

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



MURRAY ARTS

Regional Arts Development



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*Image credits:
FRONT PAGE: ArtWork Residency - Image by Manifeasto Photography
THIS PAGE: Music Micro Festival - Upstream - Image by Chloe Smith Photography*



Chair's Report

Richard Hull

In my first year as Chair of Murray Arts, the organisation was forced once again to navigate through a range of COVID-related challenges. The arts community in our region needed the support and guidance of Murray Arts more than ever.

As we come to terms with a new kind of post-lockdown normal, more things are possible, yet COVID continues to create its own crazy kind of chaos, with high levels of infection circulating and isolation rules resulting in staff shortages and event postponements or cancellations. It's a different kind of hard, but just as hard.

In these troubled times, optimism is our greatest asset, and our organisation provides both comfort and hope to artists who are struggling to pick up the pieces. Murray Arts offers practical help through grant programs like UNLOCKED, platforms to show and sell work, most notably Burraja Gallery online, and forums for ideas and information sharing including the Cultural Roundtable.

Many in the cultural community have felt a sense of abandonment during this pandemic, with government solutions either not applying to them or delivering too little too late. Murray

Arts has provided – and will continue to provide – support and a sense of community and belonging.

In 2021 we developed a new strategic plan and restructured the executive to better reflect the workload and dynamics of the organisation. Despite the headwinds, a lot was achieved this year and on behalf of the board I would like to thank Alyce and Susan for their leadership and the whole team for their commitment.



Executive Director's Report

Alyce Fisher

What a year! 'Surely 2021 has got to be easier than 2020...!' was said out loud and written in copious emails; oh, how naive we were. But despite all the challenges of the second year of the pandemic, snap lockdowns, border closures, ever evolving regulations, mask on, mask off and plans A,B,C,D,E,F & G developed for every little thing, we got through it, delivering in real life activities/events/workshops in the sweet spots, when they were permitted and swiftly switching to digital delivery when we could. Thanks to the Create NSW Arts Restart Funding, we were able to engage, employee and inspire many local creatives and the highlights for me were the launch of the Burraja Gallery Website & Online Store and the continuation of our UNLOCKED micro grant program.

Our 2016-2018 Strategic Plan and subsequent triennial agreement was once again rolled by Create NSW in 2021 but I am very excited to confirm that after 3 rolled years Murray Arts has an adopted 2022-2024 Strategic Plan and a new triennial agreement with Create NSW; phew.

I was on parental leave for majority of 2021, returning to my role of Executive Director, part-time, from October; though you would have seen me with bub in tow, throughout the year, attending all the creative proceedings and trying to stay across it all. Big thanks to Susan Reid for taking on the interim Executive Director challenge and continuing on as part of the core team. A gigantic 'Cheers' to the Murray Arts team and support crew for handling all the things, taking everything in their stride, and remaining focused on championing Regional Arts Development in our footprint. And finally, Tahni Froudust stepped down, from the Murray Arts Board at the May AGM, after 6 years of service, 5 of which she was Chair, thank you for all the guidance support and stellar leadership.



IT'S A WRAP!



STRATEGIC PLAN
2022-24



Interim Executive Director's Report

Susan Reid

Much has been written about the dashed expectations for a “return to normality” in 2021.

For Murray Arts, expectations were not dashed – they were exceeded.

I was so fortunate to be in the Executive Director's role while Alyce was on leave. It was an extraordinary year where we seized one-of-a-kind opportunities and formed strong connections with artists and audiences in the Murray Arts community.

Highlights for me were welcoming Glennys Briggs to the team and working with her on the opening of the Burraja Gallery Pop-Up at 560 Olive Street, sharing food and inspiration with the artists at the Art>Work Residency and celebrating the work of professional regional artists.

The hard work and rewards continued for me as I stay on at Murray Arts. We did 2021 very well indeed.

The Murray Arts Board is a 9 member Skills Based Board structure:

Chair: **Thani Froud** (until May 2021)

Chair: **Richard Hull** (from May 2021)

Deputy Chair: **Diane Shephard**

Treasurer: **David Thurley**

Rachael Gadd

Donna Caffrey

David Gordon

Michael Moran (from May 2021)

Public Officer - **Alyce Fisher** (from May 2021)

Position Vacant

Position Vacant for MASAC member



Image: Murray Arts Board Members: Richard Hull (Chair), Diane Shephard (Deputy Chair), David Gordon, Tahni Froud (Outgoing Chair), David Thurley (Treasurer), Rachael Gadd, Donna Caffrey and Michael Moran. AGM May 2021.

Murray Arts Strategic Advisory Council (MASAC)

Commencing in 2018 and made up of 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.

MASAC Members are:

Dr Treahna Hamm – Yorta Yorta woman and member of the Burrinja Gallery Aboriginal Artist Network

Cr David Thurley – representative from Albury City

Cr Diane Shephard – representative from Indigo Shire Council

Cr Gail Law – representative from Federation Council

Cr Lea Parker – representative from Greater Hume Council

Karen Walls-Smyth – representative from City of Wodonga

Erin Davis Hartwig (from May 2021)

Barbara Pritchard (from May 2021)

Position Vacant

Position Vacant

STAFF

Susan Reid

Interim Executive Director (from September 2020 to October 2021)
Business Manager and Executive Assistant (from October 2021)

Glennys Briggs

Yorta Yorta & Wiradjuri
Aboriginal Arts Curator for
Burraja Gallery and Aboriginal
Arts Officer for Murray Arts
(from November 2020)

Alyce Fisher

Executive Director (from January 2017 – returning from parental leave October 2021)

Nat Ord

Engagement & Communications
Officer (from July 2019)

Rod Bramich

Subcontracted bookkeeper (from March 2017)

Michelle Fracaro

Subcontracted – Project Coordinator
Art>Work

Bek Gibbs

Subcontracted – Project Manager
Limelight: Art – Science – Light

Ashlee Laing

Subcontracted – Burraja Gallery
Curatorial Assistant

Sam Hagen

Subcontracted – Burraja
Gallery Assistant

Narelle Vogel

Subcontracted – Restart Program
Manager

Helen Newman

Subcontracted – Creative Director
Limelight: Art – Science – Light

Tiffany Ward

Subcontracted – Aboriginal Arts Officer
Assistant and Burraja Gallery Assistant

Emily Patten

Subcontracted – Burraja
Gallery Assistant

Mark-John Martyn

Subcontracted – Burraja
Gallery Assistant



Image: Murray Arts Team Photo, Hyphen Wodonga, September 2021.

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 and creative enablers to work on our projects, giving them creative opportunities to develop and share their skills.

We are always looking for new ways to build audiences, foster creativity and connect with our community.



OUR REGION

Our footprint borders the Indigenous Nations of Dhuduroha, Yaithmathang, Bpangerang, Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta & Wavaroo and encompasses the local government areas of Albury City, Greater Hume, Federation, City of Wodonga, Indigo and Towong.

FIVE STRATEGIC GOALS

2016 -2021 Strategic Plan Identifies Five Goals which underpin the operations of Murray Arts.

01 To be the central point of information and communication for the arts across the region

02 To forge strong partnerships with local government and other arts organisations

03 To build the capacity of artists and communities in the arts

04 To develop strategic projects of regional significance

05 To ensure the ongoing sustainability of Murray Arts

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

COMMUNICATIONS



Image: Upstream 2021 - Chloe Smith Photography

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is important in any relationship and became even more important during the pandemic. Our newsletter continues to be the most effective and direct method of communication with our artists, partners and community who are provided with relevant information on funding, professional development opportunities, events, jobs and news.

Our regular segment on ABC Goulburn Murray with host Sandra Moon and Communications Officer Nat Ord went from a fortnight spot to weekly and covers creative news and events across the Murray Arts region and beyond.

Social media continues to be an important tool for our communication activities, and we've seen an increase of followers across the most popular platforms. It is an effective method for engaging with our audience in a timely and relevant way enabling us to share information that is fresh and engaging.



