

SouthEastArts



2012 annual report

South East Arts appreciates the support from the following partners:



Australian Government
Indigenous Culture Support



REGIONAL ARTS
NSW

**Museums
& Galleries
NSW**



Introduction

2012 has been another productive year for South East Arts as it continues to support arts and culture across the south east region of NSW. Strategic initiatives and innovative projects have set solid foundations throughout 2012 to grow the region's cultural currency. South East Arts made a significant contribution to the development of individual artists and organisations, establishing partnerships and enriching the cultural calendar of the region.

Vision

The South East of NSW is celebrated as having a dynamic, diverse and contemporary culture that gives expression to the unique qualities of our region and its people.

Mission

South East Arts aims to increase the social, cultural and economic wellbeing in the south east region of NSW Australia. We provide leadership in the development of a distinctive culture in our region by supporting dynamic creative activity through partnerships with our communities. We seek, provide and promote opportunities for artists to explore contemporary arts practices, giving expression to the vital connections between us as individuals and communities, in response to the world around us.



Chair's Report

After a transitional period in 2011 focused on constitutional reform and repositioning, in 2012 South East Arts covered an extraordinary amount of ground. Financially, we finished the year with a modest surplus and on a high, thanks to the exciting announcement by Arts NSW that each of the 14 Regional Arts Boards could expect an annual increase of \$35,000 to core funding for the triennial period 2013-15. This followed a one-off \$7,000 project grant in May to each of the Regional Arts Boards. Both announcements were warmly welcomed by South East Arts and arts communities across the length and breadth of regional NSW.

The year began on an aspirational note, with a two-day Board planning retreat at the Oaks Ranch outside Moruya, a perfect environment for creative thinking and deeper contemplation than is possible at our tightly scheduled Board meetings. Skillfully facilitated by Chris Sharma, we focused on developing team unity and a sense of shared purpose, with the theme of "leadership" as inspiration for our work and the organisational principles underpinning the development of the 2013-15 Business Plan.

At the AGM in April the Board appointed a new Treasurer: co-opted Board member Brad Spalding who is the owner of the Wild Brumby Schnapps Distillery at Jindabyne, bringing high-level business skills to South East Arts. One of the first decisions to be made by the new Treasurer was approval for the purchase of a new vehicle for South East Arts. Developing fundraising and marketing plans within the context of our Business Plan have been areas of particular focus for the Board in 2012. My sincere thanks go to my board colleagues Catherine Andrews and Bettina Richter for their excellent leadership and very hard work in driving these two areas that are so vital to South East Arts' future.

In welcoming four new Board members as a result of the Local Government elections in September, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all four outgoing Board members for their outstanding service to South East Arts. We pay tribute in particular to Karen Cash, our longest serving Board member, for her extraordinary commitment to the arts in the Bombala region for over 11 years.

After much discussion and soul-searching over months, in 2012 the Board took the difficult but necessary decision to centralise South East Arts' staff services in the Bega office to maximize efficiency and provide a more focused service to all 5 LGAs in our region. This meant that the Project Officer position in the High Country would be discontinued at the end of 2012 and a new part-time Communication and Development/Fundraising position would start in 2013.

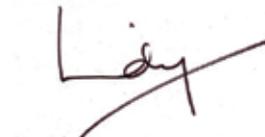
In 2012 we welcomed new Financial and Administration Officer Tracy Elton, who in just a few months has transformed the South East Arts office, whipped our financial and administration systems into shape and won the hearts of everyone she encounters with her "can-do" style and efficiency. While these are exciting new developments for South East Arts, we were very sad to say farewell to Heidi Kunz, whose hard work and project development skills in the High Country on behalf of South East Arts over seven years was greatly valued.

I am delighted to say that Andrew Gray's contract as General Manager of South East Arts was extended at the end of 2012 for a further 3 years. Andrew is held in high esteem by his peers and colleagues around Australia, and is a tireless and dynamic advocate for South East Arts in our communities.

In 2012 Andrew has risen brilliantly to challenges of developing an excellent Business Plan and the many projects outlined elsewhere in this Annual Report. He deserves the thanks and congratulations of all of us on the Board for his terrific work this year.

