

ARTS MARGARET RIVER 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

FULL CIRCLE
with
Michael Palin



Michael Palin at the 2017 Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival



Margaret River Cultural Centre • 51 Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River
9758 7316 • artsmargaretriver.com



OUR ORGANISATION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Arts Margaret River Inc. is the leading provider of the arts and related entertainment in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River and the broader Cape-to-Cape region of Western Australia. Founded in 1974, it is a not-for-profit association incorporated in Western Australia.

We operate three associated businesses from the Margaret River Cultural and Events Centre:

(a) Presentation of a wide variety of art and cultural experiences to our community and visitors, including live theatre shows, live simulcasts, cinema screenings, an annual Readers and Writers Festival, monthly art exhibitions by local artists in our Foyer Gallery and other occasional events including art workshops and fundraisers. Our program includes theatre, art, literature and film for adults, youth and children. We are listed on the Australian Register of Cultural Organisations.

(b) Venue hire for a variety of community and school-based events including live theatre (e.g. the Margaret River Theatre Group), annual CinefestOZ film screenings, school use, presentations and social events, commercial users including dance and other classes and conferences and seminars.

These events often require extensive set-up of stage, cinema, sound, lighting and other facilities.

(c) Management of the Margaret River Cultural and Events Centre, on behalf of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. All out-goings for the operation and routine maintenance (cleaning and consumable replacements) of this venue are paid by Arts Margaret River Inc. This venue has a Special Facility Liquor Licence and a Certification of Registration as a Medium Risk Food Business.

Our program also extends to indoor and outdoor venues in Augusta and Cowaramup as well as the Busselton Shire for the Young Readers and Writers Festival.

Sources of financial income for these businesses are (in roughly equal proportions):

- Box office takings and fees from community and other venue hirers
- Grants from government and private sources, and
- The venue management fee paid half-yearly by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. The Shire has also provided a grant to form a perpetual 'programming fund' which is used as working capital to fund purchased shows which often must be paid for long in advance.

Staffing: Two full-time employees:

Andrew Frith - General Manager

Phil Bebb - Technical & Facilities Manager

and six part-time employees:

Stephanie Kreutzer—Marketing Manager

Kaye Campbell - Finance & Administration Manager

Tanya Perdue—2017 RW Festival Director

Daniela Tommasi - Receptionist/Box Office,

Kai Hoft Withers—Technical Assistant

Ian Smith - Volunteer Coordinator

Michael Bayens - Venue Cleaner

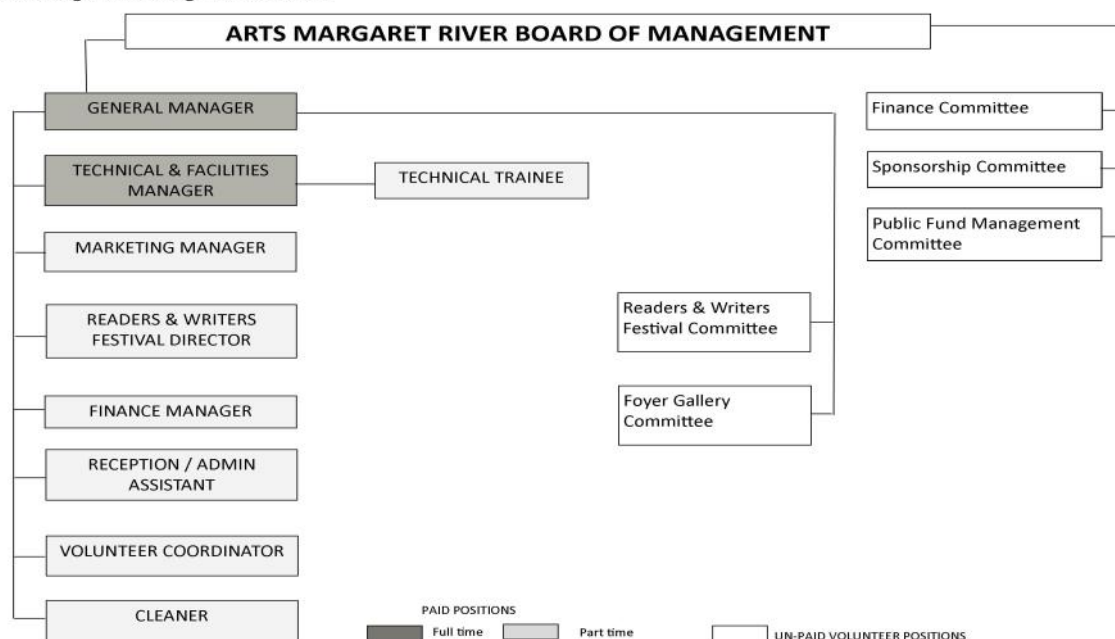
The number of our staff is equivalent to approximately 5.5 FTE. This number grew largely in response to the increasing demands of audience and venue management – to ensure sound and responsive event preparation and event operation, presentation, cleaning and maintenance – community outreach, financial management including grant administration, marketing and advertising, box office/sales and public enquiries.