Newsletter: Subscribers 943
+16% increase



Facebook: 1764 Likes, Likes increase 13%
2231 Following, increase 8%



Twitter: 1445 followers
-1% decrease



Insta 1653 followers
+15% increase



Images: Top: Executive Director Alyce Fisher (top) and Nat Ord (bfm) in the ABC GM studio with Sandra Moon.

TESTIMONIALS

'Thanks Murray Arts for including my workshop in your newsletter again! If you haven't subscribed to this newsletter... do it now.. A great source of information about what's happening in the creative world, from exhibitions to workshops, job and grant opportunities... and a whole lot more! Plus... it's local.'

Felicite Grogan local artist

Just a note to say thank you so much for including the 1-on-1 Consultation information in your newsletter! Much appreciated. They have been really fantastic and it's wonderful to see so much local talent enthusiastic about building their careers.

Phoebe Pinnock Regional Music Officer – Music NSW

We have had tremendous feedback about the warmth and ease of which Sandra and Nat bounce off each other, from Local councillors to our regular listeners.

Gaye Pattison,
Chief of Staff ABC GM

The arts chat is a lot of fun when Sandra and Nat get on, it makes my day when I hear those two laughing.

Wodonga Councillor

That Nat is a ripper I love the way she talks about art and nature with Moony they sound like they are great mates.

Garry

THE MURRAY ARTS ARTISTIC PROGRAM IS CENTRED ON FOUR KEY AREAS



**REGIONAL ARTS
DEVELOPMENT**

**ABORIGINAL ARTS
DEVELOPMENT**

**CAPACITY
BUILDING**

**CORE SERVICE
DELIVERY**

REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT



Image: Upstream 2021 - Chloe Smith Photography

KEY DELIVERABLES

2021 – Goal

Music Micro Festival –
partnership with AlburyCity
Upstream 2021 – Funded by
Create NSW Arts Restart



2021 – Actual

Achieved

2021 – Goal

LIMELIGHT: Art – Science – Light
Partnership with the Murray
Science Hub & Gateway Village
Tenants.
October 3 2021 – Funding
Secured Regional Arts Fund



2021 – Actual

Despite our best efforts
Postponed, again, fingers
crossed for April 2022

2021 – Goal

Art>Work – Residential Local
Visual Artist Retreat – Funded by
Create NSW Arts Restart



2021 – Actual

Achieved



ART > WORK

Project Manager: Michelle Fracaro

ART>WORK residential camp #1

20-24 May 2021

Oakleigh Hideaway 15 minutes from Corowa on the Murray River, in the Federation LGA.

ART>WORK a 4-day residential program that created opportunities to further artists' work by providing them with time and space needed to work collaboratively or in solitude, explore ideas, exchange experiences, hear from colleagues and professional mentors and reflect on their practice.

Accommodation, food, materials, and a curated program of activities was provided. Workshops and artist talks were delivered by Lorraine Connelly-Northey, Marijana Van Zanten, Robert Klein-Boonschate and Glennys Briggs. Local artists were selected via an EOI round.

Image: ArtWork Residency - Image credit Manifeasto Photography

Artist 4 Day Camp

Ashlee Laing - Conceptual; utilising performance installation, video, photography, painting, drawing and object making. Wodonga, VIC.

Maria Klinger - Jewellery/metal work, Indigo, VIC.

Pinky Wittingslow - Textiles, forage, found materials. Wodonga, VIC.

Vicky Luke - Drawing, painting, sculpture, public art, installation. Albury, NSW.

Robert Sherwood Duffield - Multimedia artist working in both digital and analogue media. Federation, NSW.

Lenni Morkel-Kingsbury - Sculpture, adornment, performance. Indigo, VIC.

Suzie Scott - Acrylic paints on canvas, paper and board. Federation, NSW.

Joanne Diver - Ceramics (hand built). Using found/foraged/wild clay as an under glaze or stain on commercial clay. Albury, NSW.

Beth Thornber - First Nation Painter. Albury NSW.

“ The residency was like the Cultural Roundtable meetings by Murray Arts but on super steroids! An opportunity to network, share ideas and gain insight into the practice of other artists in the region AND to meet the people behind the work. ”

“ The unfortunate circumstances of the last year or so have also seen some great initiatives. The residency is one such initiative by Murray Arts. Rather than being isolated I have had the opportunity to meet other artists, attend workshops and talks; be paid and to really connect with others in the local arts community. There I made friendships that will last beyond the residency. In these hard times the residency was the beginning of great opportunities. A thoroughly enriching experience. ”

“ The entire experience was positive. The structure was perfect. The balance of workshops, artists talks and time to work on my own art. The program was well thought out. The food was wholesome and a huge part of the entire experience because it brought us all together. Having a creative caring hostess (Lindy) was another major key as she made sure we had everything we needed, and I felt nurtured and care for. I could focus on being creative. ”

- ART>WORK participants

“

There was such a fantastic balance of program lead activities and then self lead practice that I had time for all the things above. That and the property was a perfect choice, especially having the host, Lindy, so supportive. I don't think the residency would have been such a success without Lindy's support. She gave me access to plant materials around the property, clay from the dam and use of the fire pit so in those regards I was able to experiment with new mediums as in plants and native clay as well as pit fire my pottery for the first time. Talking to other participants really helped me figure out how to bring my artistic practices together for a body of work I have now started working on; the exploration of mental deterioration. This is something very close to my heart and it will be incredible cathartic to explore what I need to in honour of my Grandmothers. There was much reflection of an evening with new friends around the fire. It has been such a profound experience for me.

Pinky Wittingslow

”

ART>WORK residential camp #2

28-30 May 2021

The **ART>WORK** camp attracted a high calibre of applicants and Murray Arts decided to host a second, 2-day camp for another group of local artists. Unfortunately, a snap border closure was called the day before the camp was to commence, restricting movement for artists and support staff, and the camp had to be cancelled. Artists received the planned stipend and were encouraged to take an “at home art retreat”.

Artist 2 Day Camp

Donna Caffrey – Textiles. Albury, NSW.

Abi Thompson – Mixed media, watercolour, inks, printmaking, textiles, drawing works on paper. Wodonga, VIC.

Melinda Hamilton – Acrylics, fibre, printmaking. Indigo, VIC

Stephanie Jakovac –n Oil painting on canvas or linen, reverse oil painting on glass, mosaic, sculpture. Albury, NSW.

Marni Korneluk – Pencil, charcoal, paint pens, acrylic paint, oil paint, natural paint. Albury, NSW.

Julianne Piko – Sculpture, film & photography. Indigo, VIC

Kirrily Anderson – Ink and watercolour on paper, public murals. Indigo, VIC.



'ART>WORK enabled me to refocus on my artwork and make new networks after a year of isolation and worry. It has been a brilliant balm in uncertain times.'
Vicki Luke



'My head space before the ART>WORK program was one of clutter and my main focus was on trying to keep up with running a home and busy family of 6 in less than average domestic conditions. I have had little time to be creative. I was fearful of going into a space with other artists. I felt that personally, I didn't have time to take 4 days out of my family schedule to dedicate it to my passion. ART>WORK had a profound effect on me. I thrived in this space. The program was so well run that by day 2 I felt like I had been there for double that time. The experience I had was astounding. New friendships and artist contacts were made. Collaboration art pieces were made with no effort at all. Creativity just flowed with the support of everyone involved. A truly positive space.'
Susie Scott



'What a fantastic time, words are not enough to try and explain my experience.'
Maria Klinger

Images: ArtWork Residency participants- Image credit Manifesto Photography



MUSIC MICRO FESTIVAL

Music Micro Festival partnership with AlburyCity for Upstream 2021. The Create NSW Art Restart Micro Music Festival initiative provided an opportunity to collaborate with AlburyCity on the Upstream UpBeat Live & Local event at QEII Square in the heart of the cultural precinct. Funding provided artist fees for a Musical Director and 6 local musicians to perform LIVE in QEII Square and the event was also Live Streamed.

Images: Upstream 2021 - Chloe Smith Photography





LIMELIGHT: ART – SCIENCE – LIGHT!