Finally, my sincere thanks as Chair to my Board colleagues one and all, and in particular to the indefatigable Penny Bonnell, our most excellent secretary, without whose support I simply couldn't have managed the job of Chair in 2012. This Board really is such a wonderful and highly skillful group of people, each utterly committed to enriching cultural life in our communities. It's sometimes challenging, and there have been many hours behind the wheel driving to meetings and events, but we are all proud and endlessly enthusiastic about our work for South East Arts. It is a privilege to Chair this plucky and dynamic organisation.

Lindy Hume

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindy', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chair, South East Arts



Image: Submarine, Brett Martin

Corporate Governance

The 2012 Board structure continued on from the revised organisational structure implemented in 2011. Five council delegates and five co-opted skills-based members now comprise the Board structure, with a number of sub-committees focusing on a range of priority areas.

During 2012 the Board comprised the following people and positions:

Lindy Hume (Chair), Co-opt member
Cr Graham Scobie (Deputy Chair), Council delegate – Eurobodalla
Penny Bonnell (Secretary/Public Officer) Co-opt member
Brad Spalding (Treasurer), Co-opt member
Karen Cash, Council delegate – Bombala
Cr Liz Seckold, Council delegate – Bega Valley
Cr Bill Smits, Council delegate – Snowy River
Bettina Richter, Co-opt member
Catherine Andrews, Co-opt member

At the November Board meeting three new Council representatives were welcomed:

Cr Craig Mitchell, Cooma-Monaro (replacing Cr Stephanie McDonald)
Cr Sue Haslingden, Bombala (replacing Karen Cash)
Cr John Shumack, Snowy Mountains (replacing Cr Bill Smits) new Deputy Chair.

In late November Councillor Fergus Thomson replaced former Deputy Chair Graham Scobie as the Eurobodalla Shire Council representative.

The Board met four times in 2012—April (including the AGM), May, July and November, in addition to the planning retreat in February. The organisation was represented at the State level with Lindy Hume becoming the Chair of the Regional Arts NSW Board.

His Merry Men by Mandy



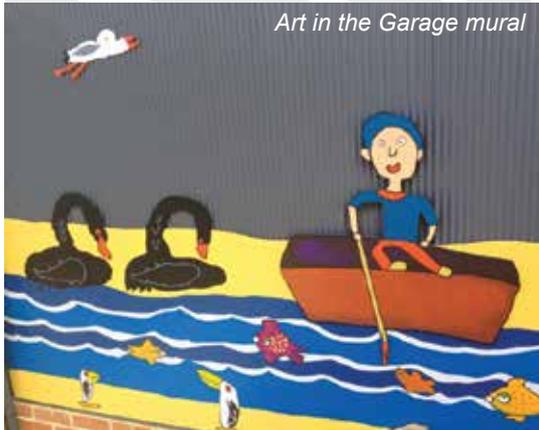
HERITAGE



ReVive Opening

MUSIC & DANCE

Art in the Garage mural



White Ash by Annie Franklin



Naidoc Week, 2012, Eden

VISUAL ARTS

INSPIRE

CELEBRATE



Heath Cullen by Eryca Green

FESTIVAL



Snowy River Sphere,
by Richard Moffatt



Flammeus Libri Ardor by
Rhonda Ayliffe

CREATE

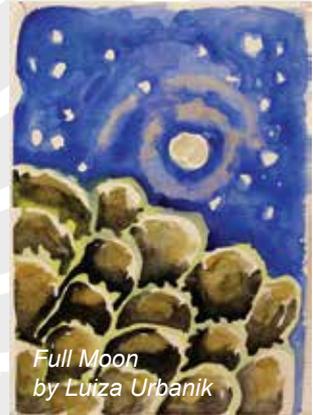
PERFORMANCE



Potoroo Palace mural



Four Winds Festival



Full Moon
by Luiza Urbanik

Artistic Focus

In our artistic statement
we identify four
focus areas:

- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Local Aboriginal
Arts and Cultural
Expression
- Creative Industries
and Audience
Development



Left: Circus Monoxide workshop

Performing Arts

Circus Monoxide Tour

As part of Youth Week, April 2012, South East Arts partnered with *Circus Monoxide* (Wollongong) to tour performances and workshops through the region. With support from the NSW TAFE ArtStart funding, 257 young people attended eight free workshops in Cooma, Jindabyne, Bombala, Pambula, Bega, Candelo, Moruya and Batemans Bay. The young participants performed at the beginning of each of the five shows in Cooma, Bega, Moruya and Batemans Bay. These shows were attended by over 600 audience members.

