

SouthEastArts

COOMA  
MONARO

EUROBODALLA

connect  
create  
CELEBRATE

SNOWY  
RIVER

BOMBALA

BEGA  
VALLEY

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

*South East Arts appreciates the support from the following partners:*



## Introduction

South East Arts had a very busy and successful year in 2013, with its projects and initiatives reaching over 6,000 people as audiences and participants. South East Arts secured \$152,000 in additional funding to support projects and employed two new staff in the roles of Aboriginal arts development and communications/fundraising. South East Arts made a significant contribution to the development of individual artists and organisations, establishing partnerships, supporting existing festivals and enriching the cultural calendar of the region.

### *Vision*

The south east region 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

2013 has been an exciting year for the South East Arts board, with our new Council representatives hitting the ground running in their LGAs, and many fantastic projects both in development or exploding into life, reminding us what a dynamic arts region we're in. In our May planning retreat, the Board considered a number of priorities for South East Arts, including the need for greater visibility in the national cultural landscape and a bolder message – a direct, welcoming and compelling way of telling people what we do and a call to action, inviting engagement with us. Our new byline – CONNECT CREATE CELEBRATE – does exactly that, so this year we've been out across the region building connections, creating amazing art and celebrating the fantastic community we're a part of.

There are so many moments to celebrate in our region's artistic life in 2013. Early in the year Bombala Document was a partnership with the ANU School of Art that saw third year Photomedia students documenting life in the small high-country town of Bombala, culminating in an exhibition that toured to the Queensland Centre for Photography. In Autumn the region hosted a visit by the eminent British sculptor Antony Gormley, whose landscape-based works are installed in some of the most spectacular natural sites in the world, to explore the feasibility of a Gormley installation in the Snowy Mountains. Four Winds Festival's magnificent new music pavilion approached completion toward the end of 2013, and will undoubtedly be the pride of the region at the 2014 Festival.

Amid so many terrific South East Arts initiatives in 2013 it's hard to choose highlights, but for me these two signature projects are great examples of how art can enrich life in our region:

## *Price's Café*

One of our highest priorities, Local Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Expression was front and centre this year, with the launch of the delightful *Prices Café* social history exhibition that opened the Eurobodalla River of Art Festival in May. Moruya was buzzing with community stories and memories of the famous cafe in the 50s and 60s, a live performance by Jimmy Little's grandson James Henry and the lively presence of the Price sisters. Nearly 2000 people across the region have now experienced the immersive *Price's Café* exhibition and there are plans to tour the show to Canberra where even more Australians will hear this inspiring real-life story of reconciliation. We are grateful for the State and Federal Government support that enabled us to undertake this ambitious, nationally-significant project.

## *Big hART comes to Cooma*

We're thrilled at the energy that's gathering around our groundbreaking partnership with one of Australia's most visionary companies Big hART, Cooma-Monaro Shire Council and Canberra Theatre Centre. This is a hugely ambitious performing arts/social history project currently in development, culminating in a musical and documentary

theatre work in September 2015. The Cooma Project will capture stories from the town's history as Australia's multicultural leader in the heyday of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, connecting these with stories of contemporary life in the region. These themes were explored in October through the first of several creative development phases introducing the ebullient and eccentric Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen, the artists at the heart of the project, to Cooma's creative community. This is certainly the biggest single performing arts project yet in the region, and we are proud that we've been successful in our shared application to the Arts NSW Regional Partnership fund to support development of the project through 2014/15.

We ended the year on a high note with a South East Arts' Showcase event at Canberra's Street Theatre in December, co-hosted by the Eden-Monaro Federal member Dr Peter Hendy. Attended by 70 people representing Canberra-based arts and cultural organisations, media and arts practitioners, we shared our message that Excellence in Regional Australian Arts is flourishing, expanding on this response to the 2005 McMaster Report into the arts in the UK:

*"The time has come to reclaim the word 'excellence' from its historic and elitist context, and to accept that the highest quality and the broadest audience can go hand-in-hand."*

At the heart of the organisation is our commitment to provide services to the artists who live in our region. With our dynamically improved digital communications capabilities

we're reaching more people through our website, e-news and social media than ever before. More people know about the growing range of cultural services, workshops, skills development programs and grant opportunities that South East Arts provides.

