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South East Arts is the regional development organisation for arts and culture in the Bega Valley, Bombala, Cooma-Monaro, Eurobodalla and Snowy River Shires. We actively assist the ongoing development of, and participation in, arts and culture throughout the South East 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.

Goals

Our 2013-2015 Business Plan identifies five key goals for the organisation. By 2015 we aim to:

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

Acknowledgement

South East Arts operates in Yuin and Ngarigo Country and would like to acknowledge the traditional owners whose cultures and customs have nurtured, and continue to nurture, this region.

SouthEastArts





2014 was a huge year for South East Arts, with our projects and services reaching over 14,500 people as audiences and participants (up from 6,000 in 2013). South East Arts secured \$300,000 in additional funding to support projects in our key artistic focus areas. We continue to make a significant contribution to the development of individual artists and organisations, establishing strategic partnerships, supporting existing festivals and enriching the cultural calendar of the region.

Projects and programs

The combined statistical information for South East Arts projects and programs in 2014:

- 12,629 audience (children and adults) attended 42 performances, exhibitions or concerts
- 1961 people participated in 32 skills development workshops and creative developments
- 45 artists (22 local) were employed – total of \$184,000 paid in artists/consultants' fees
- 25 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.

Communications

11,700 unique visitors to the website (8% increase on previous year)

1160 e-news recipients across the region – 12 monthly and 10 special edition newsletters

285 news items were featured on the website

5000 Festival Calenders distributed, promoting 23 festivals in the region

1200 likes on Facebook reaching an audience of almost 10,000





Reflecting back on 2014, the year has been a dynamic and very successful year for South East Arts. The organisation has presented and delivered many vibrant projects, workshops and initiatives throughout the region from our Snowy Scheme inspired project with Big hART, to supporting the touring of engaging circus and theatre shows from Moruya to the mountains, to the curation of exhibitions at the Bundian Way Gallery, to presenting publicity, film, music and museum skills development opportunities throughout our shires.

As the new Chair of South East Arts I'd like to pay tribute to the immense work of our former Chair Lindy Hume, whose term finished in late 2014. Under the leadership of Lindy, we developed a vibrant Artistic Statement, a solid Constitution and an Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Action Plan for our region.

Under the guidance of our Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Action Plan, our work with our Indigenous communities continues to grow, and this year the Board has also developed a Disability Action Plan that will be implemented into our 2016-2018 Business Plan.

The big achievements for South East Arts this year are in the areas of audience engagement and grants income for our projects, which have both doubled this year.

In just 12 months we have engaged with 14,500 people across the region and beyond; and in 2014 South East Arts was successful in securing \$300,000 in additional grants to support artistic projects (\$150,000 in 2013).

This achievement is due to the dedicated and tireless work and initiative of our General Manager Andrew Gray, who I thank wholeheartedly.

Lastly I'd like to acknowledge my hardworking colleagues on the Board, the fabulous work of our energetic staff and the fantastic financial support of ArtsNSW and our five member councils - Bombala, Bega Valley, Cooma-Monaro, Eurobodalla and Snowy River.

Bettina Richter

Chair, South East Arts



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 governance functions.

During 2014 the Board comprised the following people and positions:

Lindy Hume (Chair), Co-opt member
Cr John Shumack (Deputy Chair), Council delegate – Snowy River
Penny Bonnell (Secretary/Public Officer) Co-opt member
Brad Spalding (Treasurer), Co-opt member
Cr 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

In September Cr Seckold was replaced by Cr Ann Mawhinney as the Bega Valley Shire Council representative, in October Brad Spalding was replaced by Silas Dunstan as Treasurer and in December Lindy Hume was replaced by Olivia Gesini, with Bettina Richter taking on the role of Chair.

The Board met four times in 2014 – April (including the AGM), July, October and December, in addition to a planning retreat in October. The organisation was represented at the State level with Lindy Hume being a member of the Regional Arts NSW Board.