Past Present

Since 2011, South East Arts has been developing two short plays that explore the social and personal history of the region. In May 2012 a creative development process for one of the plays, *Sunshine*, was held with the playwright, Mary Rachel Brown, and two actors in Canberra. A rehearsed reading of *Sunshine* was performed for a public audience in Narooma in May as part of the River Of Art Festival.

A successful Regional Arts Fund application in late 2012 will support the development and presentation of the two plays, *Sunshine* and *Crack Hardy*, to premier at the 2013 River of Art Festival, as part of a strategic partnership with Merrigong Theatre, Wollongong.

Visual Arts

Visual Arts South East (VASE)

The VASE initiative continued during 2012 with 12 new artists joining the network, including three new Aboriginal artists added to the website with images of art works and biography details. A series of 12 promotional bookmarks, featuring the work of 15 artist members was produced and distributed to bookstores, libraries and visitor centres in the region for free use.

Support for exhibitions

South East Arts supported three art prizes in the region, funding People's Choice Awards for the Basil Seller's Art Prize, the Moruya ReVive exhibition and the Bega Valley Art Prize. The ReVive exhibition was a new initiative by Eurobodalla Shire Council and featured work of artists across the region working primarily with materials reclaimed from the waste stream.



*Left: South East Arts Chair, Lindy Hume, Ella Cameron,
Pauline Grant and artist Cheryl Davison*

“Even though Mr and Mrs Price didn’t realise it at the time, they were actually making big changes for Aboriginal people in Moruya...and probably the wider south coast.”

Cheryl Davison

Local Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Expression

Aboriginal arts and cultural action plan

South East Arts released their Aboriginal arts and cultural action plan to provide a regional approach that identifies and assesses synergies for Aboriginal arts and cultural development from 2012 to 2015. The plan was developed by Peter White, author of the NSW Government's Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Strategy designed to strengthen Aboriginal leadership, economic independence and cultural and social well being in arts and culture.

Price's Cafe Project Launch

In July an upbeat gathering of around 50 people in the Nepalese Restaurant in Moruya launched South East Arts' Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Action Plan alongside one of South East Arts' signature projects. *Price's Café* is a living exhibition featuring video interviews and a recreation of the original café, where the Nepalese Restaurant now stands. It celebrates Moruya's famous social hub for Indigenous people in the 1950s and 60s, based on an original idea by South Coast Indigenous artist Cheryl Davison, to be presented as part of the 2013 River of Art Festival.

At the launch, locals including (then) Mayor Fergus Thomson and Aboriginal Elder Iris White reflected on their personal memories of *Price's Café*, and the uniqueness of this project as one which celebrates the shared experiences of black and white history in the region. South East Arts has been successful in achieving \$30K funding from the Office of the Arts in the Indigenous Cultural support program to support the *Price's Café project*.

Regional Partnership Funding

Further extending our engagement with the local Indigenous community, funding through the NSW State Government's Regional Partnership strategy was secured to enable South East Arts to employ an Aboriginal Creative & Cultural Engagement Officer to work with the Monaroo Bobberrer Gudu Aboriginal Cultural Centre, commencing in 2013.





People at Tathra Wharf waving off soldiers embarking to the First World War, 1915. Photo courtesy Bega Valley Library. Photo ID 011-00030

Creative Industries/Audience Development

A sustainable creative industry and thriving arts sector demands that we build, engage with, understand and reward audiences for all South East Arts activity.

Museum Advisors Program

Two museum consultants were contracted to deliver the Museum Advisors Program with seven participating museums across the region. Supported by Museums and Galleries NSW the program will provide practical assistance and advice to developing the professional practice of museums, running through to June 2013. Additional funding was secured to run significance assessment workshops in the region in 2013.

