

The Board joins me in expressing our appreciation to Rose Marin. Her passion for community arts and culture, her energy and drive are taking STA recognition to new levels as she delivers strategic objectives around capacity building. If you've met her, you'll know that her mantra is 'We do with not for'. It is a powerful focus that empowers creatives and communities to take an active role in the development of their cultural landscapes.

Rose has built a team to drive the STA work further than ever before. Erin, Kiri and Daniela bring their skills and enthusiasm to program delivery as they build understanding of the unique communities STA serves. Their progress is impressive and successful on-the-job experience is building confidence. It is clear that their contributions are already significantly impacting STA's work and regional presence. Rose and her team are crucial to the success of STA. It is wonderful to see their dedication and passion for community arts and culture making a positive inroads across the region. I thank volunteers Cathy and Dorothy for their work with us at important times.

Finally, I express my gratitude to my Board colleagues for their knowledge, overview and deep care of our much-loved organisation. It takes a dedicated team of individuals to guide an organisation like STA and to ensure that it continues to thrive and make a positive impact on the communities in our region.

Their commitment to STA is testament to their belief in the importance of the arts in regional development and in making our communities wonderful places to live, work and play.



This printed component of the 2022 STA Annual Report works in conjunction with online content at the STA website.

Copies of the 2022 Audited Financial Report are available online or contact STA for a printed copy.

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

Our seven contributing councils are Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan Palerang, Upper Lachlan Shire, Wingecarribee Shire, Wollondilly Shire and Yass Valley. STA is part of the state wide Regional Arts Network supported by Create NSW and a member of Regional Arts NSW. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands where we create, live & work.



STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

- Maintaining a vigilant awareness of the global environmental emergency to bring into every day practice ways to build environmental sustainability into every executive decision, every interaction with stakeholders, communities and creatives.
- Building capacity among cultural sector practitioners and organisations for professional and volunteer-led arts organisations towards their own sustainability, the delivery of quality artistic programming, audience development and financial sustainability.
- Maintaining emphasis on supporting key projects and partnerships between community stakeholders in the delivery of strategic programs.
- Reviewing and implementing robust governance practices based on continuous improvement.
- Emphasis on activities that provide greater opportunities to generate revenue.

Cover image: A detail of the PAINT THE TOWN mural in Thirlmere with artist Ingrida Spole
Image credit Jennie Wiles 2022

It is with great pleasure that STA welcomes Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council as a financial member and the diverse communities of the QPRC area to the STA region. All 7 Councils in the STA region have renewed their partnerships, each operating under a new Memorandum of Understanding. This is great news for the STA region as it shows a continued commitment to supporting and promoting the arts.

All 7 Councils send representatives to twice-yearly meetings of the STA Regional Advisory Panel, hosted by a different Council each time, held in a different location. STA Board members attend these informative and inspiring sessions where all parties contribute arts and cultural perspectives and provide feedback on STA programs and actions.

This collaborative approach and feedback ensure that STA remains responsive to the needs and interests of the communities it serves.

With our new 4-year funding arrangement with Create NSW underway and all 7 Councils financial, STA is operating in a more secure funding environment. Funding levels affect investment in resources and initiatives that increase effectiveness. In turn, this impacts the types of activities and projects undertaken as well as the quality and impact of creative outputs.