As an organisation, we go from strength to strength and have recently moved to larger and more meeting-friendly office premises in Bega. In 2013 we welcomed two new staff members, Megan Luhrs as Communications and Development/Fundraising Officer and Jasmin Williams as Aboriginal Creative and Cultural Engagement Officer. I'm glad to say that the Board and management are working as an effective team and I want to pay tribute to General Manager Andrew Gray for his leadership at both local and national level, and to my hardworking colleagues on the Board. Everyone contributes so much to this venture because we believe in it and our communities, but as Chair I never forget that voluntary service cannot be taken for granted. Colleagues, thank you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindy', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Lindy Hume  
Chair, South East Arts



*South East Arts Board members and staff*

During 2013 the Board comprised the following people and positions:

**Lindy Hume**

(Chair) Co-opt member

**John Shumack**

(Deputy Chair)

Council Delegate – Snowy River

**Penny Bonnell**

(Secretary/Public Officer) Co-opt member

**Brad Spalding**

(Treasurer) Co-opt member

**Sue Haslingden**

Council delegate – Bombala

**Cr Liz Seckold**

Council delegate – Bega Valley

**Cr Craig Mitchell**

Council delegate – Cooma-Monaro

**Cr Fergus Thomson**

Council delegate – Eurobodalla

**Bettina Richter**

Co-opt member

**Catherine Andrews**

Co-opt member

# Corporate Governance

The Board of South East Arts is made up of five council delegates and five co-opted skills-based members, with a number of sub-committees focusing on a range of priority areas.

## *Strategic Planning*

The 2013-2015 Business Plan, articulated five main goals for the period:

1. Be nationally recognised for delivering innovative arts and cultural projects of high quality
2. Be recognised as the region's "Go To" organisation for cultural support, information and development
3. Have engagement with the community that encourages cultural practice, audience development and active participation in the region
4. Have diversified income streams for the organisation to ensure financial sustainability and growth
5. Have "best practice" policies, structures, processes and procedures in place that support the long term development of the organisation.

The Board met five times in 2013 – January, April (including the AGM), July, September and November, in addition to the planning retreat in May. The organisation was represented at the State level with Lindy Hume a member of the Regional Arts NSW Board.

## *Staffing*

Andrew Gray continued as the General Manager/ Regional Arts Development Officer and Tracy Elton as the Finance and Administration Officer.

Two new staff joined the team in 2013, with Megan Luhrs in the Communications and Development/ Fundraising position and Jasmin Williams as the Aboriginal Creative and Cultural Engagement Officer.

## 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



*Mikangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen perform at Cooma*



# Performing Arts

## **Past Present**

*Past Present* featuring two new short plays, *Sunshine* and *Crack Hardy*, premiered at the 2013 Eurobodalla River of Art Festival in May, with performances in Narooma, Moruya and Batemans Bay. The plays were written by Mary Rachel Brown and explore the social and personal history of the region.

A rehearsed reading of *Crack Hardy* was performed at the Snowy River Readers and Writers Festival in March, in partnership with Merrigong Theatre, Wollongong. The project was supported by the Regional Arts Fund.

## **Short + Sweet**

South East Arts established a partnership with Short+Sweet to bring their short play program to the region. This included skills development workshops in theatre writing, directing, acting and production, attended by 100 participants. 30 plays were submitted for consideration to be performed, with 10 selected. The program culminated in a short play festival in Merimbula (13 and 14 September) with 418 audience members over three shows and 56 participants. The winning play, *Border Patrol*, was performed in the Sydney Short+Sweet season in February 2014.