This event has been in development, since the inaugural Limelight: Art – Science – Light event wowed audiences, in September 2018, with everyone demanding ‘when is the next one?’. The Murray Arts team set about dreaming up a way to build on the inaugural offering, be grounded in place, prioritise working with local creatives and find funding to deliver. Originally planned for Saturday 3 October 2020 – Postponed due to COVID Restrictions and the Border Closure. Rescheduled for Saturday 2 October 2021 – Postponed due to COVID Restrictions/Limitations and Weather. Rescheduled for April 2022 (fingers crossed). Project Managers Helen Newman and Bek Gibbs. Artists: Adam Boon, BNG Learning, CAD Factory, Michael Laubli, NOMAD films, Greg Pritchard, and Kurt Saggars. A significant amount of planning has gone into this event, so many variations mapped out and sheer tenacity from the team. Funding has been secured from the Regional Arts Fund and extra funds from Create NSW Restart program have been vital to keep this dream alive.



Image: LIMELIGHT event meeting during 2021 Lockdown

ABORIGINAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT



Image: Burraja Gallery - Shop - Pop-Up November 2021

KEY DELIVERABLES

2021 – Goal

Burraja Gallery POP-Up in the Albury CBD for 3-6 months. Exhibitions, public programs and expansion of audience.



2021 – Actual

Burraja Gallery achieved a 12month Pop-Up at 560 Olive Street Albury.

2021 – Goal

Launch Burraja Gallery website and online sales platform.



2021 – Actual

Achieved launching in October 2021

2021 – Goal

Kinder Kulture – deliver in person workshops and or Kinder Kulture @ Home episodes.



2021 – Actual

In person workshops were still not possible, so new episodes were developed for our Kinder Kulture @ Home series.

KEY DELIVERABLES CONT.

2021 – Goal

Writing Hub Partnership with MAMA.
Commission First Nation writers to respond to the DIWIL exhibition by Brook Garru Andrew.



2021 – Actual

Achieved

2021 – Goal

Advice & Advocacy – Maintain high levels of support to the established Aboriginal Artist Network. Respond to the various enquiries received which fall under the Aboriginal Arts Development Umbrella.



2021 – Actual

Achieved – Highlights

Black Border – Major CASP funded program, in partnership with James Fallon P&C and the Albury Secondary Public Schools Network realised.

'Well Meaning'. First Draft of new work by local writers developed.

Supported Mission Songs Project – HotHouse Season 2021. Local Mixed Mob choir was born.

BURRAJA GALLERY

Burraja Gallery is the only dedicated local Aboriginal Art gallery in the border region. We advocate for all First Nation artists who live, work or connect locally, and provide an opportunity for dialogue and connection between the wider community and our Aboriginal community. Originally situated in the shop front of the old Murray Arts office at Gateway Village, Wodonga, in 2021 we set about trying to find a new space for the gallery. Thanks to the Create NSW Arts Restart program we took advantage of the opportunity for Burraja Gallery to have an Albury CBD Pop-Up. The Pop-Up space at 560 Olive Street Albury, in the stunning Abikhair building, was only meant to be 3-6 months maximum, a case study to see if a more permanent Albury CBD location could be part of the future vision. We managed to extend the Pop-Up to 12 months and made so many amazing connections. It was a mammoth undertaking for our small team, ever evolving COVID restrictions and Border closures were so challenging but despite it all we achieved a few exhibitions, workshops, performances and definitely increased the number of sales for our artists. Friday 26 March 2021 – Burraja Gallery Pop-Up, at 560 Olive Street, Albury, Opened. Saturday 12 February 2022 – Burraja Gallery Pop-Up, at 560 Olive Street, Albury, Closed. We are working closely with the community to identify a sustainable & independent future model for Burraja Gallery. You can read the notes from the initial report by Mary-Anne Scully.



Image: Top: Nikita Tabuteau-Rosas, Bim: Burraja Gallery – NEW Art prize 2021.

Sustainable & independent future model for Burraja Gallery initial report





EXHIBITIONS



Family Ties Weaving Exhibition

Featuring Marg Murray, Valda Murray, Tamara Murray, Tegan Murdock, Tammy Murray and Glennys Briggs.

There is a deep connection with this group of women who have cultural, tribal and Family Ties. Their tribal affiliations are Yorta Yorta, Barkinji, Wiradjuri, Tungurung and Duduroa Dhargal.

4-24 December 2021

Images: Right: Tammy Murray - Family Ties exhibition opening, Top: Marg, Valda & Tammy Murray, with Glennys Briggs at the opening of 'Family Ties'



**Northeast Water
Aboriginal
Acquisitional
Art Prize Exhibition**

11 artists featured
▶ 18 to 29 October

Acquired Artworks:

TOP ↑ 'Gali Wadabaa' by Trish Cerminara (Gamilaroi) **acquired** by Northeast Water

MIDDLE → 'Life Blood' by Kelly Lock (Boandik Nation) **acquired** by DELWP.

RIGHT→'The One That Got Away' by Valda Murray (Yorta Yorta, Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation TO) **acquired** by Northeast Catchment Management Authority





‘Presence of a Powerful Women’

Tamara Murray (Barkinji, Yorta Yorta)

■ Nov 16- Dec 4 Cancelled



NAIDOC Exhibition

Kmart Wodonga

▶ July 2021



TESTIMONIALS

**‘Sensational to view the
works and artists last night.
Terrific gathering.’**

Christine Bottrell
Commenting on the Northeast
Water Online Opening

**‘Awesome talent, I love that
you are supporting all forms
of art as well, such a great
and inclusive move.’**

Sophie Yaldwyn
Commenting on Nikita’s
Northeast Water entry



WORKSHOPS



Yidaki - Didgeridoo Workshop

Yidaki - Didgeridoo workshop

■ Saturday 20 November - postponed

Yidaki - Didgeridoo workshop led by Uncle Phil Murray

For men and boys

▶ Saturday 11 December 2021 held at Gateway Village - achieved

*Images: Left: Yidaki Workshop - Uncle Phil Murray, Image Kevyn Lee
Top: Yidaki Workshop participants, Image Kevyn Lee*



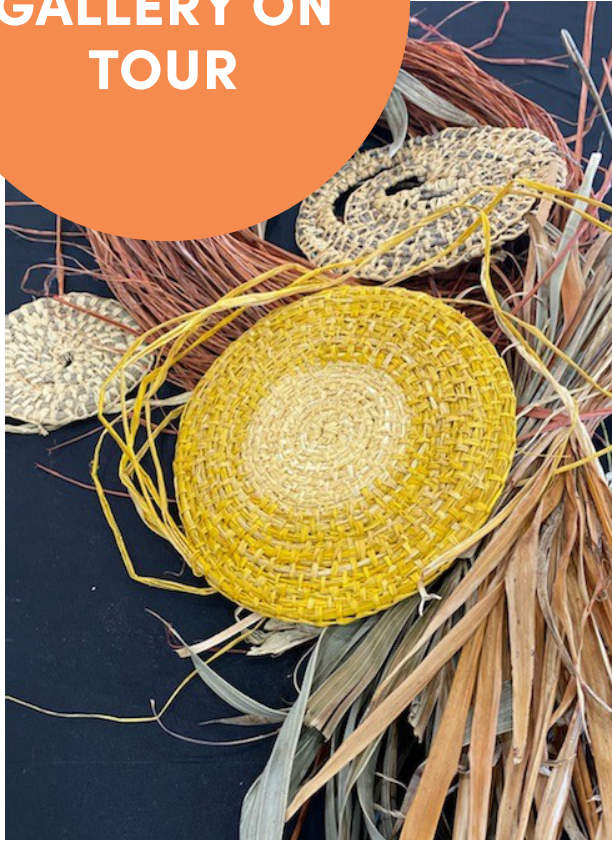
Emu Feather Beading
Led by Valda Murray
► Saturday 6 November



