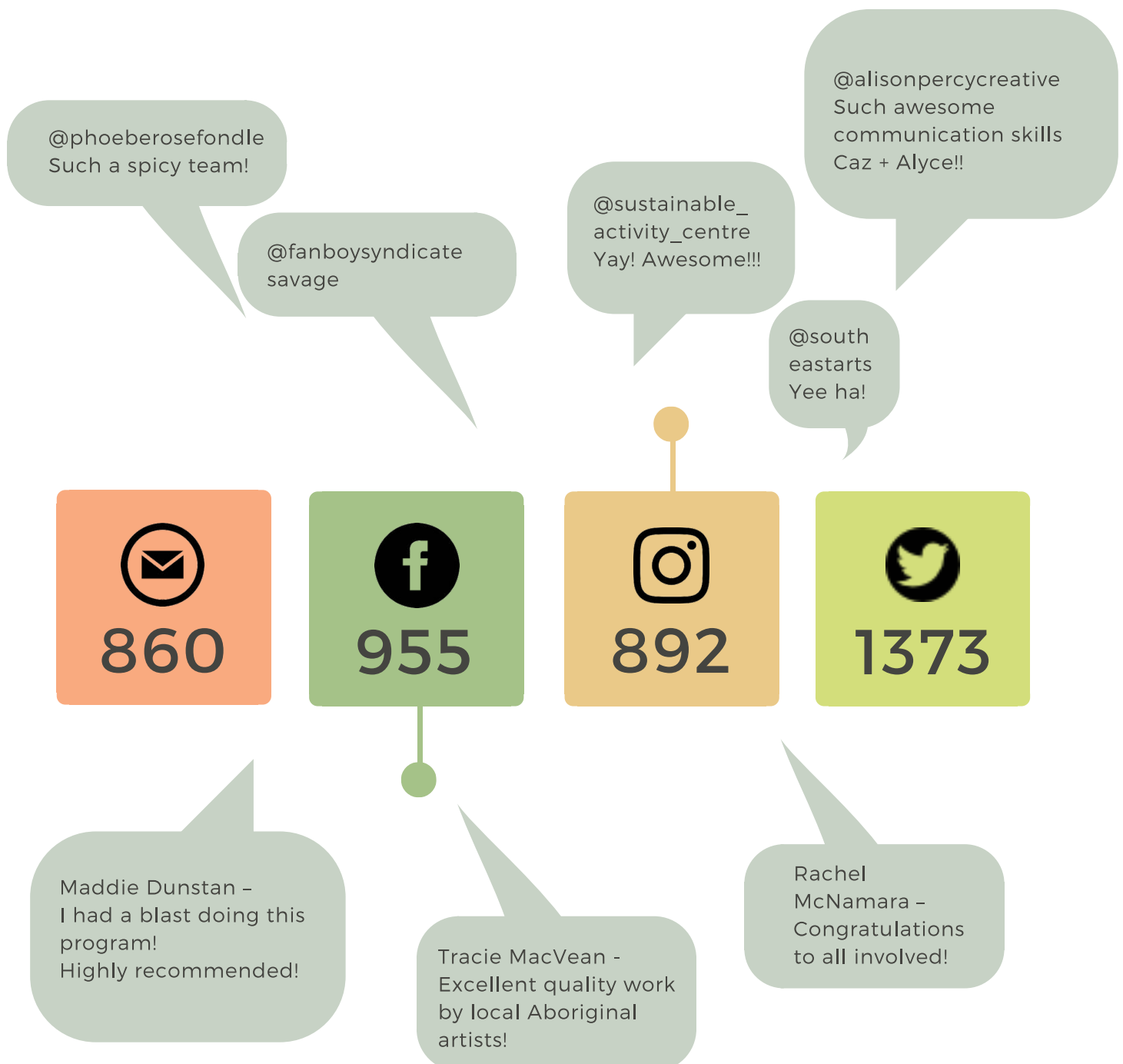
The Murray Arts team at Pfeiffers
Selfie by Alyce Fisher

COMMUNICATIONS

With an extensive newsletter subscriber base, media and LGA email lists, 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, artist profiles, jobs and events. Local arts organisations and arts 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.