## **Women in War Tour**

With support from NSW Veterans Affairs, South East Arts toured *Women in War* to high schools in the region. *Women in War*

featured two female monologues that explore the experience of service women in the First and Second World Wars. These plays were developed by the Australian War Memorial. In May the show toured to 10 high schools in the region with 950 students and teachers attending the performances.

## **Cooma Project**

This project will capture the stories from Cooma's time as a gateway to the Snowy Mountain Scheme, together with the stories that comprise the contemporary landscape of the region, culminating in a musical and documentary theatre work in 2015. The first creative development in October 2013 with musical cabaret group Mikangelo and The Black Sea Gentlemen engaged with a wide range of the community. This partnership project with Big hART, Cooma-Monaro Council and Canberra Theatre Centre is supported by an Arts NSW Regional Partnership grant.

## **Eden Whale Festival Dance**

South East Arts supported the Eden Whale Festival in November with Aboriginal dancers and contemporary hip-hop dancing. The performances were the culmination of a series of dance workshops in Eden and Pambula schools during Term 4, led by Warren Foster and Aaron Hadow.





*Costume (From the series Show Kids) by Grace Cramer*

# Visual Arts

## ***Bombala Document 2013***

*Bombala Document* was a partnership project with the ANU School of Art. Set with the task of documenting the high-country town of Bombala, third year Photomedia students from the school engaged with locals in several field trips between March and May. The students curated an exhibition based on what each artist determined to be symptomatic of the time, emblematic of the place or of future cultural significance. The resulting exhibition, *Bombala Document*, was presented at the Queensland Centre for Photography, ANU School of Art and Bombala Railway Precinct.

## ***Support for exhibitions***

South East Arts supported a range of art prizes in the region, funding the People's Choice Award for both the Moruya *ReVive* exhibition and the Bega Valley Art Prize. Additionally, South East Arts provided an Encouragement Award for a regionally-based artist in the Sculpture on the Edge Festival and provided financial support for the Lakelight Sculpture Festival.

## ***Trashformation***

*Trashformation* is a regional art competition featuring works created out of recycled materials, and is a feature of the annual Eden Whale festival.

2013 saw the second year of *Trashformation* evolve with additional support from Cleanaway and the Bega Valley Shire Waste department. South East Arts facilitated the exhibition that attracted an audience of just over 1,000 people in a two week period.

## ***Visual Arts South East (VASE)***

The VASE initiative continued during 2013 with new artists joining the network, including two Aboriginal artists added to the website with images of art works and biography details. The website now features 60 artists from across the region working in a range of mediums. SEA's Facebook page featured a VASE artist each week, between April and November, generating many comments and new likes.

## ***Sculpture in the Mountains***

In May, South East Arts hosted a visit from world-renowned artist Antony Gormley to the Snowy Mountains region to consider a major sculpture project. *Sculpture in the Mountains* aims to build on the concepts of Gormley's successful *Horizon Field* and *Inside Australia* projects, to create a site specific sculptural installation in the mountains. South East Arts is currently completing a feasibility study supported by philanthropic support through the Australia Cultural Fund.



**SOUTH EAST ARTS PRESENTS**



**EXHIBITION 26 OCT - 3 NOV**  
**IMLAY STREET, EDEN** NEXT TO THE NEWSAGENT

# Local Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Expression

## *Price's Café*

*Price's Café* is a museum-style exhibition that honours the unusual role that a Moruya café played in 1950s and 60s Australia in the reconciliation process. Using video interviews, photographs, music and a recreated café setting, the exhibition brings to life an almost-forgotten moment in the social history of the region. Inspired by stories told by Elders and with words by celebrated Australian author and historian Mark McKenna, the exhibition was developed by South East Arts with support from the Office of the Arts.

