

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Susan Brindle

A tough year for the Arts sums up 2020. With the gig economy collapsing and exhibitions cancelled the creative sector faced unprecedented challenges. STA was there every step of the way providing support, advice and connection to our communities. It was a very busy year, full of change, dynamic realities and even silver linings. The STA online presence became a critical nexus to our communities. In 2020 we delivered a new website with several important features that have radically improved our services. The *STA Creative Directory* is a searchable database of creative practitioners, venues and cultural organisations in our area. It is the richest and most exhaustive listing of the creative sector across the six STA Local Government regions. The new website also offers improved listings for grants and grant providers, a news section with newsletters and information about the many services we offer our members and councils.... (Read the full report at our website)

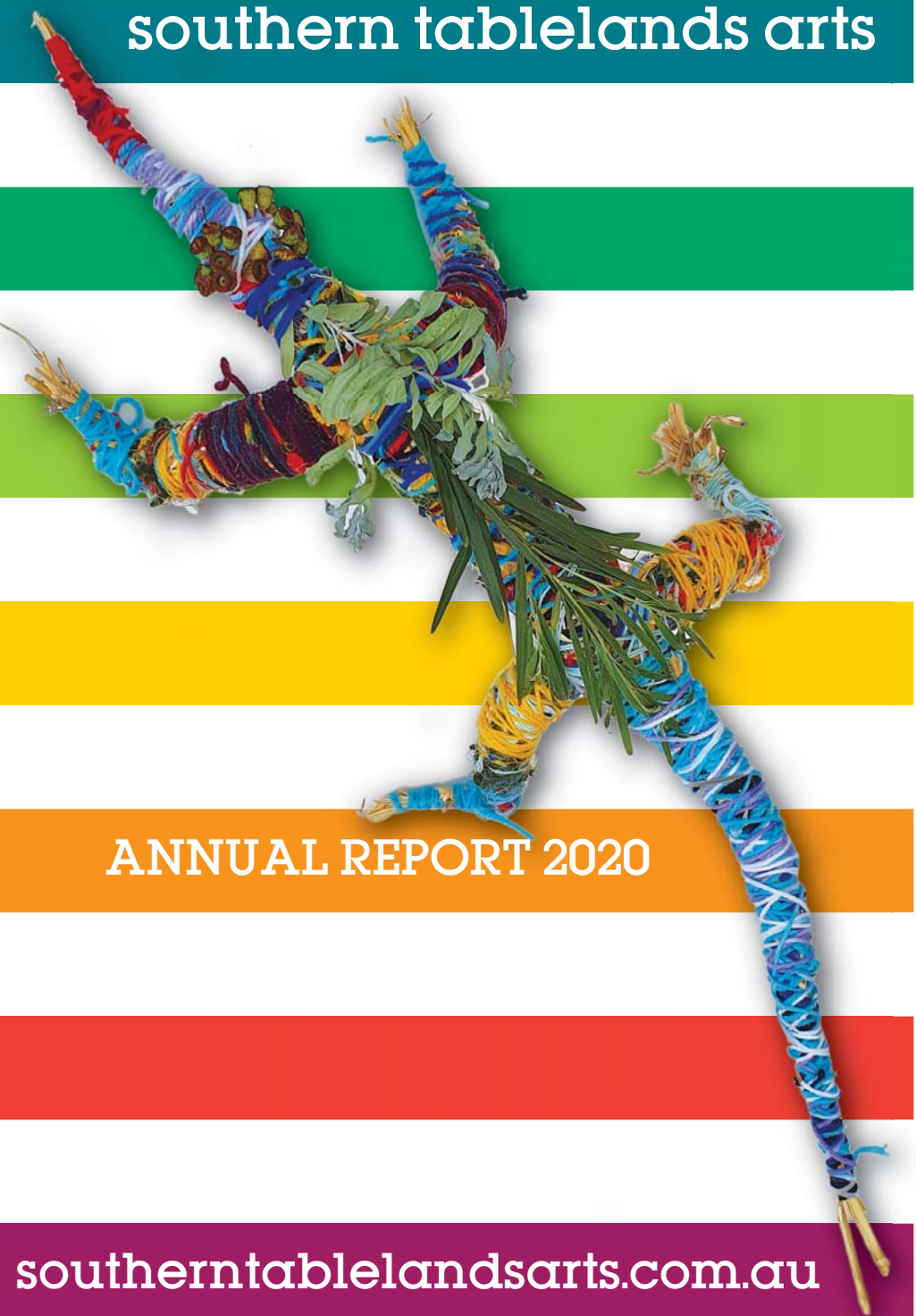
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rose Marin