Board of Management: All nine members of our Board of Management are volunteers, in their roles on the Board and on committees serving and advising the Board. The Board of Management annually appoints an independent auditor to certify our annual Statements of Profit & Loss and Balance Sheets.

Volunteers: Our volunteers, of whom 125-150 are active at any time, are a vitally important part of the association and provide a range of services.

Sponsors and Donors: These are a vitally important part of our not-for-profit association, providing valuable financial resources.

Arts Margaret River Organisational Chart



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to start by thanking our small and very hard-working staff. There are eight of them. Let me first mention Andrew Frith our General Manager. Andrew's unfailing leadership of the team and his excellent judgement in all things have been brilliant at all times. He and Phil Bebb, our terrific and one-of-a-kind Venue and Technical Manager, are the only full-timers we have.

You have all met Daniela Tommasi our multi-talented receptionist, box-office salesperson, foyer audio-visual manager and occasional web designer. Steph Kreutzer is our excellent publications and marketing manager. In the 'back-room' Kaye Campbell is our book-keeper and office manager extraordinaire. I cannot stress too much that while the Arts is what we do – our reason to exist and thrive – effective management of the ebb and flow of dollars and cents is what enables us to survive and grow. Most of you will also know Ian Smith our excellent Volunteer Coordinator. Less visible but very important also are our Handyman and man-on-the-end-of-a-broom or mop is Michael Bayens. Kai Hoft-Withers is learning the buttons, plugs and pullies as Phil's technician assistant. Diana Heaford is our ever helpful near full time office volunteer.

And last, but far from least, Kerrie Yabsley, the Director of the 2018 Arts Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival, this year being presented at Voyager Estate. Say no more. You will love everything about it.

Let me also thank our all-volunteer Board of Management, which I have had the privilege to Chair for the past five years. Rob Rumball (Deputy Chair), Pierre Every (Treasurer and Chair of our Finance Committee), Jeanette Sangmeister (Board Secretary), Mignon Birch (Finance Committee secretary), Michael Sorensen (Chair of our Building Committee), Anne Shepherdson (Past President, convener of the Foyer Gallery Team and much else), Frank Edwards (full of wise counsel on the shark-infested waters in which we 'swim'), and Neil Fox (Chair of our Sponsorship Committee).

Now just a few numbers: Our total audience, some of them hard to count, was 33,469 in the year. Our total income was more than \$840,000, up 12% from the previous year. Of this total, our income from memberships, ticket sales, foyer gallery, kiosk and bar, venue hire and outside volunteer earning, was almost \$348,000, up 7% from last year. We also earned more than \$252,000 in grants and sponsorships, up a third from the previous year – virtually all of it money brought into the Shire from 'outside' sources – and more I should say than the \$243,000 we were paid by the Shire to help us make this venue a thriving community asset full of people and events. This 'management fee' was less than thirty percent of our total income. Our total expenses to do all this were just short of \$840,000 during the year, up 14% from the previous year. More and better events cost us more (21%). Staffing cost us more (up 25% during the year), but this was still half what the same staff would have cost if this venue were managed by the Shire.

A few words about the coming year. You are all familiar with the plans for a fabulous new Venue –The 'Margaret River HEART' – on this site. This has been a vision of many during the past decade, and the cost of it will be paid mostly by money secured from outside the Shire - \$6.7m out of the total cost.

Tonight's Shire Council meeting, starting at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber, should make final decisions, choosing the building contractor who will recreate the community's HEART, and more, on this site.

Let me say loud and clear, our program will continue while this building is boarded up, dismembered and resurrected in a glorious new form.