Staffing

Staffing was stable throughout the year with a skilled team consisting of:

Andrew Gray – General Manager/Regional Arts Development Officer
Tracy Elton – Finance and Administration Officer
Megan Luhrs – Communications and Development/Fundraising Officer
Jasmin Williams – Aboriginal Creative and Cultural Engagement Officer





South East Arts' Artistic Statement identifies four focus areas for the organisation:

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



Erth Dinosaur Zoo Show





Erth Dinosaur Zoo Tour

“A show that makes parents laugh and children cry” was how Artistic Director of Erth, Scott Wright, described the show – and it was a roaring success. The show featured awesome prehistoric creatures, from cute baby dinos to some of the largest carnivores and herbivores that have ever walked the planet. Erth’s dinosaurs are unmistakably ‘alive’ and mostly friendly in this fun, educational and unique performance. 485 children and parents attended the general public shows in Moruya as part of the Eurobodalla River of Art Festival and 962 students and teachers from schools in Tathra, Merimbula, Pambula, Towamba and Cooma were thrilled to see the show.

Project Cosmopolitana

This partnership project with Big hART really hit its straps in 2014, with creative developments, workshops, performances and research. Key performing artists for the project, Mikangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen, immersed themselves in Cooma history and culture, generating new songs and performing at the Multicultural Festival and Snowy Workers Reunion event. A script development in July saw Big hART artistic director/writer Scott Rankin joined by actors including Lex Marinos giving a taste of the new work *Ghosts in the Scheme* which will premier at the Canberra Theatre Centre in September 2015. By the end of 2014, Project Cosmopolitana had delivered 58 workshops covering diverse areas including songwriting, movement, archival photo sharing and story collection, with over 100 community participants.

Expand

Our first theatre skills development workshop at the Street Theatre in Canberra welcomed 10 regional participants from South East Arts and our neighbouring Southern Tablelands Arts. They covered a diverse range of skills including dance, puppetry, lighting, directing, writing, youth theatre and music. Our participants were inspired, challenged, stretched and empowered to develop work beyond their conventional boundaries by our industry mentors including Mic Gruchy, Nancy Black, Patrick Nolan and Chris Kohn. With Caroline Stacey (The Street Theatre, Canberra) and Lindy Hume (Opera Queensland) actively engaged with the design and execution of the program, this project continues into 2015 and promises to inspire contemporary theatre practice in the regions. Expand is a 14 month initiative funded by Arts NSW, and supported by The Street Theatre, Canberra, and initiated and managed by South East Arts in conjunction with Southern Tablelands Arts.

Touring

As well as our *Erth Dinosaur Zoo* tour, we supported Merrigong Theatre to present touring shows at the Candelo Town Hall, with *Circa* entertaining a family audience in July and local performers joining the *Vault Cabaret* team for a variety and comedy show in November.



Bundian Way Aboriginal Gallery

In 2014 South East Arts completed its first full year of curating exhibitions for the Bundian Way Aboriginal Gallery in Delegate. *Bidjee Dreaming* featured paintings, drawings and woodwork from artists of the high country including Alice Williams and Jandemarra Wall. *Art from the Inside* included work from inmates of Cooma and Goulburn Correctional Centres and *The Yuin in Me* showcased the contemporary work of Narooma-based artist Natalie Bateman. The final exhibition for the year, *Dancing from Gadu to Badhu*, featured art and craft work by members of the Djaadjawan Dancers who provided a performance at the opening event.

Support for exhibitions

South East Arts supported a range of art prizes in the region, funding the People's Choice Award for both the *Basil Sellers Art Prize* and *ReVive* exhibitions in Moruya, as well as 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 *Lake Light Sculpture Festival*. Our support of these art prizes has helped to assist emerging and established artists from the region.

Trashformation

Trashformation is an art competition open to all ages and shires in the SE region that is featured during the annual Eden Whale festival and focuses on works created out of recycled materials. 2014 saw the third year of *Trashformation* evolve with additional support from Cleanaway and Bega Valley Shire Waste department. South East Arts facilitated *Trashformation* this year including the exhibition that attracted an audience of just over 600 people over a one-week period and 20 children for a workshop.

