

**Annual
Report
2016**

South East Arts

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

Introduction

South East Arts is the regional development organisation for arts and culture in the Bega Valley, Snowy Monaro and Eurobodalla Councils. We actively assist the ongoing development of, and participation in, arts and culture throughout the South East region of NSW.

South East Arts is regarded as one of the leading Regional Arts Boards in the NSW State network, with innovative projects, sound governance practice, experienced staff and supportive local council members.

South East Arts works across various art forms within the regional cultural sector, connecting with individual artists, arts organisations, communities and audiences. Our artistic program acts as a catalyst to build on existing cultural practice and activity.

Our Vision

The south east of NSW is celebrated as having a vibrant culture of excellence and innovation that gives expression to the unique qualities of our region and its people.

Our Mission

South East Arts aims to increase the social, cultural and economic wellbeing in the south east region of NSW. We provide leadership in the development of a culture of excellence and innovation in our region and support vibrant 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.

Overview

This year was the first of the 2016-18 Strategic Plan, with a range of new programs including the launch of an Arts and Health initiative and accompanying fundraising campaign. In 2016, South East Arts secured \$400,000 through funding and commercial operations and engaged directly with over 6,888 people in our projects as participants and audience members.

Our key focus has been delivering innovative creative projects, Aboriginal arts and cultural development and supporting the creative industries. Through these projects, South East Arts engaged with individual artists and organisations, established strategic partnerships, and supported new and existing festivals that enrich the cultural calendar of the region.

Projects and programs

The combined statistical information for South East Arts projects and programs in 2016:

6,237 audience (children and adults) attended 40 performances, exhibitions or concerts

651 people participated in 23 skills development workshops and creative developments

15 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.



Masked took place in Moruya, a collaboration between South East Arts, artists Toby Whitelaw and Anna Kearey and the students of Moruya Primary School.



South East Arts, Grow the Music and members of the the Wallaga Lake Koori Community celebrate after another successful music and video project.

Communications

13,298 unique visitors to the website

1400 e-news recipients across the region – 12 monthly and 6 special edition newsletters

834 news items were featured on the website

5000 Festivals Calenders promoting 20 festivals in the region were distributed throughout the region

1808 likes on Facebook reaching an audience of almost 318,304 people



Chair's Report

It has been another fantastic year for South East Arts with so many successes in 2016 and the foundation being laid for new opportunities.

Our Public Fund was officially launched to support new opportunities and projects for the region, and assist South East Arts in becoming sustainable into the future. Whilst South East Arts has ongoing support from the NSW Government and our member councils, we are a small organisation with a limited budget, so it is vital that the organisation diversifies income streams.

One of the new key areas for South East Arts is our innovative Arts & Health initiative *Swell*, to which individuals, businesses and community groups can now donate through the Public Fund. The vision of *Swell* is to build community resilience, attitudinal change and clinical outcomes through arts and health practice in the South East. *Swell* is underpinned by a comprehensive Arts & Health Strategy developed with the support of the Southern NSW Health District.

This year was the start of our ambitious new 2016-2018 Strategic Plan and a move to a more skills-based board of directors. The South East Arts board now consists of seven co-opted members from the community and three representatives from member councils.

Our work in the screen industry is receiving much commendation and innovative projects with our local Aboriginal communities continue to grow and flourish. There have been many highlights throughout the year, including the success of a vibrant community project in Moruya focusing on mask-making with students, financially supporting three visual art prizes in the region, and the continued partnership with Grow the Music at Wallaga Lake Koori Village. South East Arts supported the development of Stonewave Taiko, continued our vital work with local museums and completed our third year of curating exhibitions for the Bundian Way Aboriginal Gallery in Delegate.

This is my last year as a Board Member of South East Arts, having now served the organisation for six years, which is the limit of time a Director can serve the Board. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Andrew Gray and the staff of South East Arts who do so much for arts and culture in our community with very limited means. To my fellow Board Members, I thank you for all your time, wisdom, support and friendship. I have enjoyed my time with the organisation deeply, and know that the future of the organisation is solid and in very good hands.



Bettina Richter
Chair, South East Arts

Corporate Governance

The Board of South East Arts amended the organisation's constitution in 2016 to reflect the amalgamation of the three high country councils. The Board now comprises three council delegates and seven co-opted skills-based members, with a number of sub-committees focusing on a range of priority areas.