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



The Murray Arts Artistic Program is
cantered on four key areas:
Regional Arts Development
Aboriginal Arts Development
Capacity Building
Core Service Delivery



REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Key deliverables

GOAL	ACTUAL
Develop workshop program as part of Cargo – Art in Transit	The natural evolution of Cargo – Art in Transit, was that it evolved into the burraja gallery pop-up exhibitions.
Commission one activity as part of Circuit program	Circuit was postponed due to staffing and planning challenges.
Deliver one Arts/Science project as Murray Science Hub	Delivered – Gliding into the Future

Gliding into the Future – funded by Inspiring Australia

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 QEII Square in September.

Gliding into the Future performance report

NAME	DATE	LOCATION	AUDIENCE
Preview Performance	13 September 2017 10:30am	The Sustainable Activity Centre, Gateway Village	35
Gliding into the Future	11 October 2017 7pm	Savernake Hall	30
Gliding into the Future	12 October 2017 11am	Burrumbuttock Hall	80
Gliding into the Future	12 October 2017 6:15pm	QE11 Square, Albury	400+

**"LOVE THE CREATIVE WAY
TO PRESENT SCIENCE!"**
Sue Rose

4 Performances
545+ total
audience



Gliding Into the Future performance at Burrumbuttock Hall
Photo: Natalie Ord

ABORIGINAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT

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 developed many new partnerships..

Key deliverables

GOALS	ACTUALS
Seek touring opportunity for local Aboriginal Art exhibition	Our focus shifted towards presenting exhibition opportunities with organisations to strengthen our local corporate partnerships. For example, North East Water, Artspace Wodonga, TAFE NSW.
Seek funding for residency program for Aboriginal Artists	In keeping with our local focus, the development of burraja gallery as a sustainable model became the main AAD objective for Murray Arts. Funding was sought and attained for a part-time Curator for 18 months from October 2017. This position will allow is to improve the programming of the gallery, expand on professional development opportunities for artists and continue to raise the profile of our Aboriginal Artist Network. Funding was also obtained to deliver our annual NAIDOC preschool workshops.
Continue to support the operations of Aboriginal Artists Enterprise	It was a massive year for our Aboriginal Artist Development program with many individuals, LGA's and organisations reaching out for assistance; which has cemented our reputation as the go-to organisation for all inquiries regarding local aboriginal arts development.

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 MacMillan took out the inaugural commission with her piece titled 'Dhumamungee' which is now a part of the North East Water permanent collection.