Visual Arts South East (VASE)

The VASE initiative continued during 2014 with 65 member artists represented in our online gallery on the South East Arts website. We have continued to support Aboriginal artists by creating digital photographs of their work and supporting artists to enter prizes and competitions. We were delighted to see VASE artist Susan Chancellor win both the *Bega Art Prize* and *Basil Sellers Art Prize*.





Sandy Creek, Sandigo by Nicki Hall, winner of the SEA People's Choice Award at the Basil Sellers Art Prize.



Price's Café Exhibition

Price's Café hit the road in 2014, with the museum-style exhibition featuring at the Belconnen Arts Centre in Canberra (July) and the Raglan Gallery in Cooma (August/September). Over 1700 people visited the exhibition in these centres, with the display continuing to prove very popular with audiences. *Price's Café* exhibition honours the unusual role that this iconic 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. The exhibition was one of the featured projects in the Regional Arts Australia publication *Belonging: Great Arts Stories from Regional Australia* released in October 2014.

Grow the Music

Grow the Music is a contemporary music development and performance project at Wallaga Lake Koori Village which aims to assist in the development of an enterprising and self-sustaining music and arts scene, that is run from within the community, by the community. Kicking off in November with an introductory workshop, the *Grow the Music* program builds the self-esteem of young people through music and performance and provides an opportunity for the community to work together and feel a sense of pride and achievement. This exciting program continues into early 2015 with performances and community celebrations.

Indigenous Cultural Support

Jasmin Williams is our Aboriginal Creative and Cultural Engagement Officer (ACCEO) who has connected with Aboriginal visual and performing artists across the region. In 2014 she supported business development and promotion of visual artists, recording opportunities for musicians and helped performers participate in regional festivals and events.



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*Performers at the Big Dance event in the Bega Showground Pavilion, July
Image courtesy of Bega District News*





In addition to the artistic program which generally has a project-focused approach, South East Arts provides the following ongoing services to our LGAs and communities:

- Promotion of events within and beyond the region through website, email and media.
- Information and Research on events, artists, audiences, venues and organisations involved in arts and cultural development within the region and beyond.
- Resources and advice on funding and sponsorship, including annual management of CASP funding round.

Communications

- In 2014 there were 11,700 unique visitors to the website (8% increase on previous year), with 60% of these new visitors and a 2.5 minute average length of stay.
- 12 monthly e-newsletters were sent out to an email distribution list of 1160 recipients across the region.
- 10 special edition e-newsletters including Sculpture on the Edge, Four Winds Festival, Lakelight Sculpture, Eurobodalla River of Art Festival, Peak Music Festival, Big Dance, Granite Town Festival and the Eden Whale Festival.
- 285 news items were featured on the website and the General Manager presented a monthly arts and cultural radio segment on ABC South East Radio.
- 5000 Festivals Calenders were distributed throughout the region and beyond, promoting 23 arts and cultural festivals, with support from Eurobodalla Tourism, Sapphire Coast Tourism and Excell Printing.
- Social media engagement continues to grow with 1200 likes on Facebook reaching an audience of almost 10,000 plus a small and growing list of followers on Twitter and Instagram.
- *Project Cosmopolitana* was featured in an ABC State 7.30 Report in July and the *Ghosts in the Scheme* theatre production was a major feature in the Canberra Theatre Centre 2015 Program Launch in September, with video and live performance by Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen.

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Arts Media Workshops

In order to develop the skills of our local arts groups and artists, we ran Arts Media workshops on promotion and marketing of arts events in Bega, Moruya and Cooma for 26 participants. The workshops featured presentations from print and radio media representatives, as well as covering the opportunities available through social media. The workshop in Cooma also included an arts funding workshop timed to support applications to the Country Arts Support Program.

Strategic Cultural Advice

In 2014 the General Manager continued to provide key strategic cultural advice in the region - highlights include participating as a member of the Bega Civic Centre Advisory Group, the Public Art Advisory Committee for Snowy River and the Cooma Arts and Cultural Activities Committee. At the State level, the General Manager was a member of the steering committee for the Arts NSW review of Regional Arts Boards and was a member of two Art NSW funding assessment panels.