Aboriginal people who shared their stories of Prices Café have one common memory that remains strong in their hearts and minds: that of the Price family welcoming them into the café with acceptance and friendliness. The café played a role in many life stories such as meeting future partners, singing with a young Jimmy Little and glimpsing a society where they were treated as equals.

The *Price's Cafe* exhibition tells the story of this very special café and the Price family who opened their arms to all in the community.

*Price's Café* exhibition opened the Eurobodalla River of Art Festival, Moruya in May and had 1047 visitors. A re-mount of the exhibition for the Eden Whale Festival in Oct/Nov saw a further 683 people visit the exhibition. Community response to the exhibition was very positive, with visitor comments praising the quality of the exhibition and recognising the importance of telling local stories presented in an engaging way.





*Ossie Stewart and family at the launch of Prices Café in Eden*



*Milika Smith performs at the launch of Prices Café in Moruya*



*Andrew Gray, Lee Cruse and Sue Norman at the launch of "...on the road to Jigamy" Eden*

### *Regional Partnership Project*

South East Arts partnered with Aboriginal Culture Centre Moneroo Bobberrer Gudu (ACCMBG) to assist Aboriginal visual artists in the Eden area and work with the community to develop Aboriginal arts and cultural activities as part of the Eden Whale Festival. The project supported a range of workshops, public programs and tours to support skills development and encourage use of the culture centre, as well as helping to establish an on-site permanent art studio space.

Five Eden-based Aboriginal artists were featured in an exhibition at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery in July and the Eden Whale Festival program included 10 artists exhibiting work, following art workshops led by Lee Cruse. In addition to the visual arts, hip-hop and traditional Aboriginal dance workshops were held in local schools, with students performing at the festival. The project was supported by Regional Partnerships Program funding and an Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund grant, both from ArtsNSW.

### *Indigenous Cultural Support*

In October 2013, South East Arts employed an Aboriginal Creative and Cultural Engagement Officer in a three year position, with funding support from the Indigenous Cultural Support program, Office of the Arts. This initiative has established a strong network of Aboriginal artists (visual and performing) and identified organisations/services that can support those artists. South East Arts took on curatorial services for the Bundian Way Aboriginal Art Gallery in Delegate, with the first exhibition *Gulaga to Ballawan* featuring nine coastal artists, opening in December. South East Arts will continue to curate shows for the gallery in 2014.





*Jazmyn Carter from fLiNG Physical Theatre and members of the Biamanga Percussion Ensemble perform at the Regional Showcase, Canberra (photograph: Steve Marshall)*



# Creative Industries/Audience Development

## *Museum Advisor Program*

South East Arts continued the successful Museum Advisor Program in partnership with Museums and Galleries NSW (M&GNSW). The program provided strategic development for 6 regional museums including Cooma Correctional Centre Museum, Thredbo Ski Museum, Merimbula Old Schoolhouse Museum, Bega Pioneer Museum, Moruya Museum and Batemans Bay Old Courthouse Museum. As part of the program, museum skills workshops covering Significance Assessment and Caring for Collections were attended by a total of 51 participants. Additional funding was secured from M&GNSW to develop Significance Assessment Statements for four museums, to be completed in early 2014.

## *Creative Business support*

South East Arts arranged for the Creative Industries Innovation Centre (CIIC) to present Biztro sessions in the region in March. Eight local artists attended the one-on-one sessions with a business advisor from the CIIC covering topics including starting a business, strategic planning, finances, marketing, online/digital activities and intellectual property.

## *Creative Freelancing workshops*

In November, South East Arts arranged for the Creative Industries Business Advisor for the NSW Government, Monica Davidson, to present Creative Freelancing workshops in Bega and Moruya. The workshops and individual sessions were attended by 26 people from the region working in a range of cultural industries including visual arts, music, design, film making and writing.