First, our web address www.artsmargaretriver.com, Facebook page, other social media channels, and our old-fashioned telephone, will not change. While the project is underway, our box office and admin office will move to the Margaret River Community Resource Centre on Tunbridge Street. Same people, same service, same operating hours.

Many of the events you are used to will be presented in other venues in the region. Watch our website, Facebook page and the newspapers for information. Very regrettably, our cinema has not yet found a temporary home-away-from-home.

I am sure you are now aware the Arts Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival, on the first to the third of June, will be held at the Voyager Estate. Bigger and better. Tickets will be on sale soon. Watch our Festival website <https://mrrwfestival.com/festival-2018>.

The period of the building project will bring many challenges. Our dedicated staff and our Board of Management will manage our way through them. As our dedicated volunteers, faithful members and devoted audience members, please stay with us during the next year. There is a bright new dawn for the Arts in Margaret River waiting for us over the near horizon.

Fred Affleck AO

President, Arts Margaret River Inc.

PERFORMING ARTS

SUNDAY SUNDOWNERS

Audience: Approximately 2000

Expenses: \$12,972

Lotterywest contribution: \$8,000

Cowaramup retailers contribution: \$2,600

Shire Contribution: \$1,000

This was the 15th year that the FREE Family Friendly Sundowners were held in Cowaramup over four Sundays in February.

Promotional signage was once again offered to sponsors to encourage involvement and offer exposure in return.

This was the second year that Elliott Morris volunteered to coordinate the bands for the season and Sean Diggins was the sound engineer.

The bands selected for each week's performances followed a theme to cater to various music tastes:

Week 1—youth Indi Rock

Week 2—Country/blues and Rock and Roll

Week 3—Jazz & Reggae

Week 4—Jazz & Folk

In a Sundowner first, wet weather forced the cancellation of the second concert. The band, The Impressions, moved their performance to the final Sunday which started half an hour earlier and ended half an hour later than usual, with 3 bands performing. The cancellation of one Sunday meant there was a reduced donation opportunity but expenses remained the same.



SUNDAY SUNDOWNERS - Pioneer Park, Cowaramup

5 FEBRUARY - THE ACITONES & STILLWATER GIANTS

6 piece Indi Rock/Pop
Winner 'Groovin the Moo Triple J Unearthed 2014'. Upbeat guitar riffs & drumming.

Electric surfie indie-rock with duelling guitars & three part voice harmonies. Performed around Australia at various music festivals.

12 FEBRUARY - THE STIRLING RANGERS & THE IMPRESSIONS

Jason Norris (WA Country Music Award winner), Tony Lane, Dave Seegar & Kevin McDonald play original country and folk music plus covers.

The SW's favourite rock n roll band playing classics from the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Kinks, Easybeat, and more to get you up and dancing.

19 FEBRUARY - THE EXCEPTIONS & RASTAJAZZ

Upbeat acoustic tunes by neighbourhood friends: Elliott Morris, Gary Larkin, Bryn Larkin and Justin Haddow.

8 piece band fusing jazz and reggae. Featuring originals & classics sure to get you dancing.

26 FEBRUARY - BLUE CHILD COLLECTIVE & TEN CENT SHOOTERS

4 piece Conscious Blues-Jazz-Folk Funk band led by Dan White.

Scott Wise, Sean Diggins & Peter Woodward play acoustic blues from the 1920s and 30s.

OPERA IN THE PARK SIMULCAST

Saturday 4 February, 8PM

Tickets: Free event

Attendance: 123

The WA Opera's 50th Anniversary gala concert was streamed live from Perth to the Margaret River Cultural Centre and was well attended. A large number of locals and patrons from outlying regional towns plus tourists and overseas visitors attended the event.



THE LISTIES 6D

Thursday 2 March, 6PM

Tickets: \$18 adult, \$15 member, \$14 youth, \$58 Family

Paid Attendance: 108

Performance Fee: \$5,375

Box Office Takings: \$ 1610

Lotterywest contribution: \$5,500

This was the second time that Arts MR programmed the Listies. This award-winning kid's comedy show targets kids aged 5-12 years and their parents. It features strong slapstick, clowning, jokes and is a great interactive show for families to attend.

Audience participation included inviting kids and their parents to come dressed in their pyjamas to win prizes and the show was followed by a meet and greet in the foyer.



