



PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON 2014

41st Annual General Meeting, 30 March 2015

My fellow Arts Hub Members, Volunteers, Board of Management members and loyal hard-working staff of Arts Margaret River.

2014 was a good year for Margaret River's Arts Hub. It was our fortieth year since a few visionary volunteers of earlier generations began our story when this community was a much smaller place.

Our membership continues to grow, reaching 350 at the end of the year, and our volunteers now number more than 130. From this strong base, we entertained more than 9,000 ticketed patrons, more than 3,000 of these in our community cinema. There were 46 bookings by community groups and five by business organisations, bringing the grand total of all users of Margaret River's Cultural and Events Centre to more than 21,000 people in the year by our estimate.

Our 2014 program presented to the Augusta Margaret River community and visitors was a big one with many memorable highlights. These included 21 live shows in this entertainment venue, at Cowaramup and Augusta, three simulcasts shown on our big screen, our 40-year Arts Hub members' celebration and our first rock 'n' roll dance. Movies were presented at least twice a week with more during School holidays. There were very successful monthly gallery exhibitions, and a session of Arm Chair Gardening. Our flag-ship Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival has continued to grow and is achieving strong recognition in the State and gradually ... building on Margaret River's powerful Brand ... also nationally.

2014 was the first year of three in our Venue Management Agreement with the Shire. I thank the Shire, its Chief Executive and staff and all members of the Augusta Margaret River Shire Council for their financial support and for their faith in us. We are paid a fee (\$230,000 in 2014) for managing this venue, which helps us to pay for its running costs and our other expenses. We are also grateful for the Shire Council providing to us a one-off 'Programming Grant' of \$40,000. This will help us to manage the financial risks coming from the humps and hollows in our month-to-month cashflow and to be a little more adventurous in our programming. Our income and our profit do not include this Grant.

In March and June 2014 we voted to amend our Constitution, firstly to insert procedural changes required by WA's regulator of not-for-profit associations, and more significantly to change our annual accounting period to end on 31 December, and to establish a Public Fund to accept private charitable donations. This will be activated when we are given Deductible Gift Recipient) tax status, hopefully in the near future.

Mentioning dollars and cents, I am very happy to tell you that we recorded a surplus from our operations in 2014 of \$8,633.61, which was a very welcome improvement of nearly \$50,000 on the result in 2013. The reality was better than this, as we also included a provision for depreciation in this year's expenses. Our total turnover was more than \$540,000.

Our income included \$124,000 in cash grants and donations from almost sixty sponsors, large and small, private and government, local and State. A few were in-kind sponsors. It is a list of the Who's Who in Margaret River's region and beyond, and we thank every one of them. All are listed in my written report. I hope I have not missed any.

There were some notable achievements in 2014. You cannot have missed the big improvement in presentation of our venue, for which the leadership given by Phil Bebb must be recognised. Likewise, the greatly improved quality and reliability of the sound in our cinema. Replacing and rebuilding all equipment in the Fly Tower has just been completed by the Shire, at a cost of \$355,000. With this has come replacement, repair or repainting of the stage curtains and surrounds. All of this was managed by Phil Bebb on behalf of the Shire and Arts Margaret River.

In October 2014 we took possession of a new digital projector and related equipment, funded by a five-year loan and by a grant from the South West Development Commission. This was made necessary by the departure of Twilight Cinemas who had operated the cinema for a year. To show there is a silver lining behind every screen, this has given us back our cinema, re-energised our cinema volunteers and improved the quality of the films being presented.

We were supported by our indispensable Arts Hub volunteers and our very loyal and hard-working staff. I would like to mention all those who are here tonight and were with us through all or most of 2014: Stephanie Kreutzer, who in 2014 was our part-time marketing and social media manager (plus in practice much else). Phil Bebb, our technical and venue manager, whose calm and supportive presence is ensuring the growing quality of our shows and presentation of the venue. Kaye Campbell, our very diligent and efficient part-time office manager, bookkeeper and support for our very able Finance Committee – we call it our Finance Team, which is very ably led by Bryan Timmons – whose efforts are evident in our greatly improved profit result for this year. And finally Helen Allan, the Director and one-person whirlwind organiser of our Readers and Writers Festivals and Sean Locke, the coordinator of our Cowaramup Sunday Sundowners.

I should say “and much else besides” for every one of these people. While this looks, feels and is a very small ‘business’, there is much work to do. Our General Manager Hal Martin was also part of this team during most 2014, and resigned from Arts Margaret River in February 2015.

I must also mention and thank our devoted volunteer teams, and those members who meet monthly as the Arts Hub Committee, to help steer and present our programs, and help to keep our volunteer teams informed and committed. Here I should pay tribute to life Member Jack Knudson, who retired from his role as Volunteer Coordinator at the end of the year. This role is now being shared by Ian Smith and Pam Townshend.

Outcomes achieved in 2014 are tangible evidence of strong financial management and strengthening ‘governance’ of Arts Margaret River by our eight-member Board of Management. They have worked hard during the year. The Board of Management meets once a month and some of its members have other roles in our Arts Hub. My very genuine thanks go to all of them for the support they have given to me during the year: Rob Rumball (Vice President), Anne Shepherdson (past President), Pierre Every (Treasurer), Niomi O’Hara (Secretary), Bryan Timmons, Mignon Birch and Bill Castleden. Jeanette Sangmeister was unfailing in keeping minutes and dealing with other paperwork.

I must mention the Shire’s plans to upgrade and enlarge this venue, to which Arts Margaret River has given its very strong and public support. You can see the details of these plans here on the wall and on our website www.artsmargaretriver.com. I urge you also to write to the Shire President or the Shire CEO or both to express your personal support for this vitally important community project.

There are many more creative and fun things to come from Arts Margaret River in 2015.

Fred Affleck

President

Arts Margaret River sponsors in 2014 and 2015

Adinfern Winery	Harman's Wine	Night Harvest Margaret River
Augusta Hotel Motel	Howard Park Wines	Riverglen Chalets
Augusta-Margaret River Shire	Ikon Design	Quality Inn Margaret River
Budget Car & Truck Rentals	Juice Print	Riverview Cabins & Camping
Country Arts WA	Karriview Lodge	Rosily Wines
Cowaramup Landscape Supplies	Leeuwin Lions Club	Southwest Institute of Technology
Cowaramup Lions	Lenton Brae Margaret River	South West Development Commission
Curtin University	Lions Club of Margaret River	St Allard Eco Resort
Darby Park Serviced Residences	Lloyds of Margaret River	Stocker Preston
Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal	Lottery West	Subiaco <i>Post</i>
Forte Leeuwin Apartments	Margaret River Bookshop	The Art Label
Framing Art Margaret River	Margaret River Hempco	The Candy Cow
Fremantle Press	Margaret River Holidays	The Larder
Gracetown Caravan Park	Margaret River Hotel	Twilight Cinemas
Halanson Earthmoving	Margaret River Resort	Water Corporation
Hamelin Bay Holiday Park	Margaret River Rotary Club	Writing WA
Happs Winery	Margaret River Press	Xanadu Wines
	Margaret River <i>Times</i>	Yahava Coffee
	<i>Margaret River.com</i>	
	Morries' Anytime	