Possum Skin Cloak Workshop

► Monday 21 June

BURRAJA GALLERY ON TOUR



FREE Reconciliation Week

Grass Weaving Workshop with Glennys Briggs

► Tuesday 1 June



Weaving Workshops

Greater Hume ► Achieved

Federation Council ■ Postponed



Connect + Weave

Led by Marg Murray

► Saturday 19 June

WORKSHOP TESTIMONIALS



'Thanks so much!! It was fun'

Birgit Schönafinger
Participant in the Emu Feather Beading Workshop
at Burraja Gallery Pop-Up



**'Awesome workshop; great vibe,
great space, people exchanging
stories, everyone comfortable in
being. It was a magical moment.'**

Ashlee Laing
Yidaki (Didgeridoo) workshop by Phil Murray,



**'It was such a great class today.
Thank you so much'**

Andrea Ryder Red Cross
Reconciliation week weaving

*Image: Left: Yidaki Workshop participants, Image Kevyn Lee
Middle: Emu Feather Beading with Valda Murray participants,
Image credit Kevyn Lee. Right: Weaving Workshop led by Marg*

BURRAJA GALLERY COMMUNICATIONS

Burraja Gallery shares the same engaged newsletter subscriber base as Murray Arts but has its own unique social media audience, including a supportive local Aboriginal Artist Network that actively engages with opportunities and news. In 2021 Burraja Gallery social media really grew, thanks to the 560 Olive Street Pop-Up and the long-awaited launch of the Burraja Gallery Website & Online Store.



Facebook: 923 Likes,
1040 Following, increase 60%



Twitter: 116 followers
+7% increase



Insta 1007 followers
+30% increase

Image: MJ - Sales King - December 2021



KINDER KULTURE @ HOME



'I TELLS YA, MY CHILDHOOD WOULD'VE BEEN SO FULFILLED WITH AUNTS LIKE YOU. X'

— Rachael Oak Butler, local First Nation Creative



Episode 5 – Story Time with Aunty Yawana 'Coming Home to Country' – produced by Tiffany Ward (Yorta Yorta) and starring Yawana Fork (Wiradjuri) - aka Aaron Perkins-Kemp-Berger (Central Arrente)



Episode 6 – Story Time with Aunty Yawana 'Luurnpa, The Magical Kingfisher' – produced by Tiffany Ward (Yorta Yorta) and starring Yawana Fork (Wiradjuri) - aka Aaron Perkins-Kemp-Berger (Central Arrente)



Images: Behind the scenes Kinder Kulture @ Home - Yawana Fork

WELL MEANING

In the midst of 2020/21 and a pandemic, local First Nations writers came together, at Burrinja Gallery, to create. Inspired by the 2019 artwork “Well Meaning’ writers were asked to reflect on good intentions and from this provocation emerged a diverse collection of works, from poetry to a script about vengeful Aboriginal vampires. Meeting every second Wednesday, the group engaged in an iterative writing process which saw the project divest from a singular output to four separate works. Each work is in its infancy, this opportunity has allowed creative processes to flourish & encouraged each First Nation writer to create in a world which had all but stood still.

Artists – **Mitch Hibbens (Wiradjuri), Nikita Tabuteau-Rosas (Wemba Wemba), Kathleen Sgro (Gamilaroi) and Aaron Perkins-Kemp-Berger (Arrente)**

Funded via RANSW RAF Relief Fund & Create NSW Restart Funding.

Images: Well Meaning



T H E R E ' S N O P R O O F A B O R I G I N A L S L I V E D
H E R E .

A R E Y O U S U R E T H E Y A R E A B O R I G I N A L ? T H E I R
N A M E D O E S N ' T L O O K A B O R I G I N A L .

H O W M U C H A B O R I G I N A L I S H E ?

A B O R I G I N A L S D O N ' T W E A R S H O E S .



MAMA
MURRAY ARTS MUSEUM ALBURY

Image: MAMA Writing Group. Image by Tina Baum

WRITING HUB – PARTNERSHIP WITH MAMA

DIWIL, an immersive installation by the internationally acclaimed interdisciplinary artist and scholar, Brook Garru Andrew featured at MAMA from 12 March to 4 October 2021. The Wiradjuri word *diwil* translates to ‘collection’ and reflects on the artist’s relationship with objects, history, and Country. Brook Andrew’s matrilineal kinship is from the *kalar midday* (land of the three

rivers) of Wiradjuri, and Ngunnawal on his mother’s father’s line, both Aboriginal nations of Australia, and paternally Celtic.

The DIWIL Writers Program invited six writers across the opening months of DIWIL to travel to Albury and spend time at the museum, with the artist, with the curatorial team and with the artwork.

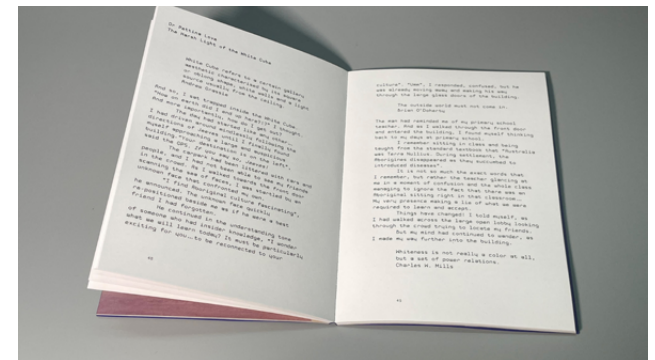
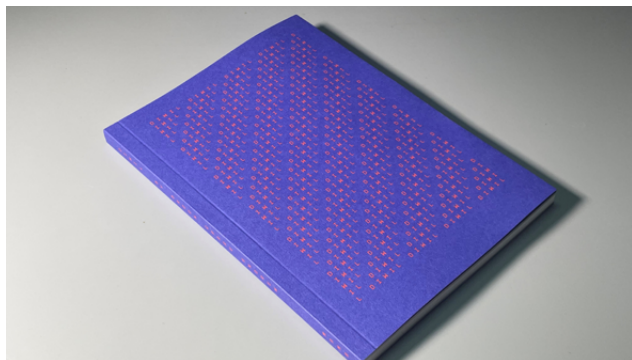
Writing can be a solitary practise. This program provided an opportunity for First Nation writers of divergent interests to respond to DIWIL. Each writer was invited to experience DIWIL in person, gather and yarn about concepts and intentions of work, walk on Wiradjuri Country, engage with local community, and participate in public programming.

The publication outcome, honours DIWIL and offers a collection of poetic, personal and critical responses from the six writers. The publication was completed and is available at MAMA. It is a wonderful catalogue to accompany this major commission by renowned artist Brook Andrew.

The DIWIL Writers Program was developed in partnership with Murray Arts, with support from Create NSW Arts Restart Writing Hub program.

EDITORS

Bethany Thornber (Wiradjuri) and **Nanette Orly**



Images: DIWIL publication, Mark Gowing

WRITERS

Tina Baum is from the Gulumerrgin/Gulumerridjin (Larrakia)/Wardaman/Karajarri peoples of the Northern Territory and Western Australia and born and raised in Garramilla (Darwin), Northern Territory.

Tristen Harwood is a descendent of the Numbulwar where the Rose River opens onto the Gulf of the Carpentaria.

Dr Pettina Love is a Bundjalung (Widjabal) – Gumbayngirr women raised on Wiradjuri Country.

Jazz Money is a Wiradjuri poet and artist, currently based on Gadigal country.

Lorna Munro, or ‘Yilinh’, is a Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi women.

Joel Spring is a Wiradjuri man raised between Redfern and Alice Springs.

BURRAJA GALLERY EXTERNAL HIRE

The stunning building that the gallery called home for 2021, was very quickly seen as a safe space for sharing stories and a contemporary keeping space for our local First Nation community. This naturally evolved to it being called upon, by others who wished for their creative outcomes to be showcased in the space. We were delighted to welcome and share 560 Olive Street with:

'Neighbour' – by Alyson Evans and Tahni Froudist – multiple performances throughout June 2021

PRESS PRESSure – by Aaron Perkins-Berger in partnership with Gateway Health – Premiere Tuesday 7 December 2021

"Much appreciation to the Burraja crew. Thanks to you, Glennys and Tiffany for allowing us to utilise a beautiful space and for all of the support and generosity - Thank you!"