At the end of 2016 the Board comprised the following people and positions:

Bettina Richter (Chair), Co-opt member

John Shumack (Deputy Chair), Community Representative – Snowy Monaro

Mandy Hillson (Secretary), Co-opt member

Silas Dunstan (Treasurer) Co-opt member

Clr Cathy Griff, Council delegate – Bega Valley

Clr Lindsay Brown, Council delegate – Eurobodalla

Trisha Dixon, Co-opt member

Rachel Choy, Co-opt member

Ian Campbell, Co-opt member

Following the September local government elections, Clr Neil Burnside was replaced by Clr Lindsay Brown as the Eurobodalla Shire Council representative and Clr Ann Mawhinney was replaced by Clr Cathy Griff as the Bega Valley Shire Council representative. Clr Sue Haslingden and Clr Craig Mitchell stepped down following the amalgamations of Bombala, Snowy River and Cooma-Monaro Shire Councils. Previous co-opt members, Catherine Andrews and Olivia Gesini, resigned from the Board in December 2015 and April 2016 respectively.

The Board met five times in 2016 around the region in February, April (including the AGM), July, October and December.

Staffing

The staffing for the year comprised the following team:

Andrew Gray – General Manager/Regional Arts Development Officer

Alison Vandenberg – Finance and Administration Officer

Kate Howarth – Communications Officer/Screen Industry Officer

Jasmin Williams – Aboriginal Creative and Cultural Engagement Officer

Natalie Bateman completed her 12 month role as Aboriginal Creative and Cultural Engagement Officer in June 2016.

Artistic Focus

South East Art's Artistic Strategic Plan identifies three focus areas for the organisation:

Creative Projects

Local Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Development

Creative Industries



*Top: Stonewave Taiko performing at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre.
Bottom: Djembe Forte performing with students at the Moruya Showground Pavilion for Masked.
Photo by Toby Whitelaw.*

Creative Projects

Stonewave Taiko

South East Arts supported Bega's Stonewave Taiko group through professional development and training intensives, culminating in a major public performance in Bega, in November. The group also performed at the Australia Day program at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre in January, the Cobargo Folk Festival in February, and in Bermagui as part of the Four Winds Festival in March. Over the year, just over 1,000 people attended Stonewave performances. The project supported by \$18K from the Regional Arts Fund was delivered in partnership with Australia's leading taiko group TaikOz (based in Sydney), Bermagui's Four Winds and taiko performance duo YuNiOn.

Masked

Masked featured an exhibition of masks created by 350 students from Moruya Primary School as part of the Eurobodalla River of Art Festival. The exhibition launch event included live music and dancing from local group Djembe Forte and dance performances from the students. The two local artists involved in the project – Toby Whitelaw and Anna Kearey – delivered mask-making workshops at Moruya Primary School to every class and student. The project was supported by the Eurobodalla Shire Council.

Price's Café exhibition

South East Arts mounted the final presentation of the Prices Café museum style exhibition at the Moruya Museum as part of the Eurobodalla River of Art Festival in 2016. The exhibition honours the unusual role that a 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.

Local Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Development

Music and Media

South East Arts continued a partnership with Grow the Music who deliver music, art and filmmaking development workshops for the Aboriginal community at Wallaga Lake Koori Village, building empowerment, community and connectedness. The main residency was undertaken in October and November 2016, with 40 participants and 400 people at the final performance. Neil Murray (Warumpi Band) provided mentorship and performed at the concert. South East Arts received \$45K funding from Indigenous Languages and the Arts for the project.

Bundian Way Gallery, Delegate

In 2016, South East Arts completed its third year of curating exhibitions for the Bundian Way Gallery in Delegate. *Djuwin* (Black Man) was a collection of works by men from the south coast of NSW all with strong connections to Yuin people. *Daraga Bulwul Wanngaan* (Strong Black Woman) was a varied exhibition of stunning shell-work, prints, painting and craft by professional and emerging Indigenous women artists of the region. Additionally, a range of Aboriginal craft work was sourced from regional artists and sold through the gallery.

Aboriginal visual and performing arts development

Our Aboriginal Creative and Cultural Engagement Officer (ACCEO) has continued to support Aboriginal visual and performing artists across the region. This includes support for business development and promotion of visual artists, recording opportunities for musicians and helping performers participate in regional festivals and events. The ACCEO position has continued with support from the Indigenous Languages and the Arts funding.

South East Arts has continued to support the Djaadjawan Dancers who have developed significant recognition performing at Dance Rites and Yabun festivals in Sydney, as well as the National Folk Festival in Canberra. A new women's dance group, the Djiringanj Dancers, were supported to perform at various festivals and events in the region.