**13 ARTISTS EXHIBITED AND
4 ARTWORKS SOLD**



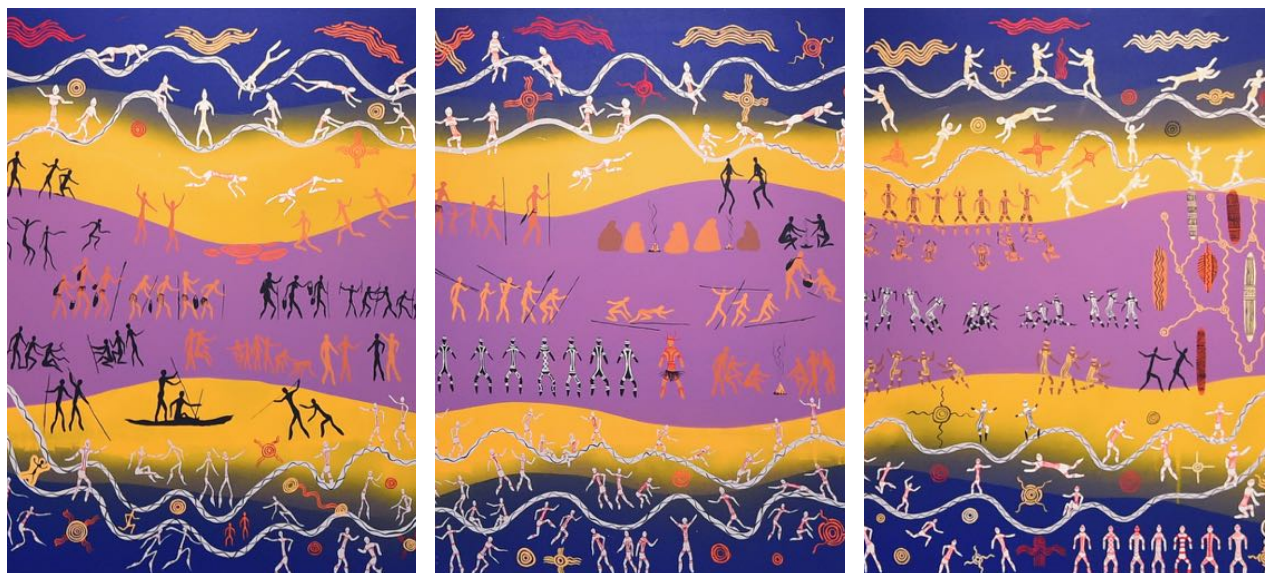
Artist Karin MacMillan and her work
Photo : Carolyn Doyle



North East Water Aboriginal Art Exhibition, installation view
Photo: Carolyn Doyle

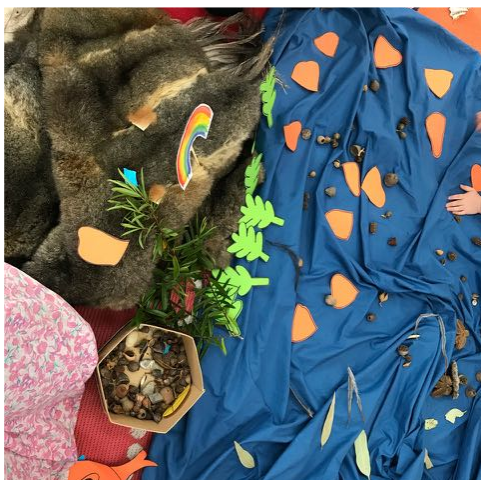
Eddie Kneebone, Bones of Contention Exhibition

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 powerful 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 so many groups, the packed room at the opening and the stories shared highlights the enormous impact Eddie and his work continues to have.



Bones of Contention, Eddie Kneebone

NAIDOC Week Preschool Workshops



Detail of creative storytelling- Rainbow Serpent
Photo: Alyce Fisher

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 and Dr Treahna Hamm visited 11 pre-schools/kindergartens, with a total of 287 participants, in the Murray Arts footprint as part of this program.

**11 WORKSHOPS FOR
287 PARTICIPANTS**

LOCATION	DATE	PARTICIPANTS
Bumble Bees Wodonga	June	40
Yarrunga Preschool	July	22
Albury Goodstart Learning	July	25
Corowa Preschool	July	20
Holbrook Early Learning Centre	July	18
Mulwala Preschool	August	30
Jindera Preschool	August	24
Tallangatta Kindergarten	August	16
Beechworth Kindergarten	September	28
Kiewa Valley Kindergarten	September	32
Berringa Kindergarten	September	32

burraja gallery

burraja gallery is the only Aboriginal art gallery dedicated to local artists in the Border/North East 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.



SALES **71**

TOTAL SALES
\$6,585.80



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 Coranderrk (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 GIGS Art 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 a part of their NAIDOC 2017 program.



Some of the works (detail) shown as part of Flow of the River at GIGs Art Gallery

CAPACITY BUILDING

As a grass roots organisation, Murray Arts understands the obstacles that inhibit our community. Through the Capacity Building programs we delivered in 2017, we provided our wide and diverse community with opportunities to strengthen skills and enhance abilities.