## *Canberra Regional Showcase event*

In December South East Arts presented a regional showcase event at the Street Theatre Canberra, co-hosted by the Eden-Monaro Federal member Dr Peter Hendy and attended by 70 people representing Canberra based arts and cultural organisations, media and arts practitioners. The evening featured performances by Fling Physical Theatre, Biamanga Percussion Ensemble and Candelo singer/songwriter Heath Cullen.



## Funding Program

Country Arts Support Program (CASP) is an annual, small grants program administered through Regional Arts NSW and each of the 14 regional arts board, including South East Arts. In 2013 there were 12 successful applications from the south east region funded totalling \$17,496.

### ***Biamanga Percussion – Drum Stomp!***

In collaboration with Fling Physical Theatre, David Hewitt and youth members of Biamanga Percussion presented a series of percussion workshops across Bega Valley/Eurobodalla.

### ***Bombala Community and Technology Centre – Understanding Your Landscapes***

A series of 3 photographic workshops with a focus on capturing local landscape, digital enhancement of images, field trips and hand colouring.

### ***Candelo Arts Society – Children’s Music, Workshops and Performance with Mr Tim***

Mr Tim conducted a children’s music workshop and performance at the Candelo Village Festival on April 2013.

### ***Eurobodalla River of Art – Writer in Residence, Paul Collins***

Aboriginal writer, mentor and educator Paul Collins was hosted as Writer in Residence at the Eurobodalla River of Art Festival 2013.

### ***Moruya Women’s & Children’s Services (MWACS) – She Sees the Distance In All Directions***

Workshops in creative writing, collation and publication, and performance and distribution, developed by Kyla Jaye and overseen by MWACS CEO Carolyn Abbott.

### ***Nethercote Resident’s Association Inc. – Women’s Voice Workshop***

Professional singer, Susan Flannery, ran voice training and singing workshops for women of all ages, culminating in a performance.

### ***Raglan Gallery & Cultural Centre – Monaro Art Express***

Art Express Cooma was an exhibition of art work by high school students exhibited by the Raglan Gallery in March 2013.

***Snowy NAIDOC Committee***

***– Snowy River Shire NAIDOC Spring Celebrations***

Performances and workshops by the Doonooch Dancers, internationally renowned Indigenous dancers, who have lineage to the region and dances unique to this region.

***Spiral Gallery Co-operative***

***– Spiral Gallery Art Skills Workshops***

Art skills workshops for the community run by experienced artists/tutors in ceramics and printing.

***Tilba & Districts P & C Association***

***– Cirque de Tilba***

Circus skills workshop for the Tilba community culminating in a public performance.

***Tim Draxl Performing Arts Scholarship Committee***

***– Cabaret Performance***

In collaboration with Snowy River Youth Performing Artists, musicians Tim Draxl and Dave Ellis performed a cabaret show, directed by Michael Tyack.

***Yuin Folk Club***

***– Jali Buba Kuyateh and his Afro Diyaa Band***

Two professional development workshops for young performing artists, providing an opportunity to work through cabaret material. Performance by Jali and His Afro Diyaa Band.



# Services

## *Communications*

In 2013, South East Arts implemented an integrated communications strategy that links our website, social media and traditional media, particularly radio and print. The South East Arts website attracted 9718 unique visitors during 2013 (90% increase on previous year), with 64% of these new visitors and a 2.5 minute average length of stay. Monthly e-newsletters were sent out to an email distribution list of 815 recipients across the region, as well as two special edition newsletters covering the Eurobodalla River of Art Festival and the Eden Whale Festival.

265 news items were featured on the website and the General Manager presented a monthly arts and cultural radio segment on ABC South East Radio. By the end of the year, South East Arts had over 800 likes on Facebook and through a targeted approach had active engagement with our audience.

The *Prices Café* exhibition received considerable media coverage including articles in The Australian and The Canberra Times, as well as local newspapers. The *Past Present* project was featured in a Canberra Times article and the Regional Showcase Event garnered a feature story in the Canberra Times.