Jody Riordan – Gateway Health – PRESS PRESSure Project with Aaron Perkins-Kemp-Berger

Image: Neighbour by Alyson Evans and Tahni Froudist _ Credit Threefold Studio



PRESS PRESSure

by Aaron Perkins-Berger in partnership with Gateway Health
Premiere Tuesday 7 December 2021

Images: PRESS PRESSure

'Neighbour'

by Alyson Evans and Tahni Froudust
Multiple performances throughout June 2021

Images: Neighbour by Alyson Evans and Tahni Froudust, Credit Threefold Studio



CAPACITY BUILDING

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

*Image: In The Bubble exhibition - Turks Head Gallery - CASP Funded.
Image credit, Border Mail*

KEY DELIVERABLES

2021 – Goal

School Drama: A partnership with Sydney Theatre Company. Deliver in the Murray Arts Footprint.



2021 – Actual

Achieved

2021 – Goal

Smart Arts: Professional Development opportunities delivered in partnership with City of Wodonga & supported by Restart.



2021 – Actual

Achieved

2021 – Goal

GreenHouse: National Artist Residency Program. Manage community workshop opportunities.



2021 – Actual

Achieved

2021 – Goal

Restart Funded – Professional Development Opportunities.



2021 – Actual

Achieved

A survey was circulated to the Cultural Round Table and UNLOCKED Alumni to gain information about possible professional development workshops the local Creative Community were seeking. This achieved 22 submissions and resulted in the expanded Smart Arts & Restart Professional Development Opportunities for 2021.

SMART ARTS 2021 THINK OUTSIDE THE STUDIO

Smart Arts – Murray Arts in conjunction with Wodonga Council and Create NSW Arts Restart presented Smart Arts 2021, a series of professional development workshops for local creatives and cultural enablers.

SMART ARTS
THINK OUTSIDE THE STUDIO





Writing for the Web delivered by Dan Kauffman

This workshop showed participants how to make their writing more effective – whether it's for websites, email or social media. Topics included, how people read online, writing for mobile and desktop screens, connecting your message to your audience's needs, how visual mediums can be supported by words, setting the right tone for your audience, the secrets behind effective headlines and intros, how to improve search engine optimisation (SEO) through headlines, subheads, body copy, title tags and keyword analysis (which is much easier than it sounds) and web content accessibility basics.

Venue: The Cube

Date: 17 April 2021

Participants: 8 people

Investment \$20 per person



Arts Law Webinars for Murray Arts Creatives 2021

Arts Law Artist Run Initiatives

14 April 2021 – Webinar – 7 people – Free

Arts Law Copyright for Artists

Webinar – 17 people – Free

Arts Law – Copyright Workshop for Local

Government Arts & Cultural Workers

5 October 2021 – 14 attended – Free

'Thanks so much Suzanne, really valuable content.'

– Justine Ambrosio, Wangaratta Art Gallery

'Thanks Suzanne - very interesting'

– Bronwen Garner, Hyphen Wodonga



'Thanks so much Nat. Yes, Vanessa is great and her Arbour event was seriously inspiring!'

- Nina Machielse Hunt, Indigo Creative

'Just a note to thank you for sharing "Mobilise" with us today. I have been in business for most of my working life and have only in the last 12 months branched into sharing creative arts with help from the funding world. I have had a couple of little wins and have loved what I was able to share and deliver. Your presentation has given me the bones to work with and the confidence to think a little bigger.'

- Kylie Biltris, Towong Creative

'Thanks for the resources they are great. Vanessa did a terrific job and was great to see the behind the scenes of a local successful project.'

- Carm Hogan, Federation Creative

'My creative mind is in overdrive after your fabulous presentation. Thanks for sharing your knowledge.'

- Sarah Stamm



Mobilise - Putting your project ideas into Action - facilitated by Vanessa Keenan from ACORN

14 July in person at Burraja Gallery

15 July on ZOOM

One of the hardest things about realising a project is having others realise the benefits too. Having an idea in your head is one thing but articulating it to others is a whole other ball game.

In this session run by Vanessa Keenan from Acorn Creative, participants learnt how to distil their ideas and identify the key information they need to convey to realise their project.

Both sessions were FREE and fully booked with 15 participants in each.



Eco Dying Silk Scarf Workshop

Learning the secrets of eco dying participants created a beautiful piece of wearable art. Kylie Biltris from Art Starts Here led participants, step by step through the techniques of Eco Dyeing, transposing leaves and other plants on to fabrics and paper.

Venue: Burraja Gallery

Date: 8 May 2021

Participants: 10 people

Investment \$49 per person

'What a perfect way to spend the day, each person made a scarf that was unique to them – I am wearing mine tonight.'
- Gudrun Reid, workshop participant.



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 since 2015! 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, in person and digitally. Three teachers at Lavington Public School completed the School Drama Program in 2021. The program employed one local performing artist as a Teaching Artist, Rachel McNamara.



GreenHouse: National Artist Residency

GreenHouse: National Artist Residency is an immersive, residential creative development program for live performance-makers from across Australia who are invested in developing a new work, expanding their own artistic process/practice through specific creative interrogations and radical experimentation in the development of new forms. Situated on Wiradjuri Country, HotHouse Theatre's GreenHouse is a stunning five-bedroom, two bathroom farmhouse and rehearsal studio located in the Wonga Wetlands, ten-minutes drive from the Albury CBD. The beautifully appointed retreat provides a powerful place for reflection, immersion and creativity. A condition of the residency is that each creative team must deliver a community focused workshop, AlburyCity and Murray arts partner with HotHouse to deliver the workshop program.

Two reasons why I love Murray Arts...

One: the people.

Two: when you say you are going to do something, you do! Thanks, that is a great list from Mary Rachel Brown, most useful!

- Carm Hogan, Federation Creative

Mary Rachel Brown Creative Writing Workshop

Mary Rachel Brown is a Sydney-based playwright and took up residency at Albury-Wodonga's GreenHouse in November 2022. As part of the GreenHouse national residency program, Mary delivered a creative writing workshop focusing on character-driven narrative. This was a practical workshop where participants learnt how to build characters and walk in their shoes.

Venue: Hyphen Wodonga

Date: 11 November 2021

Participants: 20 people booked and paid for workshop. 13 people attended/participated