Running Your Own Creative Business workshop

The Running Your Own Creative Business workshop was held in Merimbula 6 June with 14 people attending including visual artists, musicians, film makers, writers and photographers. This workshop was run by the Australian Film Television and Radio School and financially supported by Bega Valley Shire Council.

Performing Arts Venue Stocktake

South East Arts and Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) commissioned a report on performing arts venues in the south east region. The report was a stocktake of current venues and general information about their use and facilities. The report looked in detail at the BVSC with case studies of a variety of venues, possible green sites for a regional performing arts centre and recommendations to support the development of performing arts venues in the region.



*Left: Nilma Gantner, Penny Amberg, Four Winds Festival
CEO and Mary Darwell, Executive Officer of Arts NSW*

Visitors to the region

Elizabeth Rogers, CEO of Regional Arts NSW visited the region in July. Elizabeth spent two days meeting with the South East Arts board, council staff, arts workers and artists in the Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shires and attended the opening of the Art in the Garage studios in Bega.

Mary Darwell, Executive Officer of Arts NSW, arrived for a short one-day visit in September to meet with representatives from Fling, Bega Regional Gallery and Four Winds Festival. This was Mary's first visit to the region, presenting a great opportunity for South East Arts to showcase some of the key artists and organisations in the region.

South East Arts hosted the November visit of Anne Dunn, facilitator of Regional Arts NSW's Access All Areas workshop, well attended in our region by 18 participants. The workshop brought arts organisations together with disability service organisations to deliver high quality professional arts projects for people with a disability, and was supported with new funding by Arts NSW.

Regional Arts Australia National Conference Goolwa, October

A highlight of the national calendar was the Regional Arts Australia Conference in October, held in Goolwa at the mouth of the Murray River in South Australia. Simultaneous influences of the local and the global, the old and the new were present in the conference's showcase of traditional and contemporary local Ngarrindjeri art alongside some excellent use of digital technologies such as mobile and tablet apps and all sorts of screen-based presentations.

Sessions attended by Chair Lindy Hume, General Manager Andrew Gray and Project Officer Heidi Kunz covered a range of topics including crowd funding, cultural leadership, creative partnerships for mental health, working with youth and engaging with Indigenous culture. South East Arts was well represented by Andrew Gray who chaired the meeting of National RADO representatives prior to the conference, attended by 50 people and included presentations from Regional Arts Australia, Australia Council, Australian Business Arts Foundation and Feral Arts.

Funding Program

Country Arts Support Program (CASP) is an annual, devolved small grants (for arts and cultural projects up to \$3000) program administered through Regional Arts NSW and each regional arts board, including South East Arts. In 2012 there were 11 successful regional applications funded totalling \$17,390.

Spiral Gallery - *Metamorphosis* - \$2000

A curated exhibition featuring work by 10 young and emerging artists.

Raglan Gallery - *Sense of Place* - \$1000

A series of screen works by 8 artists using digital video innovative and contemporary works.

Tim Draxl Performing Arts Scholarship – *Workshops with Kelly Abby* - \$1600

A series of workshops aimed at the professional development of performing arts students of the Monaro region.

Cobargo Drawing Group - *Evert Ploeg Portrait Painting Workshop* - \$1500

One of Australia's most significant portrait artists conducted a 3 day workshop and open community forum.

Narooma HS P&C - *Swimming in Art Mural* - \$2000

A mural at the Narooma swimming pool exploring the importance of Aboriginal history using the skills of local Indigenous artists to depict the dreaming of the Yuin people.

Bristle Brush Arts, Bombala - *Art Attack* - \$1500

Eight art practice workshops by practicing regional artists to enhance/diversify skills in oils, acrylics, pastels, water colours & drawing.



Funding Program cont'd

Delegate Progress Association - *Art Rebuilds* - \$1000

An interactive sculpture workshop with local practising sculptor Phil Cotterill, at the inaugural “Art in the Park” event in Delegate.

Snowy Monaro Arts Council - *Together to Remember* - \$1000

Instrumentalists and choirs from three local shires perform in a concert to honour Remembrance Day commemoration.