South East Arts curated an exhibition at the Jindabyne Visitor's Centre featuring artworks from Cheryl Davidson and Natalie Bateman, as part of the NAIDOC Week celebrations. The exhibition also featured work from local school students exploring designs of Aboriginal art.



Top to Bottom: Sharon Mason of the Djaadjawan Dancers welcomes Lizzie Rutten of Grow the Music to Bega. Aunty Colleen Dixon delivering a Welcome to Country at the launch of SWELL. Indigenous hip hop musician Gabadaoo from Bermagui with iconic Australian singer/ songwriter Neil Murray performing at the Grow the Music Wallaga Lake Koori Community Concert. Top and bottom images by Grow the Music.

Creative Industries

Swell: the art of being well

An Arts and Health strategy was launched in October, accompanied by a fundraising campaign to support the implementation of this new initiative. The arts can play a significant role in promoting the health and wellbeing of patients, staff, clients and visitors to health services and within the broader community. The strategy will provide opportunities for artists to innovatively engage with new audiences and build networks with the health sector.

VASE (Visual Arts South East)

South East Arts supported a range of art prizes in the region including the:

People's Choice Award for the Basil Sellers Art Prize in Moruya

Recognition Award for a regionally-based artist in the Sculpture on the Edge festival

Encouragement Award for the Lakelight Sculpture Festival

Our support of these art prizes has helped to assist emerging and established artists from the region.

Museum Advisors Program

In 2016, South East Arts completed the successful Museum Advisor program in partnership with Museums and Galleries NSW (M&GNSW). The program, supported by Bega Valley Shire Council, provided strategic development for museums including the Merimbula Old Schoolhouse Museum and Bega Pioneers' Museum. A new website, Museum of the South East, was developed during the year featuring highlight objects from 8 museums in the region and was launched early 2017.

swell
the art of being well





Significant artefacts identified from the Delegate history Rooms, the Bega Pioneers' Museum and the Merimbula Old Schoolhouse Museum to be included in the online Museum of the South East.



Left: Gabrielle Powell, Julie and Glenn Krone, Simon and Wendy Grealy. Top Right: Jenny Symons, Kerry Devine and Mandy Hillson at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre for the launch of SWELL.

SEA Screen — Screen Industry Development

South East Arts secured \$15.5K from Screen NSW to continue development of a regional strategy to support development of a professional screen industry. Programs in 2016 included:

Co-presentation of a gaming and interactive media development weekend in Merimbula with Stephanie (Hex) Bendixen from Good Game as special guest presenter/participant

Presenting film making workshops to support the YOOF Tube short film competition

Providing networking and collaboration opportunities for SEA Screen members

Partnering with Screenworks and ABC Open to participate in the Creatability project, with a local Filmmaker and Aboriginal artist with a disability producing a short film.



Clockwise from top left: Isabel Darling filming Corey Stewart for the Createability project in Narooma. YOOFTube 2016 judges actor Patrick Dickson, filmmaker Chris Sheedy, Bega Valley Shire Council's Scott Baker, filmmaker Gary Lonesborough with South East Arts' Andrew Gray and Jazz Williams. CoWS Near the Coast's Liam O'Duibhir with ABC Good Game's Stephanie Bendixsen at Gamer Dev Jam in Merimbula. A still from Lucca Pajmans YOOFTube winning film Virginia's Secret filmed on location in Tathra.

YOOF Tube

The YOOF Tube short film competition continued to engage regionally, with entries from young filmmakers entertaining audiences at cinema screenings. The screenings featured 13 short films (56 participants) covering a range of genres from thrillers to documentary, comedy to drama. We enjoyed support from our major sponsor Jamie Shaw and the overall prize money was \$5,800. Finalist films were screened at The Picture Show Man in Merimbula, The Kinema in Narooma, Snowy Hydro Visitor Centre in Cooma and at the Batemans Bay Fringe Festival.

Core Service Delivery

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

- Promotion of cultural events and news within and beyond the region through regular e-newsletters, social media and traditional media

- Support and advice on funding and sponsorship, including annual management of Country Area Support Program funding round

- Provide training and capacity building for community organisations and artists with a focus on arts business skills

- Develop and implement strategic regional initiatives to strengthen activity at a local level
Communications

South East Arts has considerable audience reach through our website and social media. In 2016 there were 13,298 unique visitors to the website, the average user visited 2 pages with a 4.5 minute average length of stay.

12 monthly e-newsletters were sent out to an email distribution list of 1400 recipients across the region, as well as 8 special edition newsletters including Sculpture on the Edge, Four Winds Festival, Lakelight Sculpture and Eurobodalla River of Art Festival. The average engagement with the e-newsletter is 30.8%, while the industry average is only 17%.