Investment \$10 per person

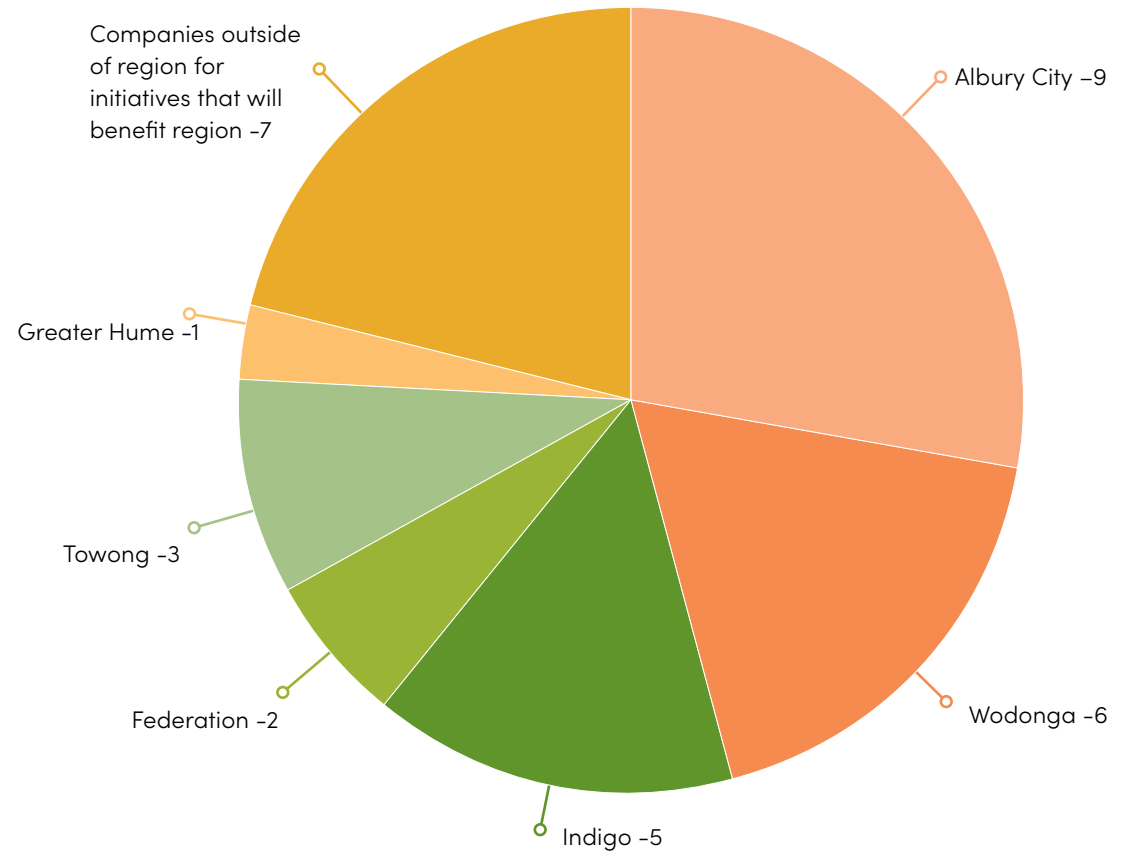
CORE SERVICE DELIVERY



Image: Neighbour by Alyson Evans and Tahni Froudist. Image Credit Threefold Studio

One of Murray Arts' key roles in the community is to support creatives, groups, organisations and local government to develop arts and culture in their communities. This role takes on many forms, including brainstorming out opportunities, auspicing funding and providing targeted support and guidance. In addition, Murray Arts offers expert advice to local, state and federal government bodies, providing a valuable link between government and the community.

Letters of Support have benefited:



'It has taken me 10 days to write this... I seriously hope I get it! Thanks for the support in my application @murrayarts @gigsgallery @blackcatgallery and @creatensw and those who read it over!'

Tracie MacVean
Albury, Visual Artist

'Congratulations to Murray Arts on such a successful artistic year. Despite lockdowns and social distancing restrictions, the Border was able to pull off some amazing creative work. Thanks for all your support in keeping creatives like us alive and in work, even in the hardest of times.'

Response to Murray Arts 2020 Annual Report
Albury Wodonga Creatives
Jason Robins, Photography &
Aimee Chan, Author

AUSPICED PROJECTS & INITIATIVES 2021



'Becoming Bulldogs' documentary by Rebecca Randall – Wodonga Council Community Impact Grant



Art Starts Here – Managed grants from – Wagga Wagga City Council & Wodonga Council Community Impact Grant



Black Border – 'Well Meaning' – funding from RANSW RAF Relief Funding



Turks Head & Albury Wodonga Photography Group – 'In The Bubble' – CASP Funding



'Land of Snow and Ice' by Rachel McNamara – CASP & Wodonga Council Community Impact Grant



'Cathy Goes to Canberra – The Musical' Creative Development – Celsius HotHouse Funding

AUSPICED PROJECTS & INITIATIVES 2021 CONT.

Gateway Island Gallery and Studio (GIGS) –
Management of Payroll

‘Regional Originals’ Atomic Music
– Albury – CASP funding

Beechworth Contemporary
– Indigo Shire Council Grant

‘Riverina Ramblings’ project
– Federation Council Funding

‘Wild Wetlands’ Wetlands Photography Project
– Dept Environment and Water NSW

Katherine Hulme – Towong Shire
– Creative Recovery Victoria

*Image: Clockwise: In The Bubble - Turks Head Gallery
– CASP Funded. In The Bubble - Turks Head Gallery –
CASP Funded -Dancers at the opening. Land of Snow
and Ice – AlburyCity Upstream 2021.*



‘We had an item come up for debate last night at our council meeting around the MOU for Murray Arts. Just wanted to let you know you are all doing such fantastic and important work, particularly around your focus on Aboriginal art’

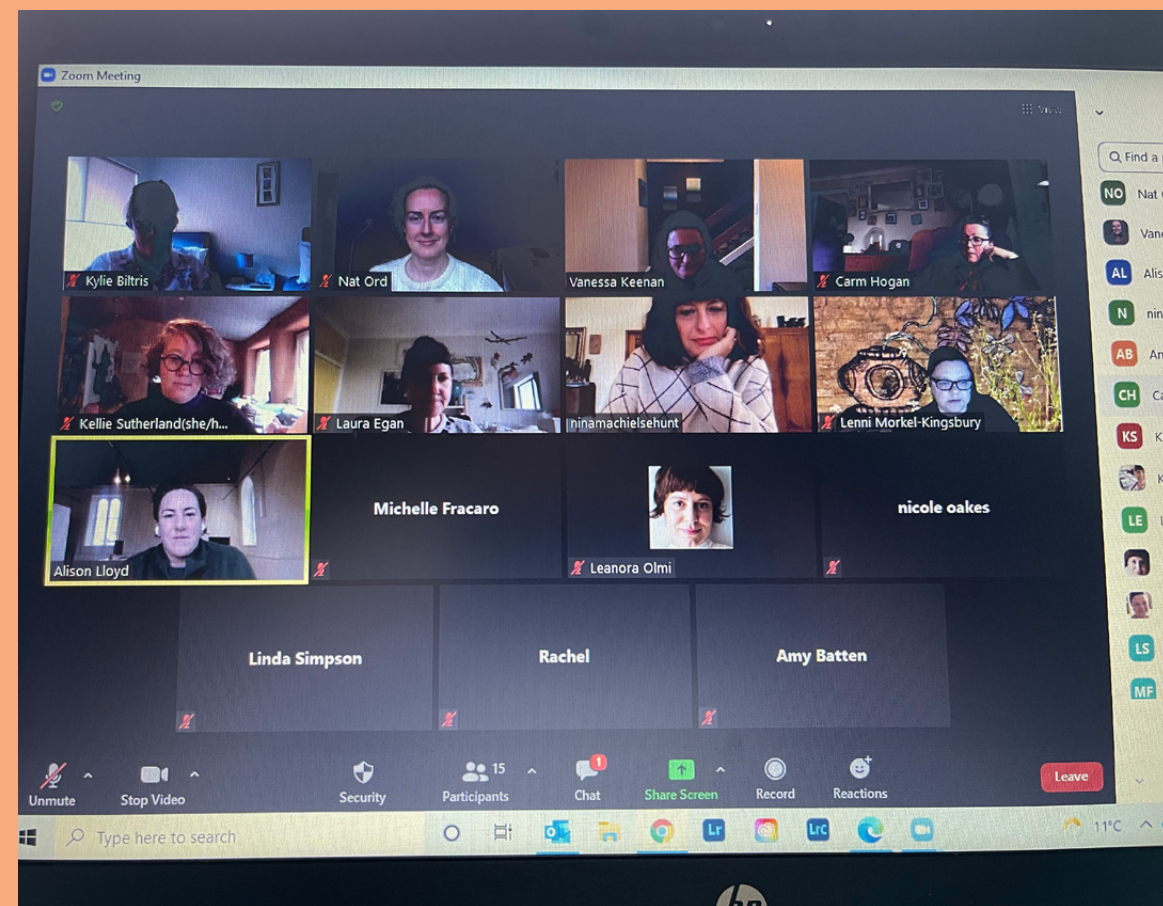
Cr. Kat Bennett, Wodonga Council



Image: NIKITA TABUTEAU-ROSAS (Wemba Wemba) The Serpents Water Dance 2021

CULTURAL ROUND TABLE OF THE BORDER NORTHEAST

Initiated by Narelle Vogel, as a way for our local Creative community to remain connected when the first national COVID-19 restrictions commenced in late March 2020, the Cultural Round Table of the Border Northeast continued to meet, throughout the year, via ZOOM. The meetings were less frequent in 2021 but still very much so well attended and very so much appreciated.