Grants Advice

South East Arts encourages and supports artists and community groups in seeking funding under a wide range of grant programs. In 2014 over 45 grant and other opportunities were promoted in the region. We auspice grants and advise on applications, as well as provide letters of support. Fifteen groups and individuals were supported in this way during 2014, plus a further 18 with their CASP applications.

Networks

The General Manager attended three Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO) meetings in February, July and November. These meetings are usually held in Sydney to provide professional development, presentations from key stakeholders and cooperative initiatives. However, the July RADO meeting was held in Dubbo to provide an introduction and orientation for the 2016 Artlands Regional Arts Australia National Conference. The South East Arts' Chair, Lindy Hume presented at *Arts and Edges*, the 2014 Regional Arts Australia National Conference in Kalgoorlie/Boulder in October. Within the region, South East Arts staff travelled 48,000km and attended 155 meetings including local government staff and councillors, arts organisations, businesses, individual artists and other key stakeholders.



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 2014 we assessed 18 applications, with nine successful projects funded in our region, totalling \$18,466.

Delegate Progress Association - Photography from Novice to Advanced

Skills development workshops aimed at the local community to advance their photography skills.

Eurobodalla Fibre and Textiles Arts Group - Mandala Felt and Freeform Knitting

Skills development workshops with Martien Van Zuilen and Prudence Mapstone with exhibition outcome.

Narooma and District Chamber of Commerce - Wind & Water on Wagonga

Innovative community kite project for the Narooma Oyster Festival – student workshops and displays.

Snowy River Shire Council - A Space for Us

Engagement of professional graffiti artists to work with young people to create a collaborative mural.

South East Music Collective - Coming Home Project

Concerts and workshops presented by eleven local young musicians who are developing *careers as professional musicians*.

Southern Women's Group - Drawing On Your Inner Power

Art workshops for women to build confidence and self-expression through creativity.

Tim Draxl Performing Arts - High Country Drama: A Master Class

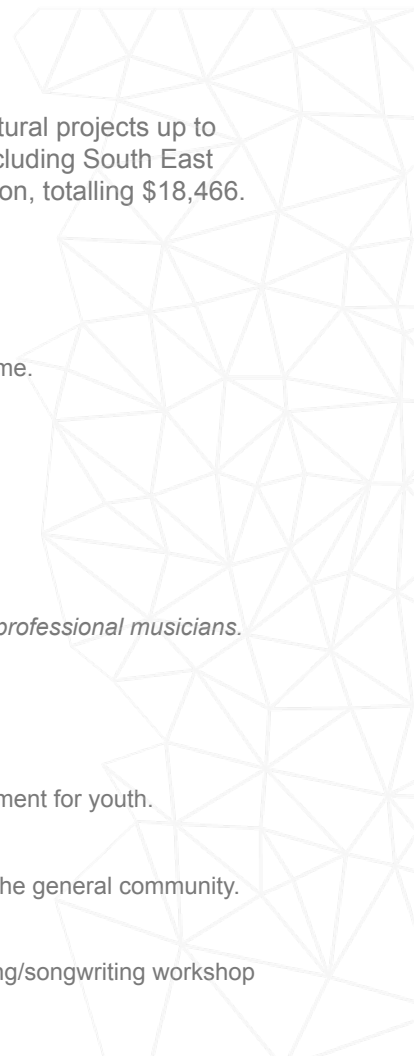
Simon Burke, actor and musician, to conduct an intensive drama workshop focused on skills development for youth.

Valley Potters - Raku Workshops

A series workshops, to explore smoke resist Raku ceramics designed for experienced artists and for the general community.