Key deliverables

GOALS	ACTUALS
Deliver 6 workshops as part of AMITC Program	Delivered
Deliver School Drama™ program in three schools	Delivered in 7 schools – to 12 teachers
Deliver 2 workshops in conjunction with performing arts centre	Unable to deliver
Deliver professional development program	Delivered

A Month in the Country (AMITC)

Our partnership with Hot House Theatre sees us assist in the delivery of the AMITC program. We work alongside the artist in residence to develop and deliver workshops relevant to our community. These workshops are very popular and it is a great opportunity for our community to be directly engaged with artists from all over australia and involved in the artistic process. In 2017 we delivered 6 workshops to a total of 129 participants.

AMITC WORKSHOPS



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.

SYDNEY THEATRE CO

AFTER UTILISING STRATEGIES FROM SCHOOL DRAMA, MY KIDS HAVE EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATION IN REGARDS TO THE LITERACY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES I SET OUT. I WAS BLOWN AWAY BY THE DETAIL IN THEIR NARRATIVE WRITING.

Madeline Dunstan
Beechworth Primary School



Teaching artist Rachel McNamara at Beechworth Primary School
Photo: Nat Ord

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.
- John Saunders, the Education Manager at Sydney Theatre Company, delivered a PD workshop about the School Drama™ program to improve literacy.

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

- Headlie Taylor Header Museum Henty to develop an EOI artist brief for a sculptural commission
- Global Sisters Dolphin Tank panel member as well as offering one on one marketing assistance to new start-up Blind Justice
- The Sum of Us – CASP funded project involving local museum collections is hosted on the Murray Arts webpage with an online gallery
- Auspiced funding managed for documentary 'Then He Came Home' – Leisa Whyte & Helen Newman
- Auspiced funding managed for the International Tap Dance Event
- Auspiced project assistance for the Wetlands Photography Project with Department of Environment and Heritage
- Auspiced wages for GIG's Gallery – GIG's Art Gallery Co-Ordinator

CASE STUDY | GIG'S AUSPICED PAYROLL

Briefly describe your Auspiced project and or how Murray Arts assisted you and or your organisation:

GIGS Art Gallery is a not-for-profit volunteer run organisation. Without the help of Murray Arts, we would find it very difficult to manage the pay for our one paid employee. Murray Arts adds expertise and support in areas we desperately need.

How many people attended or participated in your project?

There are ten people on the Committee and one paid employee, so even though Murray Arts handles the payroll for one employee, the project really affects all 150 members of GIGS.

How did receiving assistance from Murray Arts, by way of being Auspiced, help you/your organisation/project?

We would not be able to do the payroll as we don't have the expertise. Without this help, we would struggle to keep up with payroll tax, super annuation etc.

What is your advice to other community groups who may require help with being Auspiced in the future

Great group to work with. Very fun, talented and helpful.

"MURRAY ARTS HAVE BEEN GREAT TO WORK WITH. NOT ONLY DO THEY SUPPORT US WITH OUR PAYROLL, BUT I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON THEM FOR IDEAS AND HELP" - ERIKA GRIMES

CASE STUDY | AUSPICED FUNDING THEN HE CAME HOME DOCUMENTARY | LEISA WHYTE AND HELEN NEWMAN [NOMAD FILMS]

Briefly describe your Auspiced project and or how Murray Arts assisted you and/or your organisation:

I have been working on a play Then He Came Home which is about how Aboriginal Soldiers were treated after returning home from WW1 & WW2. During my research for the play I interviewed many local families and was privileged to hear their stories. It was then suggested to me that it would be fantastic to get these stories recorded and the idea of creating a short documentary was formed. I was successful in receiving funding from the Albury City Community Cultural Grants program. Local film maker Helen Newman from Nomad Films was engaged as the filmmaker.

How many people attended or participated in your project?

A screening of the short documentary film was held on Remembrance Day at the Albury Library, it has been viewed over 120 times on YouTube and is hosted on the Murray Arts website.

What is your advice to other community groups who may require help with being Auspiced in the future?

Murray Arts staff are extremely welcoming, encouraging, creative and professional. They have offered sound advice and creative ideas throughout this project.