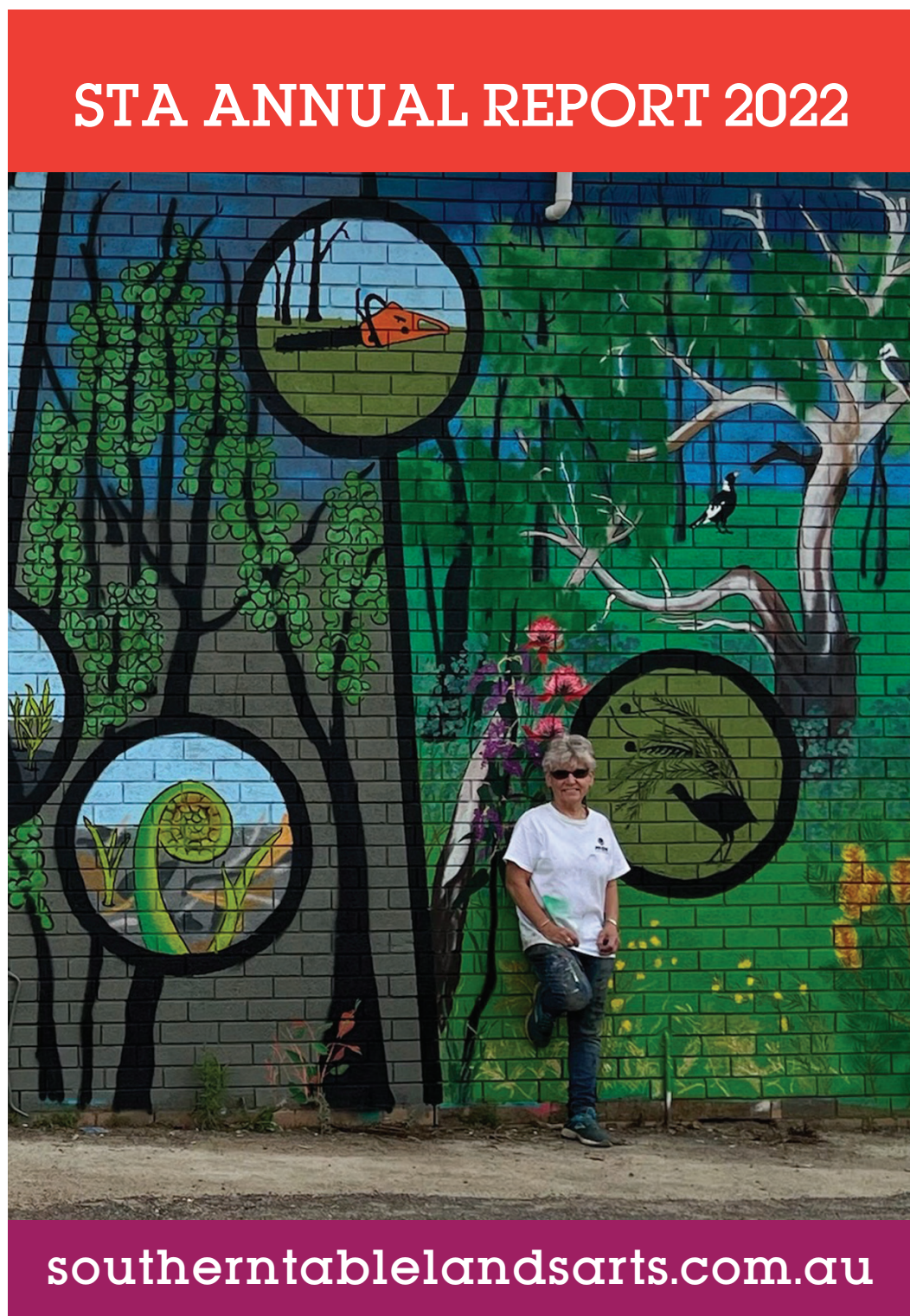
We are grateful for the across-government policy focus on regional development and sustainability by the NSW Government. It saw wonderful new cultural infrastructure in parts of the region. Investment in cultural infrastructure has a significant impact on the cultural and economic development of a region, providing opportunities for artists, cultural organisations and the wider community. When well-designed and well-placed, this infrastructure fosters and creativity, cultural participation, social cohesion as well as attracting visitors and supporting local businesses.

In response to the state's tumultuous weather events and pandemic the NSW Government, in developing its recovery responses, allocated significant funding to arts-focused recovery grants. This type of high dollar value funding provides crucial support to the arts and cultural sector and communities impacted by disaster, recognising the traumatic aftermath so widely experienced.

The STA team secured a large value grant for creative responses to fire-affected communities. It conceived an ambitious program, partnering with Councils, rolling out huge murals by some of Australia's leading mural and street artists in prominent urban locations across the entire region.

The team has stepped up its project management framework and is demonstrating capabilities which can be deployed in the delivery of large future projects and programs.