STA, in its 25th year, is emerging from the challenges of 2020 with a new leader, new work methods and fresh strategic directions. It is said about adversity that what doesn't kill you, strengthens you. I can proudly say that STA is emerging as a different organisation which may prove to be even stronger and more resilient over time. Amidst the horrendous Summer 2019-2020 bushfires severely affecting our Wollondilly and Wingecarribee Council Partners and communities, the entire region living for months in often choking smoke, STA carried out its search for a new Executive Director. The enormity of COVID-19 was becoming apparent as I met with appointee Rose Marin, on her first day, the day the STA office closed, a state-wide lock-down imminent. The Board joins me to congratulate the STA staff and service providers for their achievements and flexibility through the challenges of 2020. I thank the STA Board for their tireless work, their dedication to the organisation and for their wise counsel.... (Read the full report at our website)

southern tablelands arts

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



southerntablelandsarts.com.au

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joanne McCauley

We started the 2020 financial year full of expectations for an exciting year ahead. We quickly replaced the word 'exciting' with the word 'challenging'; The overall profit of the organisation for the 2020 year was \$37,697 and we increased our net asset position from \$1,133,103 in 2019 to \$1,508,800 in 2020. This year, *Books Bookkeeping* have taken over the role of both payroll and bookkeeping services and the organisation is fortunate to have their expertise at hand. I would also like to thank the Board for their support over the many years I have now been involved in Southern Tablelands Arts. Congratulations to Rose and Giselle on a successful year despite the challenges. The local artists and creative organisations have an incredibly valuable resource at their fingertips, and I commend you on the amazing support you have provided over the 2020 year.... (Read the full report at our website)

Detailed financial reports for 2020 are available at the STA website.

Mobile Office

In 2020 STA vacated our permanent office space and moved to regular mobile offices with partner venues in each of our council areas. The *STA Mobile Office* program has been ensured a steady increase in the STA network and profile in our communities.

Marketing

A renewed emphasis on marketing and branding in 2020 saw the creation of new printed and online materials. STA rounded out the year with a highly successful online campaign over December - *Gifts That Give* highlighted local and handmade gift ideas.



Southern Tablelands Arts works with our members, makers & creative communities, energising and supporting the living culture of the Southern Highlands & Tablelands of NSW through a program of activities and events. We support, create, educate and advocate for the arts in the region.

Our contributing councils are Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Upper Lachlan Shire, Wingecarribee Shire, Wollondilly Shire and Yass Valley. Queanbeyan Palerang Council is currently non-contributing. STA is part of the state wide Regional Arts NSW Network supported by Create NSW.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands where we create, live & work.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Increase community engagement in arts and cultural activities

Through key program initiatives in arts and health, creative ageing and arts and environment.

Strengthen access to funding, employment and professional development

Through creative industry programs, funding workshops and programming focused on local creatives.

Develop strong partnership opportunities for communities and young people

Engagement with schools and youth focused organisations to create stronger opportunities for communities and young people in arts and cultural events.