UNLOCKED – MICRO FUNDING ROUNDS



\$12,000 - May 2021

Professional Development

Restart funded

\$500 X 4 individuals

\$2,000 X 5 Collectives



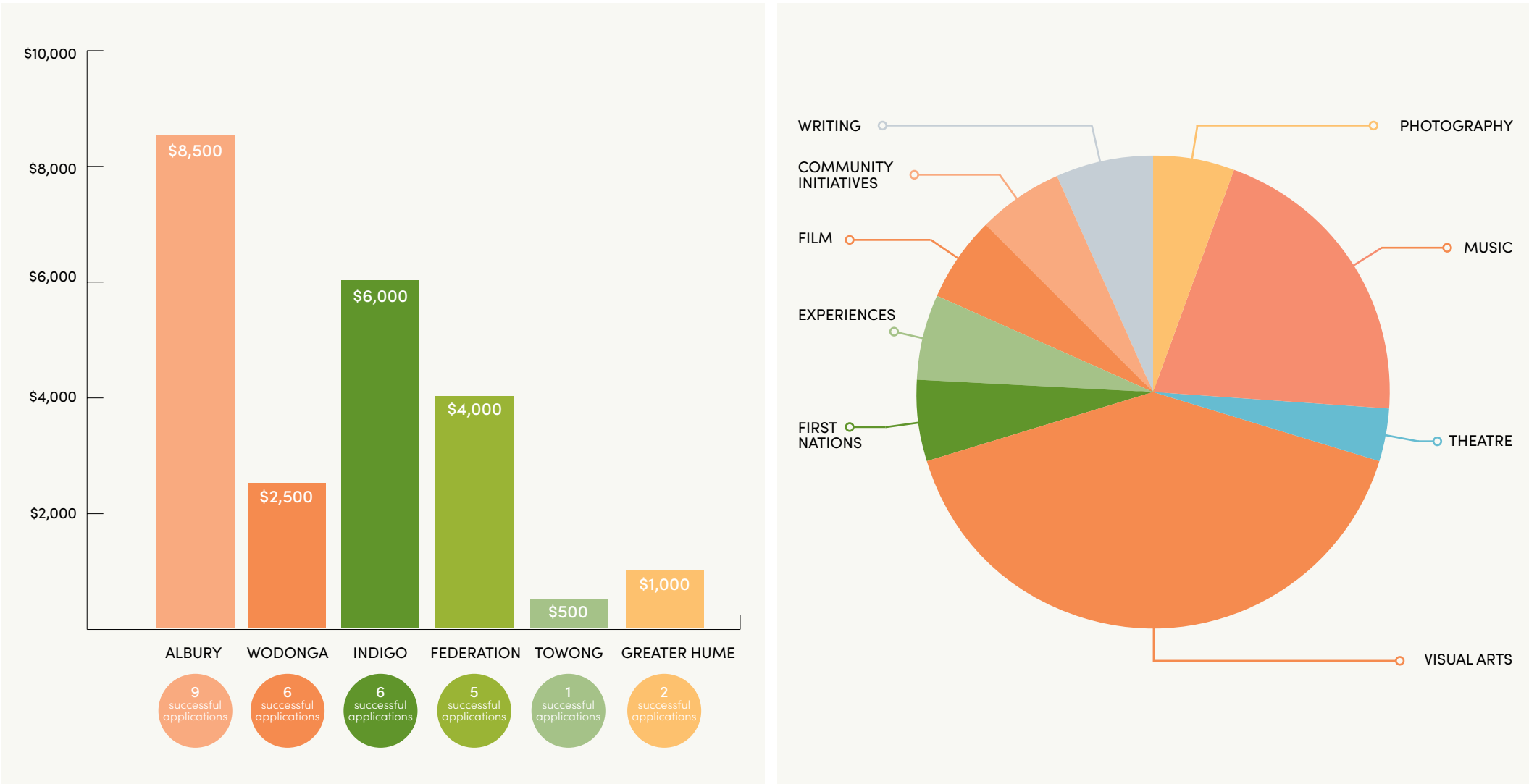
\$10,000 - December 2021

UNLOCKED Summer

\$500 X 20 successful applications

Fast Facts (note many applications, from both rounds, financially benefited more than one creative but only one LGA has been noted below as benefiting from each successful application)

APPLICATION DISTRIBUTION



“ Oh wow! Thank you so much, Alyce. That’s wonderful news. I’m thrilled.
Kate Rotherham
– Indigo – Writer ”

“ Thank you so much for the Unlocked \$summer grant! That was great news to receive last night. Guess I’d better get busy over summer now!
Karen Webb – Albury – Photography ”

“ This is very good news for the summer release of The Renegades – thank you very much! And for the speedy turnaround = great work! Thanks again for Murray Arts ongoing support of The Renegades and in particular the upcoming release of Episode 3. Not long now!
Alison Plasto – Albury – Film ”

“ Thanks so much to Murray Arts
Phillip Nielsen – Federation, Rambling Riverina Project ”



“ WOW! Thanks – So grateful for this program
Ashe – Wodonga – Visual Artist ”

“ Good Morning and THANK YOU so so much. This grant will help my art business in so many ways. I honestly clueless as to how to express my complete shock and gratitude. THANK YOU SO MUCH!
Tammy Campbell (Wiradjuri)
– Wodonga – Visual Artist ”

“ Thanks again for your support!
Connie O’Connell
– Music – Albury ”

“ Thank you for choosing us for this grant! We look forward to putting together some great music!
Cameron Walls – Good Gravy Quartet – Albury-Wodonga – Music ”

COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM (CASP) 2020 POSTPONED PROJECTS – DELIVERED IN 2021

\$2,411.51 – Murray River Fine Music

Lior Performance

Will bring Lior, an independent Israeli-Australian singer-songwriter, to the Albury. He is a rare Australian musician and performer who has successfully bridged the gap between Classical/ Art Music and mainstream contemporary styles.

Achieved – Saturday 22 May 2021

Image: Lior – Murray River Fine Music – CASP funded



COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM (CASP) 2020 POSTPONED PROJECTS – DELIVERED IN 2021