## *Workshops*

The General Manager conducted two arts funding workshops in 2013 at Batemans Bay and Bombala for a total of 26 participants. These workshops were timed to support applications to the Country Arts Support Program and the ArtsNSW funding rounds. South East Arts facilitated a series of workshops in Delegate to assist in the development of historical displays for a range of sites in the area. These workshops covered areas such as exhibition design, writing captions and editing.

## *Strategic cultural advice*

The General Manager participated as a member of the Eurobodalla Public Art Advisory Committee, the Bega Cultural Committee, the Bega Civic Centre Advisory Group, the Public Art Advisory Committee for Snowy River and the Cooma Arts and Cultural Activities Committee.



### *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.

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 2013 was:

- 5294 people (children and adults) attended 30 performances, exhibitions or concerts
- 632 people participated in 35 skills development workshops
- 33 artists (18 local) were employed to deliver SEA projects/ programs – a total of \$107,893 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.



*Zsuzsi Soboslay and PJ Williams perform in Past Present at Narooma, May 2013*

# Financial Overview and Summary

South East Arts recorded a deficit of \$15,333 for 2013 which gives the organisation an overall equity position of \$21,970. Income totalled \$379,914 (\$220,949 in 2012) which included \$140,000 from Arts NSW and \$47,431 from local government contributions. Total expenses were \$395,247 of which \$191,479 was project expenditure.

## Income and Expenditure Statement 2012:

<b>Income:</b>	\$
Earned income	3,350
Interest	4,952
Sundry	446
<i>Grants and subsidies</i>	
LGA contributions	47,431
Project grants	159,519
Donations	24,215
ArtsNSW funding	140,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>379,913</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>	
<i>Salaries/fees</i>	
Permanent and casual staff	128,569
On costs	20,673
Artist/consultant fees	107,893
<i>Promotion/Marketing</i>	
Graphic Design and Printing	4,815
Advertising	2,963
Project production costs	79,634

<i>Administration Overheads</i>	\$
Accounting and audit	7,690
Accommodation/travel/TA	5,676
Board expenses	6,600
Catering	1,340
Communications	2,931
Depreciation	7,099
Fringe Benefits tax	2,573
Insurance	2,339
Motor vehicle expenses	8,505
Office	1,905
Registrations	2,091
Sponsorship	1,950
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>395,246</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(15,333)</b>

## Balance Sheet:

Total current Assets	263,120.80
Total non-current Assets	51,284.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>314,404.63.00</b>
Total current liabilities	281,691.70
Total non-current liabilities	10,743.35
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>292,435.05</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>21,969.58</b>

## South East Arts would like to acknowledge the following organisations and businesses who helped make 2013 such a successful year:

*ABC South East*

*Aboriginal Culture Centre Moneroo Bobberrer Gudu*

*Antony Gormley Studio*

*ANU School of Art*

*Arketype*

*Australia Cultural Fund*

*Australian War Memorial*

*Batemans Bay Old Courthouse Museum*

*Bega Pioneer Museum*

*Bega Valley Regional Gallery*

*Biamanga Percussion Ensemble*

*Big hART*

*Bundian Way Project*

*Creative Industries Innovation Centre*

*Cooma Correctional Centre Museum*

*Delegate Progress Association*

*Eden Whale Festival*

*Eurobodalla River of Art Festival*

*fLiNG Physical Theatre*

*Freelance Success Australia*

*Four Winds Festival*

*Merimbula Old Schoolhouse Museum*

*Merrigong Theatre – Wollongong*

*Mordek*

*Moruya Museum*

*Museums and Galleries NSW*

*PACE Logistics*

*Queensland Centre for Photography*

*Short + Sweet*

*Snowy Mountains Readers and Writers Festival*

*Spiral Gallery – Bega*

*The Street Theatre – Canberra*

*Thredbo Ski Museum*

*Wildbrumby Distillery*



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