Yuin Folk Club - Concert For Eileen

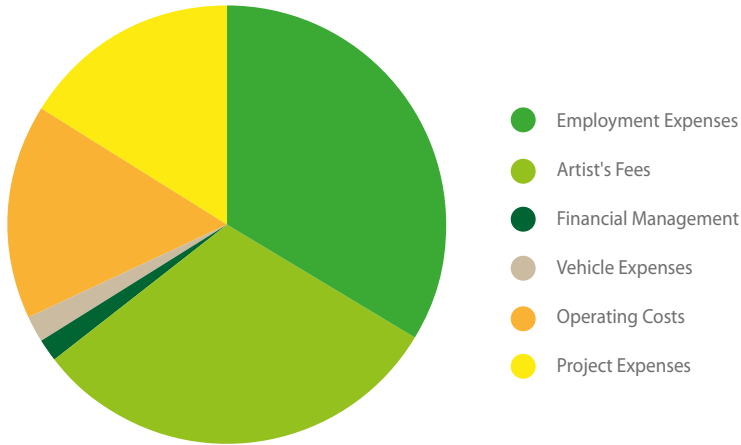
Eileen Morgan Memorial Concert at the Cobargo Folk Festival plus a workshop with community singing/songwriting workshop with the women and children from Wallaga Lake Koori Village.



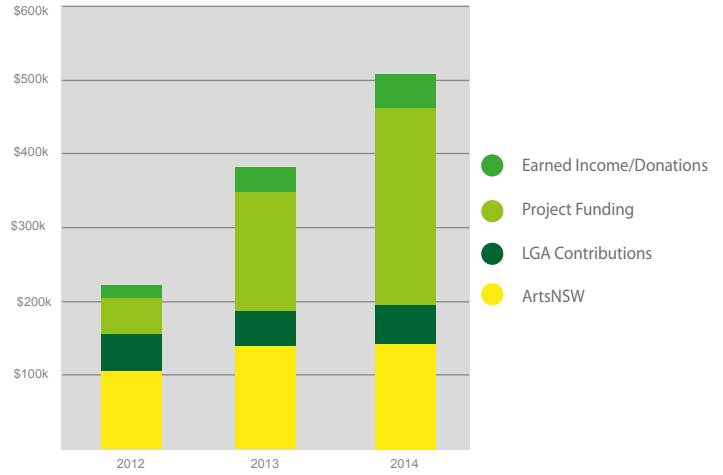


South East Arts recorded a deficit of \$4,923 for 2014, which gives the organisation an overall equity position of \$17,046. Income totalled \$503,979 (\$379,914 in 2013) which included \$140,000 from Arts NSW, \$53,143.87 from local government contributions and \$263,789 project funding. Total expenses were \$508,902 of which \$283,843 was project expenditure.

Expenditure 2014



Income 2012-14



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South East Arts appreciates the support from our following partners:



Trade & Investment
Arts NSW



Australian Government
Indigenous Culture Support



REGIONAL ARTS
NSW

**Museums
& Galleries
NSW**



South East Arts would like to acknowledge the following organisations and businesses who helped make 2014 such a successful year:

ABC South East
Aboriginal Culture Centre Moneroo Bobberrer Gudu
ANU School of Art
Ausdance NSW
Australian War Memorial
Batemans Bay Old Courthouse Museum
Bay City Cinemas
Bega Pioneer Museum
Bega Valley Regional Gallery
Belconnen Arts Centre
Big hART
Bundian Way Project
Crackenback Farm
Cleanaway
Cooma Correctional Centre Museum
Delegate Progress Association
Eden Local Aboriginal Lands Council
Eden Whale Festival
Erth Visual and Physical
Eurobodalla River of Art Festival
Eurobodalla Tourism
Excell Printing
fLiNG Physical Theatre
Freelance Success Australia
Four Winds Festival
Goulburn Correctional Centre
Grow the Music
Gooseboy Productions
Lumen Christi Catholic College
Malborough Motel, Cooma
Merimbula Old Schoolhouse Museum
Merrigong Theatre, Wollongong
Moruya Museum
Mumbulla Foundation
Museums and Galleries NSW
Raglan Gallery, Cooma
Recycling Technology Group
Sapphire Coast Tourism
Spiral Gallery, Bega
The Picture Show Man Cinema, Merimbula
The Street Theatre, Canberra
Wagonga Local Aboriginal Lands Council
Wildbrumby Distillery



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