

REGIONAL GALLERIES ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT
2016/17



As the peak body for not-for-profit galleries in regional South Australia, our role is to advocate for the role galleries play in healthy communities, provide inspiring professional development for members and to entice collaborators with mutual interests to join us, thereby strengthening our capacity to achieve our principle aim - to have a vibrant network of regional galleries enriching local communities, artists and the arts across regional South Australia.

Our **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2017-2019** are a reflection of members' aspirations and needs, and resulted from a planning workshop with members in June 2016.

Professional development and networking opportunities to increase the capacity of members to deliver high quality, valued outcomes in their communities

Partnership Engagement Strategy to support the activities of member galleries and share resources with organisations that share common goals through a partnership engagement strategy

Maintain and build a cohesive collaborative network of regional galleries to maintain financial stability, to increase the skills base across the state and to increase the visibility and impact of our work

Advocacy and promotion to enable us to function as a highly visible and influential sector and an attractive partner in both the visual arts sector and more broadly as a significant partner in recreation, wellbeing, tourism and economic development within members' communities

Provide a conduit between curators, artists and regional galleries in the development of vibrant, challenging and relevant programming



BUILDING CAPACITY • PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT • FORUMS

• Regional Galleries Association Meetings

The quarterly meetings of the Association in Adelaide are a welcome opportunity for members to share current issues and news.

• Regional Galleries Association of SA Forum

Friday 5 August 2016

Seppeltsfield Winery, Barossa Valley

Members Free, Non-members \$45, Non-member volunteers \$30

51 (37 representing member galleries, 10 guests, 4 speakers)

Facilitated by Play Your Part's Maz McGann, the forum discussed trending topics in the regional Gallery sector. Six presenters discussed new ideas and fresh approaches to innovative audience development and community engagement.

Vic McEwan, Artistic Director, The Cad Factory (Regional NSW) gave a powerful presentation on the way the arts can connect deeply with regional communities in an authentic way. He shared the way he and his partner have become part of their community, some of the challenges they faced as city folk moving to the country and the ways that they have worked with communities, particularly working with difficult issues like grief and loss. **Caroline Downer, Executive Director Arts North West** (Armadale) provided a practical guide to cost effective and simple projects which entice visitors and develop the visitor experience. **Fiona MacDonald** shared about the **Kandos Museum** project where artists are revitalising a community museum that had been closed down. This project offered a new way of looking at a resource that many regional communities are struggling to maintain: the local social history museum. **Melinda Rankin** of Murray Bridge Regional Gallery shared the way **Sixth Street Handmade artists' market's** organic development has meant it is a true celebration of the community and its characters. **Eleanor Scicchitano** (Country Arts SA) and **Kerry Youde** (Burra Regional Art Gallery) shared the process behind the success of the **Burra Ephemeral Art Trail**.

• Same, Same But Different • Public Gallery Sector Forum

Thursday 29 June 2017

Radford Auditorium, Art Gallery of South Australia

83 Registrations (16 Regional Galleries, 26 Metropolitan Galleries. Representing Local government (16), not-for-profit (7), Artist-Run Initiatives (6), State Government funded (4), Universities (3) plus 9 other arts organisations)

Presented jointly with **Museums Galleries Australia (SA)** and coordinated by RGASA, this half-day forum brought SA's diverse not-for-profit public gallery sector together for the first time. Despite varying in size, management structure, audience and charter, there is much in common, but there has been little opportunity to connect, collaborate, share and discuss industry information and issues until now.

The program included an overview of the sector by **Melinda Rankin** plus short presentations demonstrating our diversity by **Erica Green: Samstag Museum**, University of SA (University Collections), **Leah Grace: Goolwa Galleries** (Regional & Local Government Galleries), **Toby Chapman: ACE Open** (Metropolitan Galleries), **Rachel McElwee: Hahndorf Academy** (community managed galleries) and **Brigid Noone: Fontanelle** (Artist Run Initiative). Director of the Art Gallery of SA, **Nick Mitzevich**, spoke on *Chasing the Edge* followed by a session facilitated by **Gail Kovatseff**, Chairperson of the Arts Industry Council of SA, to tease out our common issues and topics for future shared events, advocacy and training. The aim was to initiate the event with a view to continuing the format if successful.