Cover image: Ronnie Jordan *Goanna* 2020
Created during online Indigenous weaving workshops delivered to schools as part of the Goulburn 2020 program. cultureonthemove.com



southern tablelands arts

Staff

Rose Marin, Executive Director
Giselle Newbury, Coordinator Community Arts & Communications

Board of Directors 2020-21

Susan Brindle, President (Wingecarribee)
Rob Moran, Vice President (Wollondilly)
Joanne McCauley, Treasurer (Goulburn Mulwaree)
Louise Wakefield, Secretary & Public Officer (Goulburn Mulwaree)
Desmond Freeman, Director (Wingecarribee)
Mark Bradbury, Director (Goulburn Mulwaree)
Michelle Storey, Director (Yass Valley)
Louise Wilder, Director (Yass Valley, resigned September)

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Read more about STA in 2020 online



STA Creative Directory

A major feature of the new STA website launched in 2020 is the *STA Creative Directory*, a searchable database of creative practitioners across our six local government regions.



Badge Making

A badge machine is an important piece of community infrastructure, capable of turning any event into a creative opportunity. The STA badge machine went out regularly in 2020.



STA Screen

In 2020 we realigned our screen and cinema programs into *STA Screen* incorporating our giant movie screen, filmmaking programs and movie screenings. We welcomed Luminous Entertainment in Bowral as our *STA Screen* delivery contractors.

STA kids

Growing faster than the kids, the *STA kids* online portal started in 2020 with the Waste to Art online workshop with Al Phemister. The portal now boasts several artist-led making activities and a growing list of creative opportunities for children and families.



Selected Programs

visit the website for more



Bush Poetry

Unable to meet in person STA supported the *Wombat Bush Poets* from Hilltops to continue to meet online through the STA Zoom account. The *Brush with Poetry* series from Binalong also used the STA Zoom account to meet.



Waste to Art

Al Phemister from Yass Valley presented an online activity for *STA kids*. The online workshop complemented two face to face workshops in Wollondilly with Freya Jobbins and an adult *Waste to Art* workshop. The project culminated in the *Waste to Art* Awards and exhibition at the Old Picton Post Office.

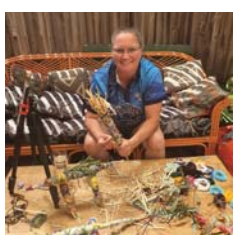


Dance for Wellbeing

Became a huge success story in 2020 as we moved the program to a Zoom platform. A huge thanks to Liz Barling who led the weekly classes from her home in Goulburn thanks to funding from *Dance for Parkinsons Australia*. The Wollondilly *Dance for Wellbeing* program started up in late 2020 in Picton with Bonnie Curtis thanks to a Wollondilly Council Community Grant.

Goulburn 2020

A joint project with *History Goulburn* and Goulburn Mulwaree Council. This program was adapted due to COVID-19 restrictions and became a Zoom event for schools. Six schools zoomed into an indigenous weaving program with Ronnie Jordan from *Culture on the Move*. Works created by Ronnie were gifted to the NSW Governor, CEO RANSW and the Mayor and GM of Goulburn Mulwaree Council.



Alexei Caulfield at the Sydney Sacred Music Festival

Filmed in Goulburn with Hume Con.



Badge Making at MENTAL Gallery



Share R Streets

STA in partnership with Upper Lachlan Council delivered an ambitious and innovative program of school workshops two new street murals and a revitalisation of existing artwork.



The Country Arts Support Program (CASP)

Six projects funded across the region, including the inspiring *Journey Through Country*, the story of Macquarie's journey through the indigenous country surrounding Goulburn and professional development for community arts groups.



Virtual to Actual - Performance Poetry

The performing arts were hit hard by the shutdown and STA secured funds through the Regenerate Regional Event initiative through Create NSW to start a performance poetry program. We matched emerging poets Jacki Okot and Wynn Beard with a nationally established mentor, Andrew Galan to support them to deliver online poetry sessions for young people. The project will culminate in 2021 with performances at Jugiong Writers Festival and the Southern Highlands Writers Festival. Delivered in partnership with Eastern Riverina Arts.



Stories from the Studio

A weekly online program featuring a different artist or group every Friday evening. *Stories from the Studio* has grown to boast a large regular following and continues to build an online record of the creative sector in our region.