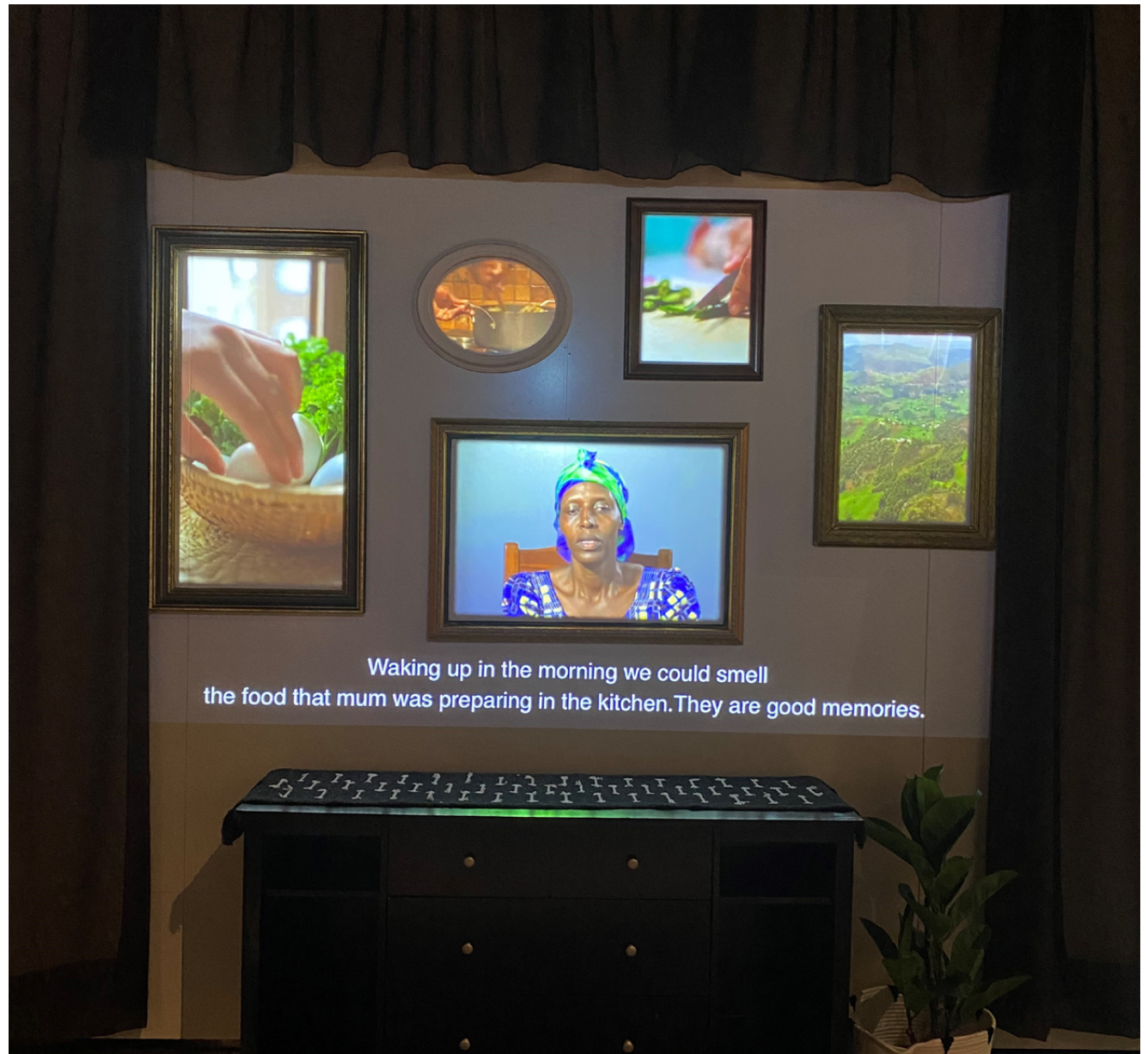
**\$3,000 – Albury-Wodonga Ethnic
Communities Council (AWECC)**

Living Room

“Living Room” is a digital art project that explores stories of local community members from Refugee backgrounds. Presented at the Albury Library Museum as part of refugee week in 2020.

Achieved

*Image: The Lounge Room Project – Albury Wodonga Ethnic
Communities Council and Nomad Films*



COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM (CASP) 2020 POSTPONED PROJECTS – DELIVERED IN 2021

\$4,000 – James Fallon P&C

Black Border Re-Imagined

Acclaimed theatre performer and director Kamarra Bell-Wykes (Yagera/Butchulla/European) will return to Albury to work with young aspiring Koori theatre students and Black Border Alumni to create a new devised performance. The performance will be showcased to the public and will be part of the re-imagining of Black Border Theatre.

Achieved – Friday 2 July 2021

Image: Black Border 2021 – CASP Funded



Image: Credits

COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM (CASP) 2021

\$4,500 - 'A Land of Snow and Ice' Creatives

Land of Snow and Ice Performances

The project will be holding 3 performances of A Land of Snow and Ice, which will be an immersive theatrical experience for young people and their families.



Image: Land of Snow and Ice - AlburyCity Upstream 2021



\$3,426 - Albury Wodonga Photography Group

In The Bubble

A community photography project and exhibition showing the huge change 2020 has brought to our lives, particularly in the Border Bubble (Albury/Wodonga), and how we adapted and came together as a community, and as artists.



Images: In The Bubble - Turks Head Gallery - CASP Funded. Right: Nat Ord and Vivein Naimo.

COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM (CASP) 2021



**\$4,069 - Albury Wodonga Volunteer
Resource Bureau Inc**

Albury-Wodonga

Our Home is a digital storytelling project that shares and celebrates the unique stories from Albury-Wodonga's vibrant Bhutanese and Congolese communities. In partnership with local artists Alyson Evans and Tahni Froudish, community members will participate in storytelling workshops, resulting in 6 digital storytelling films that will be shared during Harmony Week.



Images: Our Home - AWRB and Neighbour - at LibraryMuseum

COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM (CASP) 2021 UPCOMING

\$4,500 - Atomic Music

Regional Original

Regional Originals is a fortnightly, original music night to be hosted at Woolhouse Albury with a keen focus on three original music artists each event. This fortnightly, tables booked, COVID safe, seated event highlights original artists and gives them a supportive setting to perform their music.

\$4,624 - Federation Council

Urana Courthouse Museum Millinery Workshop

Urana Courthouse Museum is organising a Rural Women's 2-day Millinery Workshop to take place in Urana in August 2021.

\$4,145 - Mulwala Public School P&C Inc

Bpangarang Animal Garden

Mulwala Public School students will collaborate with local Elder Uncle Freddie Dowling to create a sculpture garden of plasma cut local native animals. The garden will enhance the school communities understanding of Bpangarang language and culture and provide a platform for students to experience the elements of drawing and design.

INTERNAL OPERATIONS



Image: Weaving Workshop, Burraja Gallery

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Murray Arts Team now permanently work from home, when not out and about at meetings, delivering workshops and or rostered onto manage Burraja Gallery opening hours/events.

Staff Professional Development – in 2021 the Murray Arts Team partook in:

- ▶ Australia Council Riverina Leadership Program – hosted by Eastern Riverina Arts – Susan Reid, Erin Davis-Hartwig, Ashe Laing, Kerryn Beaty and Alyson Evans travelled to Wagga Wagga to take part in this opportunity provided by the Australia Council for the Arts in partnership with our neighbouring RADO, Eastern Riverina Arts. Selected by an EOI process, the participants gained insights and shared experiences with cultural leaders from the region and experts from Australia and further afield.
- ▶ Susan, Nat and Glennys completed Dan Kauffman's Writing for the Web online workshop and from this booked him for Smart Arts.

- ▶ Susan, Nat and Glennys attended the Gallery Curation Workshop hosted by Western Riverina Arts – Jerilderie – in March 2021
- ▶ RADO Network fortnightly ZOOM Meetings
- ▶ Regional Arts NSW monthly ZOOM Meetings
- ▶ Regional Arts NSW December Meeting in Canberra



Image Gallery Curation Workshop – Jerilderie – March 2021

RECRUITMENT

For 2021 our small core team remained unchanged and expanded to welcome many sub-contracted staff to help us deliver our 2021 program.



Image: First Night Fling 4 December 2021 - Staff & Board EOY gathering

FINANCE

2021 saw Murray Arts Income take another significant leap, in 2018 & 2019 our revenue averaged \$370,000 per annum, in 2020 jumped to \$456,000 and 2021 \$608,000. These increases are due to COVID-19 stimulus funds, an increase in the amount of funds we are called upon to Auspice and a core-funding boost from Create NSW. The many programs, initiatives, support, and outcomes we delivered in 2021 was far too much for our small core team to handle and subsequently we brought on a tribe of local support staff to help. Burrinja Gallery's 12month Pop-Up at 560 Olive Street Albury, put considerable strain on Murray Arts. The cost of Albury CBD rent, the extra staff needed to maintain opening hours and the challenges of 2021 resulted in us recording a \$18,000 deficit for 2021. But after years of consistently recording surplus' we are going strong, maintaining healthy reserves and continuing to investigate opportunities to champion Burrinja Gallery with a more sustainable model.



CORE FUNDING



BURRAJA GALLERY



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

SCHOOL DRAMA



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



SMART ARTS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



CASP



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture



REGIONAL ARTS
NSW

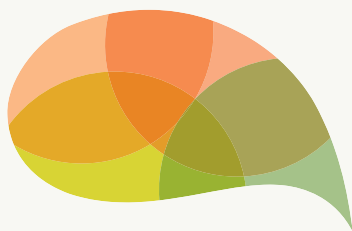
EMPLOYMENT FUNDING



OTHER PROJECT PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE/COLLABORATIONS



Upstream
Festival of Art+Culture
Immerse yourself.



MURRAY ARTS

Regional Arts Development

PO Box 7142 Albury NSW

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