Participants voted overwhelmingly to continue the conversation in a number of ways, many of which are now included in RGASA's strategic priorities for 2017-19. MGA(SA) and RGASA have agreed to co-present a similar forum in 2018.

Read the full forum report [here](#).



PARTNERSHIP • ADVOCACY • STAFF

Our evolving relationship with **Museums Galleries Australia (SA)** and our co-presentation of the 2017 State Forum brought us into closer dialogue with wide-ranging sub-sectors of South Australia's public galleries, many of whom have limited opportunities for regular dialogue with other like-minded colleagues.

The forum increased the profile of RGASA as a sector leader and with the **Arts Industry Council of SA**, proved the organisations ability to host events of this nature, bonded the organisation with Museums Galleries Australia (SA) and made connections with the public gallery sector which can be exploited in a number of ways, including strengthening the sectors ability to advocate collectively, growing RGASA's associate membership base and sharing professional development and resources.

Members of RGASA Executive continue to be active nationally – Melinda Rankin represented the Association at the **Museums Galleries Australia National Conference** in Brisbane in May 2017 and the **Council for Australian Art Museum Directors** (CAAMD) in Canberra in October 2016.

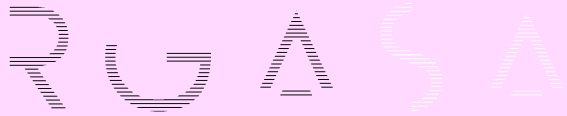
Our fruitful relationship with the Art Gallery of South Australia continues to evolve and we thank them for the generous use of spaces for our regular meetings and for the State Forum in June 2017, as well as access to curators and exhibitions.

RGASA continues to collaborate with **Art Gallery of South Australia** and **Country Arts SA** on the development the Robyn Stacey exhibition *Ray of Light* for a 2018-2020 regional tour. The Bordertown Walkway Gallery in particular is enjoying collaborating with Art Gallery of South Australia and other member galleries present the START program for children.

In May 2017, we appointed Jo Pike as the new project officer following Kirstie Jamieson's resignation. Jo comes from a background working in regional arts over two decades and brings wide-ranging skills to the role.

We gratefully acknowledge Country Arts SA who continue to provide essential core funding and the ongoing support they provide to SA regional galleries. We work closely with them to develop and deliver strategic outcomes for galleries across regional South Australia.





2016/17 • MEMBERSHIP

RGASA welcomed **6** new **MEMBER GALLERIES** and **3 ASSOCIATES** bringing current numbers to **19 MEMBERS** and **7 ASSOCIATES**.

BALAKLAVA COURTHOUSE GALLERY Balaklava
BAROSSA REGIONAL GALLERY Tanunda
BELALIE ART GALLERY Jamestown
BURRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY Burra
COORONG ART GALLERY Tailem Bend
HAHNDORF ACADEMY Hahndorf
JAMFACTORY Barossa
KAPUNDA COMMUNITY GALLERY Kapunda
MCCORMICK CENTRE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT Renmark
MILLICENT ART GALLERY Millicent
MURRAY BRIDGE REGIONAL GALLERY Murray Bridge
NAUTILUS ART CENTRE Port Lincoln
PORT PIRIE REGIONAL ART GALLERY Port Pirie
ROXBYLINK ART GALLERY Roxby Downs
SOUTH COAST ART CENTRE & SIGNAL POINT GALLERY Goolwa
VICTOR HARBOR REGIONAL GALLERY Victor Harbor
WALKWAY GALLERY Bordertown
YARTA PURTLI Port Augusta

2016/17 • EXECUTIVE

CHAIR Naomi Fallon, Director Walkway Gallery
DEPUTY CHAIR Kerry Youde, Artist/Volunteer Burra Regional Art Gallery
SECRETARY Rachel McElwee, Director Hahndorf Academy
TREASURER Melinda Rankin, Director, Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

2016/17 • PROJECT OFFICER

Kirstie Jamieson (*to October 2016*)
Jo Pike (*from May 2017*)



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