5000 festivals calendars were distributed throughout the region and beyond, promoting 20 arts and cultural festivals, with support from Eurobodalla Tourism, Sapphire Coast Tourism, Snowy Mountains Shire Council and Excell Printing.

Social media engagement continues to grow with 1808 likes on Facebook reaching an audience of almost 318,304. This 'reach' represents the number of people on Facebook who were served any activity from the South East Arts page, including posts, posts to our page by other people, likes, mentions and check-ins. South East Arts is ranked second only to Arts Northern Rivers, of all the NSW regional arts boards, in terms of Facebook reach.

South East Arts continue to grow the list of followers on Twitter, Google+ and Instagram. Our news items have also been picked up by a variety of Facebook groups and distributed online by many other arts organisations.

A YouTube channel features videos relevant to the Screen Industry Strategy, YOOOF Tube and profiling regional artists. A record 352 news items were featured on the website and the general manager presented a monthly arts and cultural radio segment on ABC South East Radio.

Networks

South East Arts staff attended three Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO) meetings in February, July and November. These meetings held in Sydney provide professional development, presentations from key stakeholders and cooperative initiatives. Staff and Board members attended Artlands, the Regional Arts Australia conference in Dubbo in October. Within the region, South East Arts staff travelled 45,000km and attended 170 meetings including local government staff and councillors, arts organisations, businesses, individual artists and other key stakeholders.

Grants Advice and Support

South East Arts encourages and supports artists and community groups in seeking funding under a wide range of grant programs. In 2016 over 45 grant and other opportunities were promoted in the region. We auspice grants for individual artists and advise on applications as well as provide letters of support. 24 groups and individuals were supported in this way during 2016, plus a further 13 with CASP applications.

Funding Program

Country Arts Support Program (CASP) is an annual, devolved small grants (up to \$3000) program administered through Regional Arts NSW and the state's 14 regional arts boards, including South East Arts. For the 2016 funding round of CASP, we assessed 13 applications, with seven successful projects funded in our region, totalling \$16,838.

Yuin Folk Club – Language Retrieval and Songwriting – Musician and educator Neil Murray develop the songwriting skills in Dhurga language.

Fling Physical Theatre – Who Will Come to the Rescue – New and original performance touring to the Artlands Regional Arts Australia conference, Dubbo.

Delegate School of Arts – Stories Alive – Development of performances highlighting the local history and stories of the region.

Clyde River & Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc – Passions in the Bay – Photographic & online exhibition celebrating the passions of people in the Batemans Bay area.

South Coast Pastel Society – Releasing the artist within – Seven day program of workshops, demonstrations and art education talks.

Footprint Theatre – 2016 Film School – Film School in Pambula in 2016 with tutors from the South East Region and beyond.

Monaro Libraries – Cool Cartooning – Cartooning workshops at Cooma Library during Book Week 2016

Financial Overview

South East Arts recorded a surplus of \$11,132 for 2016, giving the organisation an overall equity position of \$26,697 (\$15,565 in 2015). Income totalled \$396,524 (\$400,740 in 2015) and included \$140,000 from Arts NSW, \$50,332 from local government contributions and \$166,168 project funding and commercial operations. Total expenses were \$385,392 of which \$218,350 was project expenditure.

Thank you to our partners and funding bodies



Australian Government
Indigenous Languages and Arts

Thank you to our supporters and collaborators

South East Arts would like to acknowledge our supporters and collaborators who helped make 2016 such a successful year, including:

ABC South East
Aboriginal Culture Centre Monaroo Bobberrer Gudu
ANU School of Art & Design
Batemans Bay Fringe Festival
Batemans Bay Old Courthouse Museum
Bega Pioneers Museum
Bega Valley Regional Gallery
Bega Valley Shire Libraries
Bundian Way Project
Cobargo Folk Festival
Corrective Services NSW Museum
Delegate Progress Association
Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council
Excell Printing
Four Winds Festival
Grow the Music
Gooseboy Productions
Lindy Hume
Merimbula Old Schoolhouse Museum
Merrimans Aboriginal Land Council
Moruya Museum
Neil Murray
Raglan Gallery, Cooma
Sapphire Coast Tourism
Screenworks
Spiral Gallery, Bega
Stonewave Taiko
Wagonga Local Aboriginal Land Council
Wallaga Lake Koori Village
Wildbrumby Schnapps Distillery

Thank you to our donors



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