STA PRESIDENT'S REPORT Susan Brindle





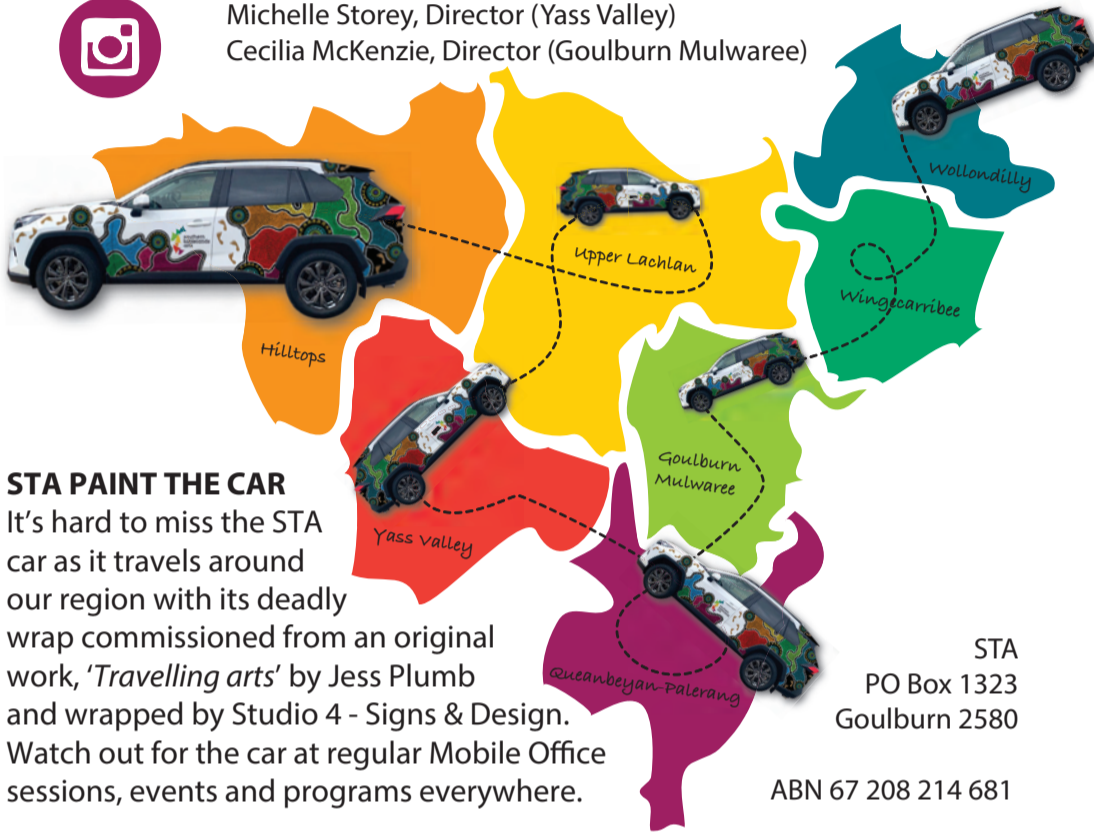
southern tablelands arts

Staff

Rose Marin, Executive Director (QPRC)
Erin Olafson, Project & Communications Officer (Goulburn Mulwaree)
Kiri Morcombe Special Projects Officer (Yass Valley)
Daniela Diaz Administration Officer (Wollondilly)

Board of Directors 2022-23

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



STA PAINT THE CAR

It's hard to miss the STA car as it travels around our region with its deadly wrap commissioned from an original work, 'Travelling arts' by Jess Plumb and wrapped by Studio 4 - Signs & Design. Watch out for the car at regular Mobile Office sessions, events and programs everywhere.

STA
PO Box 1323
Goulburn 2580

ABN 67 208 214 681

TREASURER'S REPORT Joanne McCauley

With the pandemic seeming to be behind us and life starting to return to normal, 2022 was a successful year for Southern Tablelands Arts. A small increase in funding from the NSW Government has allowed the organisation to increase staff levels and roll out many valuable and interesting projects. At the time of writing this report the auditor has not finalised the 2022 accounts but I believe the operating profit will be approximately \$45,000. This modest profit shows that our income has been well spent and that there are sufficient reserves to move into the future as a going concern. From an accounting point of view the year has run very smoothly....
read the full report at the STA Website

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Rose Marin

2022 was a year of reconnection, as we rediscovered the power of the Arts in our communities. It was an extremely busy and productive year for STA as our region and nation keenly emerged from the pandemic. Collectively our appetite to put the pandemic behind us was metered by a wariness of how to recover from such a deeply effecting time of change and uncertainty....
read the full report at the STA Website

STA Mobile Office

STA Mobile Offices were held monthly at partner venues in each of our seven local government areas. Mobile Offices offer creatives and organisations regular face to face appointments with STA staff. The STA Mobile Office program continues monthly in 2023 at new partner venues. See you at a STA Mobile Office soon.