Still from Then He Came Home documentary

"THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE ANZAC STORY FOR ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TO HEAR. WORKING IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH I KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARTS IN HEALING." - KARIN MCMILLAN, ARTIST AND PARTICIPANT

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 were able to financially support:

- 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
- Federation Council – Little Libraries Project and Henty Library – Eco Regalia.



- CASP FUNDED CASE STUDY - THE EXOTIC LIVES OF LOLA MONTEZ SAVERNAKE SCHOOL OF ARTS



Andrea Mitchell, Project Manager with cast of
The Exotic Lives of Lola Montez

Briefly describe your CASP funded project:

The Exotic Lives of Lola Montez a play that sizzled, shocked, enthralled the audience and gave homage to some of Australia's history – albeit colourfully, and maybe with a hint of embellishment.

How many people attended or participated in your project?

Approx 115

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

CASP funding gave the Savernake School of Arts hall committee certainty financially to host the play. The funding allowed the organisation to fully commit to planning, advertising and organising the play to ensure success. The funding actually allowed us to get on with the business of hosting an event.

"SOMEONE THOUGHT LOLA WAS ABOUT THE GOLD RUSH. IT WASN'T. IT WAS A RUSH NONETHELESS. THE AUDIENCE LOVED, LAUGHED, WERE SHOCKED AND THOROUGHLY ENAMOURSED WITH THE EVENT" - ANDREA MITCHELL



Performance of The Exotic Lives of Lola Montez at Savernake School of Arts

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

Have a written plan for the event – let everyone on the committee know this plan

Have faith in your committee/group and share responsibilities – keeps everyone engaged with process and feel part of it.

Advertise – nothing will happen unless you use all available methods – word of mouth, Social media, flyers, newspapers, radio etc

Patrons – look after your guests, make them feel welcome and wanting to come back again – we do this with supper etc

Thanks – thank all involved, committee, artists, financial contributors, guests

- CASP FUNDED CASE STUDY -
LITTLE LIBRARIES | FEDERATION COUNCIL



Installation view of Little Libraries exhibition at Art Space Corowa

Briefly describe your CASP funded project:

Little Libraries saw the transformation of 10 wooden bookcases into engaging works of art with the aim to attract preschool-aged children, encouraging young people to reach for books. Under the guidance of artist Vicki Luke, local high-school art students were tutored in expression and the execution of ideas. The works were exhibited at Art Space Corowa, prior to being placed in various places throughout the municipality.

How many people attended or participated in your project?

19 art students participated, 1 school art teacher and artist Vicki Luke for the workshop. The exhibition at ArtSpace Corowa had more than 260 visitors in 2 weeks with 180 pre-school and primary school children attending the exhibition and voting for 'People's Choice' winner

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

CASP funding enabled to project to go ahead. Little Libraries was an opportunity for Federation Council to work in partnership with a number of local community groups and businesses. The project gave 19 local high school art students hands-on experience, working side by side with a professional artist to learn specific art skills and techniques. The project also enabled the community connection with the finished works with exhibition at Art Space Corowa.

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

Engage with your partners in the development stages of the project. The project should be realistic and achievable. The best results are found in projects that encourage participation and engage the community.

"WITH SUCH A HIGH LEVEL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE LITTLE LIBRARIES PROJECT WILL BE A SPRINGBOARD FOR ALL COMMUNITIES WITHIN FEDERATION COUNCIL TO PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT FUTURE PUBLIC ART PROJECTS" - WENDY THOMPSON

INTERNAL OPERATIONS AND STAFFING

Staff Professional Development

Each Regional Art Development Organisation in the NSW network received a bonus \$10,000 for professional development opportunities in 2017. Small organisations like ours are always trying to stretch our small budgets to help us achieve great things and more often than not, the Professional Development budget line is the one that gets cut first. We thank Create NSW for allowing our team to indulge in some much-needed Professional Development in 2017:

- Alyce Fisher – studied a Graduate Certificate in Not-For-Profit management at ACU in Sydney. Modules covered were Governance, Human Resource Management, Finance for Decision Making and Marketing. It was a massive undertaking to be working full-time, in a new job and be studying but she did it and will be graduating in May 2018.
- David Sharpe from Generate delivered a Governance Workshop to the Murray Arts Board & Staff in March to prepare us for the planned board re-structure
- Focus on Partners helped to up-skill the Murray Arts to set-up a Point of Sales system for burraja gallery
- The Regional Arts NSW Network meet up in Sydney 3 times a year to discuss opportunities for the network, share our challenges and to be presented too by metropolitan based organisations interested in working with our unique network.
- Caz Doyle & Alyce Fisher attended the AlburyCity Keeping It Real – symposium July
- Alyce Fisher, Murray Arts Chair Tahni Froudish & Albury based film maker Helen Newman travelled up to Lismore for the first ArtState conference
- Alyce Fisher was also able to attend and participate in a Risk Management workshop with Guuramali PTY LTD, LGA Aboriginal Networking Conference and the Theatre Networks NSW Wellbeing Conference
- The funding application we submitted for Bethany's position of Aboriginal Arts Curator had a local mentorship program built into it. So far Bethany has assisted ArtSpace Wodonga with an install and we have made contact with MAMA, Wickman Gallery and the LibraryMuseum about locking in opportunities for Bethany to engage with their curators.

Recruitment

With so much change in the Murray Arts Team in 2017, we took our time to take stock and create a new look staff structure to suit our current needs. Alyce was able to put the many things she learned during her Human Resource Management module at university to good use. She has been heard saying "Just call me Head of Recruitment".

We recruited the positions of

- Sub-contracted Bookkeeper
- Aboriginal Arts Officer
- Aboriginal Arts Curator – Emerging
- Aboriginal Schools Based Trainee
- Communications Officer



Bethany Thornber, Aboriginal Arts Curator

IT Upgrade

Prioritising user-friendly IT solutions Murray Arts underwent an overall IT upgrade in 2017. This meant purchasing two new laptops, moving to Office 365, retiring our old sever and computers. We are now able to work re-motley with ease and hope to hold more Hot Desking offices days within our region. Although we still have IT drama from time to time it was a relief to review and upgrade this essential part to running our organisation.

Finance

In 2017 we transitioned from MYOB to Xero and welcomed Rod Bramich to the team as our Bookkeeper.

Overall our financial position is excellent with a total core funding received for 2017 of \$221,399.50.

Project funding \$23,999

Funding for employment of our Aboriginal Arts Development Team \$31,245.77

Auspiced Funding Managed \$11,232.61

burraja gallery sales \$6,988.80

\$153,421.59 transferred into Grants in advance for project and employment funding, flagged for use in the 2018 and 2019 programs

In 2017 Murray Arts made a deficit of \$1,968.95. Given the challenging year we had with staffing and recruitment, it is not surprising to have ended up with a small deficit. Many projects had to be postponed and subsequently we were continually having to revisit our 2017 budget/forecast. We underwent an essential IT review and upgrade in 2017 which was not originally budgeted for. It was noted by The Board that it may tip us over into a deficit but that it was vital that it occurred.

A reminder also that Murray Arts made a surplus of \$25,440.96 in 2016.

The 2017 Murray Arts Audited Financials are available to view via our Website.

FUNDING AND PROJECT PARTNERS

Many thanks to our funding and project partners.

Core Funding Partners



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture



School Drama™



Eddie Kneebone Exhibition



A Month in the Country



Gliding Into The Future



Employment Funding



Country Arts Support Program



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture

Country Arts Support Program

Other Project Partners and collaborators



Justice
and Regulation



Office of
Environment
& Heritage



Jacob Toyota



HEADLIE TAYLOR
HEADER MUSEUM



44-46 Lincoln Causeway
Gateway Island Wodonga
PO Box 7142 Albury NSW

(02) 6021 5034

www.murrayarts.org.au

Follow @murrayarts