Eurobodalla Shire Council – *ReVive* - \$2290

Present workshops to foster skills in working with found materials to create their ‘new’ life with professional artists Joel Bliss and Katy Goddard.

Bega Valley Shire Library - *Bega Loves2Read* - \$2000

Celebrating the National Year of Reading 2012 with an innovative program that includes publishing and writing workshops, author presentations, local indigenous artists and performances by members of local theatre groups.

Snowy River Shire Council - *What Graffiti* - \$1500

Public mural creation in Jindabyne with artist/teacher Ben Eyles, in collaboration with young people from the Shire’s towns and properties.



*Swimming in Art mural,
Narooma Swimming pool*

Services

Communications

The South East Arts website attracted 5976 unique visitors during 2012, with 63% of these new visitors and a 3.5 minute average length of stay. 12 monthly e-newsletters were sent out to a distribution list of 720 recipients across the region and 302 news items were featured on the website. The General Manager presented a monthly arts and cultural radio segment on ABC South East Radio.

Funding Workshops

The General Manager conducted three arts funding workshops in 2012 at Bombala, Cooma and Bodalla, for total of 42 participants. These workshops were timed to support applications to the Country Arts Support Program and various ArtsNSW funding rounds.

Strategic cultural advice

The General Manager participated as a member of the Eurobodalla Public Art Advisory Committee, the Bega Cultural Committee, the Public Art Advisory Panel for Snowy River and the Cooma Arts and Cultural Committee. The General Manager facilitated two cultural planning sessions for Bombala Council and Snowy River Shire Council. The Project Officer supported the Tim Draxl Performing Arts Scholarship and the Lake Light Sculpture Festival.

Services cont'd

Networks

The General Manager attended three Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO) meetings in February, July and November. These meetings held in Sydney provide professional development, presentations from key stakeholders and cooperative initiatives. The GM continued as the national RADO representative and chaired the national meeting at the Regional Arts Australia conference. Within the region, South East Arts staff travelled 50,000km and attended 175 meetings including local government staff and councillors, arts organisations, businesses, individual artists and other key stakeholders.

Projects and programs

The combined statistical information for South East Arts projects and programs in 2012 was:

- 1550 people (children and adults) attended 15 performances or concerts
- 132 people participated in 12 skills development workshops and presentations
- 12 artists (7 local) were employed – total of \$46,080 paid in artists/consultants' fees
- 18 organisations worked in partnership with South East Arts to deliver projects, including local and state government organisations, museums, businesses, community arts groups and national cultural institutions.

Financial Overview

South East Arts recorded a surplus of \$14,586 for 2012 which gives the organisation an overall equity position of \$37,302. Income totalled \$220,949 (\$230,276 in 2011) which included \$104,345 from Arts NSW and \$48,014 from local government contributions. Total expenses were \$206,364 of which \$51,137 was project expenditure.



Financial Report 2012

Income and Expenditure Statement 2012

Income

Earned income	\$ 5,400
Interest	\$ 5,447
Trade-in motor vehicle	\$ 4,545

Grants and subsidies

LGA contributions	\$ 48,014
Project grants	\$ 53,198
ArtsNSW funding	\$104,345

Total Income **\$220,949**

Expenditure

Salaries/fees

Permanent and casual staff	\$102,813
On costs	\$ 7,569
Artist/consultant fees	\$ 46,080

Promotion/Marketing

Graphic Design and Printing	\$ 3,982
Advertising	\$ 480
Project production costs	\$ 5,057

Administration Overheads

Accounting and audit	\$ 8,138
Accommodation/travel/TA	\$ 5,290
Board expenses	\$ 4,976
Communications	\$ 2,808
Depreciation	\$ 4,169
Fringe Benefits tax	\$ 657
Insurance	\$ 5,056
Motor vehicle expenses	\$ 7,198
Office Equipment	\$ 150
Registrations	\$ 1,940
Total Expenditure	\$206,364

Net Surplus (Deficit) **\$ 14,586**

Balance Sheet

Total current Assets	\$198,594
Total non-current Assets	\$ 26,954
Total Assets	\$225,548
Total current liabilities	\$173,594
Total non-current liabilities	\$ 14,652
Total liabilities	\$188,246
Net Assets	\$ 37,302

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