STONES IN HIS POCKETS

Sunday 9 April, 7pm

Tickets: \$35 Adults, \$30 members, \$20 youth

Audience: 153

Performance Fee: \$5,580

Lotterywest contribution: \$5,500

Box Office Takings: \$ 4772

The multi award winning comedy is an hilarious and moving tale of a quiet Irish community turned upside down by the arrival of a Hollywood movie shoot.

The show featured performances by two actors who played 15 characters between them.

The show was promoted to the high school drama students (20 youth attended), to theatre goers and to the Irish community.



ARCHE—MELBOURNE BALLET COMPANY

Saturday 29 April, 8pm

Tickets: \$50 adult, \$45 members, \$25 youth, \$120 family

Paid Audience: 271

Performance fee: \$9,300

Lotterywest contribution: \$6,000

Box Office Takings: \$ 10,755

This was the first time that a ballet was held at the Cultural Centre. The smaller cast of 6 performers meant that we were able to accommodate them on our stage.

The show was widely promoted to all the dance schools and high school with 61 youth and 8 families attending. A video trailer was a strong marketing tool and was shown prior to cinema and featured on our Facebook event. The auditorium seating was sold out and a reduced price offered for restricted viewing in the balcony.

A meet and greet post show was very popular, particularly with the dance students and many autographs and photographs were sought from the cast.



SHIRLEY VALENTINE

Thursday 11 May 7pm

Tickets: \$45 Adults, \$40 Members, \$40 Group 8+, Youth \$20

Paid Audience: 97

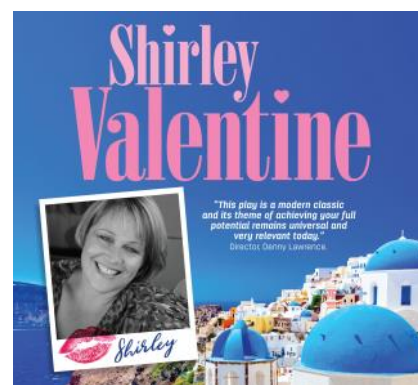
Performance fee: 6,858

Lotterywest contribution: 5,500

Box Office Takings: \$ 4085

This well known and loved play was presented by Hit Productions and starred Mandi Lodge, who appeared in Patsy Cline at the Cultural Centre in 2016.

The play was promoted to all patrons that attended Educating Rita and Patsy Kline in 2016 and a group price was offered to encourage book clubs and social groups to attend.



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL ROADSHOW

28 May, 8pm

Tickets: \$50 Adults, \$45 Arts Hub Members

Paid Audience: 325

Performance fee: \$6,808

Lotterywest contribution: NIL

Box Office Takings: \$ 14,835



The annual Comedy Festival is a highlight on many locals' calendars. Many of the same patrons return each year and this is often the only show that they attend at the Cultural Centre. The show attracts a younger audience than our regular theatre patrons and it is a good opportunity for us to promote upcoming shows and events.

The event sells out each year and is a good earner in ticket sales and bar sales. It is also a good opportunity to reward our sponsors with tickets as it is attractive to groups and social clubs.

THE ONE

Saturday 3 June, 8pm

Tickets: \$25

Paid Audience: 76

Performance fee: \$2,500

Lotterywest contribution: \$2,000

Box Office Takings: \$ 1,430



Featuring flickers of love songs from the world of rhythm and blues, the musical piece follows the unravelling of a happy couple set to a frenzied guitar.

This WA production was launched at the 2017 Perth Fringe Festival as part of the Blue Room Theatre's Summer Nights program. The production was programmed for the Saturday evening of the Readers and Writers Festival to give festival attendees the option of attending a theatre performance. The show's clever story line, simplicity of staging requirements, one hour duration and affordability made this an ideal production for this purpose.

Ticket sales were disappointing as most festival attendees chose not to stay on for the play. Those that did attend thoroughly enjoyed the performance and it is a show that we would consider re-programming in the future, un-associated with the festival.

SALTBUSH

Tuesday 25 July, 7pm &

Wednesday 26 July 9.45am, 11.20am & 1.30pm

Tickets: \$17 adult, \$15 member, \$14 youth, \$12 school

Paid Audience: 256

Performance fee: \$7,867 plus \$986 for bench hire

Lotterywest contribution: \$7,500

Box Office Takings: \$ 3,626



An immersive and interactive journey through the culture and landscape of Aboriginal Australia. A fusion of dance, art and breathtaking digital design.