Creative Directory

The Creative Directory is a major feature of the STA website. The STA Creative Directory currently has 239 listings in a searchable database of creative practitioners across our seven local government regions.

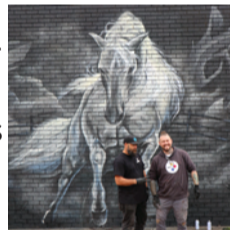


Selected Programs

Visit our website for more on these and many other programs

PAINT THE TOWN Street Art Festival

Our multi-mural festival guided by Creative Director Joe Quilter kicked off in Wollondilly with events, workshops and 12 murals created by nationally established artists and local talent. Murals were co-designed through workshops held with fire effected community members to reflect our recovery journey since the 2019 fires. Funded through the Black Summer Bush Fire Grants. Image: Anthony Nee and Joe Quilter at their Tahmoor mural.



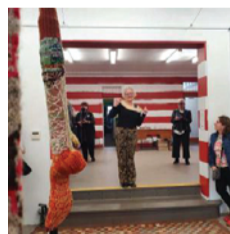
Woven Together

First Nation weaving workshops with local weavers; Ronnie Jordan from Culture on the Move and Jodie Munday. Free workshops were enjoyed by hundreds of students and community members across 2022. Woven Together is about coming together, sharing skills and having a yarn. Funded by the Regional Arts Fund.



The Country Arts Support Program (CASP)

CASP funding was devolved in 2022 by Create NSW to be directly administered by STA. STA added to the 17k from the NSW State Government to fund eight creative projects across the STA region. Supporting artists and the community. Image: CASP recipient Annemaree Dalziel for the Imperial Stockings project.



STA Box Gallery

Glass covered plinths that host a rotating program of micro exhibitions at partner venues across the STA region. Every STA BOX Gallery exhibition is complimented by a digital exhibition at the STA Gallery online. BOX Galleries were installed during 2022 at Hilltops Council at Young Town Hall, Wollondilly Shire Council Foyer and Yass Valley Library. Image: Hilltops Mayor Margaret Roles and artist Robyn Moore in Young.



GET NOTICED

A series of eight workshops tailored to support the creative sector, artists, arts orgs and cultural groups. Delivered in partnership with Creative Plus Business, Business Plus Yass and funding from the NSW Government Small Business Grants.



Stories from the Studio

A different feature creative or group every Friday evening. The project creates a bespoke dedicated web page and social posts to showcase each creative practice. With over 200 Stories and growing each week the project is a rich online record of the creative sector in our region. Image: Tina Milson, Portraits on Main



QPRC Reconnect Program

A big development for 2022 was the reconnection with Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council who voted to resume their relationship with STA for the second half of 2022. The reconnection was celebrated with a rich program of workshops, professional development opportunities and community meetings.



Hilltops Off The Beaten Track

STA are proud foundational partners in the annual festival of arts and culture across the Hilltops region. STA supported the program with administration, webpages and map. STA continues to support the program in 2023 and beyond. Image: Kevin Payne Emu roadside installation



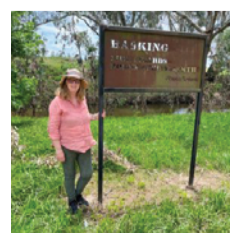
Illuminate Wollondilly

Our winter once again lit up with the Illuminate Wollondilly Festival returning in 2022 after a two-year hiatus. STA delivered multiple lantern workshops with Tracy Luff leading up to a community lantern parade through the Picton Botanic Gardens. STA is proud to be a foundation partner of this spectacular festival. Image: Lantern workshop at Yanderra Public School



Creative South

A year of consolidation for the Creative South cultural tourism website with the inclusion of Queanbeyan Palerang. The website now boasts 440 listings of arts and cultural experiences making it the most exhaustive offering of museums, galleries, public art, festivals and hidden cultural gems across 10 regions. Don't go anywhere before you visit creativesouth.com.au. Image: Lizz Murphy with an Poetry: The Indelible Stencil installation



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