



SOUTH
EA
ARTS

ANNUAL REPORT
2020

2020 was an extremely challenging year for the arts in our region, beginning with the devastating bushfires, followed by the extended impact of Covid. Cultural venues closed, tours and performances were cancelled and major arts festivals and events were postponed to the following year. South East Arts responded to these challenges with a range of new initiatives that aimed to assess the impacts and deliver direct assistance to artists and arts organisation in the region. We increased our online service delivery and established new projects that could be delivered within Covid restrictions.

Bushfire Impact Survey

In January, our Bushfire Impact on the Arts Survey assessed the affect of the fires on individual artists and arts organisations in the region. The survey was replicated by a number of other Regional Arts Development Organisations in NSW and the results were collated by Regional Arts NSW. The survey data provided evidence for Regional Arts Australia to take to Federal arts meetings in early 2020, as well as support advocacy to Create NSW for funding programs.

Micro Grants

South East Arts awarded 34 Quick Response Micro Grants to artists and art organisations, providing just over \$33,000 to the arts in the region. The funding supported a diverse range of proposals from the purchase of tools and materials lost in the bushfires, to website development and live streaming equipment.

Almost 100 applications were received, highlighting the significant impact that bushfires and COVID-19 had on artists in the region. South East Arts initially supported the one-off grant round from our public fund and then received additional support from the Bega Valley Regional Gallery, through the Regional Arts Fund, as well as from the Eurobodalla and Snowy Monaro Councils.

Summary

BVSC – 57 applications, 19 successful

ESC – 28 applications, 10 successful

SMRC – 13 applications, 5 successful

DIGITAL MARKETING

eNEWS SUBS: 1,504 WEBSITE VISITS: 19,097

FACEBOOK LIKERS: 4,093 FACEBOOK REACH: 193, 746

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS: 2,043

TWITTER FOLLOWERS: 608

AUDIENCE, PARTICIPANTS & ARTISTS

AUDIENCE - 2450

PARTICIPANTS - 125

ARTISTS EMPLOYED: 75

Aboriginal Music Recording Project

In 2020 we produced a compilation album to showcase a selection of Aboriginal songwriters living on Yuin country. With support from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, we set up a temporary music studio at Umburra Cultural Centre and recorded 8 tracks by musicians from Wollongong to Eden. The album will be available for sale at Giiyong Festival 2021 and all profits will support the festival and associated community projects. Featured artists include:

Matty Walker & Kyarna Rose - Wollongong
Ron 'Callo' Callaghan - Moruya
Gabadu - Bermagui
Nikea Hayes & Dre Wicks - Eden
Gadhu Dreaming Band - Nowra
Buddy Walker & Uncle CJ Leon - Wollongong / Bermagui
Chelsy Atkins - Bournda
Richard Luland - Ulladulla

Artless Bastards Podcast

A new monthly podcast, Artless Bastards, premiered in October and profiled regional artists, arts workers, creative producers and performers from the region and beyond. The one-hour episodes included commentary on current issues, interviews with guests and regular creative business advice from Monica Davidson of Creative Plus Business. 2020 guests included Robyn Martin, Leland Kean, Patrick Dickson, Lee Pemberton, Mark Salvestro and Sharron Mason.



Olga Masters Short Story Award

Covid lockdown was the ideal time to reintroduce the Olga Masters Short Story Award to the arts calendar. Initiated in 2014 by Well Thumbed Books in Cobargo, South East Arts picked up the management of the competition, which honours local author and journalist Olga Masters. We created a new website to promote the award and received entries from all over Australia. Alison Flett's *Go Get Boy* won first prize and was published in the literary publication *Island Magazine*.



OUTPUT: Art After Fire

This artist mentoring and field research project, in partnership with FieldScreen International, will produce an online catalogue of creative responses to the bushfires that ravaged southeast NSW and western USA. Since late 2020, OUTPUT has supported 10 visual artists and creative writers whose practice has been affected by recent fires to make new artwork about their experiences. Funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs has enabled this project, with the online catalogue available in June 2021.





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All donations of \$2 or more to the South East Arts Public Innovation Fund are tax deductible.

Supported by:



FUNDING SUPPORT

South East Arts supported many applications for bushfire and Covid recovery funding through ongoing advice and provision letters of support. We wrote a record 62 letters of support for funding applications that included local councils, artists and organisations, as well as companies and artists from outside the region to deliver programs locally. Many of these applications were successful, with projects ongoing into 2021.

CLIENT SERVICE DELIVERY

One of South East Arts' key roles in the region is to support artists, communities and local government in developing arts and culture. This role takes on many forms, from arts business and marketing training, to professional skills development. Many of these services were delivered online in 2020 through workshops, Zoom sessions and webinars.

Our communication and promotion of arts events and news continued to build audiences and profile the work of individual artists and organisations. In 2020 we introduced new branding for the organisation including our logo and website redesign. South East Arts continued to provide advice to local, state and federal government peak bodies, particularly in relation to COVID responses and advocacy for the arts. This focus helps to create a valuable link between government and the regional arts communities.

FINANCIAL

In 2020 South East Arts finished the year in a solid financial position, thanks particularly to Government support from JobKeeper and ATO Cash Flow Boost. The organisation has a total equity position of \$154,332 which includes the Public Fund that is open to donations at any time.

STAFF

In 2020, the team of South East Arts comprised: Andrew Gray - Executive Director, Laura Jackson - Communications Officer, Avi Amesbury - Finance & Administration Officer, Jasmin Williams - Arts and Cultural Programs Officer.

GOVERNANCE

South East Arts is governed by a volunteer board of management, made up of three council representatives and seven skills-based members. At the May 2020 AGM the executive team comprised Helen O'Neil (Chair), Bruce Carmichael (Deputy Chair), Lisa Matthes (Treasurer) and Sue Haslingden (Secretary). Ongoing board members were Pete Wild, Isabel Darling, Pip Ryan, Lindsay Brown and Cathy Griff.

Cover image: *Veneer #13* by Katherine Boland - one of the 10 artists participating in the OUTPUT: Art After Fire project
Page 3 (l to r) - Gabadu and Ricky Bloomfield in the temporary recording studio at Umburra, Mark Salvestro - one of the 34 micro grant recipients, Andrew Gray recording an episode of Artless Bastards
Page 4 - (top) Winners and runners up of the Olga Masters Short Story Award
(bottom) Artists and Mentors participating in the OUTPUT: Art After Fire project