Due to the digital requirements of the show, the audience was seated on the stage, allowing a maximum of 120 people. The show was aimed at children aged 4-8 years and the local primary schools, home-schoolers and day care centres were targeted. A strong teacher support pack was sent to all schools along with video promotion. The schools' uptake was very disappointing with only one school attending. A number of home-schoolers attended as well as many parents that pulled their children out of school to attend the matinees. It was a brilliant show and received rave reviews from all attendees, children and parents alike.



ERTH'S PREHISTORIC AQUARIUM

Monday 28 August 7pm &

Tuesday 29 August 10am & 1.30pm

Tickets: \$25 adult, \$21 member, \$18 youth, \$70 family, \$12 schools

Paid Audience: 533

Performance fee: \$12,894 plus \$1209 equipment hire

Lotterywest contribution: \$7,500

Box Office Takings: \$7,837



Erth's Dinosaur Zoo performed at the Cultural Centre in 2015 with 2 sold out shows.

Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium was another highly interactive, educational and visually stunning show suitable for age 5-12 years. The show was marketed to local primary schools and to everyone that attended Erth Dinosaur Zoo. A promotional video was shown prior to our cinema screenings and a facebook competition was conducted to drive interest and awareness.

Three schools and a large home-schooling group attended the matinees with a number of parents pulling their children out of school to attend. Pre show activities included activity sheets in the foyer with post show Q&A's for the matinees as well.

ROMAN RUDNYTSKY CONCERT PIANO RECITAL

Sunday 13 August 2pm

Tickets: Adults \$25, Members/Concession \$20, Youth \$10

Paid Audience: 87

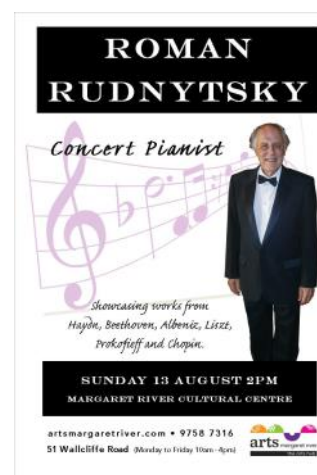
Performance fee: \$1090 (incl accommodation)

Lotterywest contribution: NIL

Box Office Takings: \$ 1755

Roman Rudnytsky is an American concert pianist who graduated from the Juilliard School, winner of many national and international piano competitions, who performs around the world.

For this performance we trialled a Sunday matinee time-slot in the hope that it would attract an audience that may not venture out in the evening. The performance was a great success with many elderly patrons attending. Afternoon tea was served during intermission enabling patrons to mingle and to meet and chat to Roman. A number of young piano students also attended with their parents.



SWITZERLAND—BLACK SWAN SIMULCAST

Friday 1 September, 7.30pm

Tickets: \$10 general, free - members

Audience: 52

Performance fee: N/A

Lotterywest contribution: NIL

Box Office Takings: \$ 190



33 members and 20 paid audience members attended the simulcast.

This year's production was not as well attended at previous year's as the storyline did not have as great an appeal.

DIARY OF A WOMBAT

Thursday 2 November 6pm &

Friday 3 November 10.30am & 1.30pm

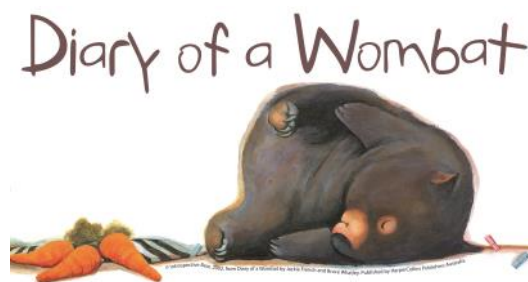
Tickets: \$17 Adult, \$15 Member, \$14 Youth, \$58 Family, \$12 schools

Paid Audience: 556

Performance Fee: \$11,122

Lotterywest contribution: \$7,500

Box Office Takings: \$6,317



This Monkey Baa production of the well known and loved book by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley was a much anticipated and well attended show suitable for age 3+. Strong teacher resources and free in-school workshops helped to sell the show to schools. 5 primary schools, 1 early learning centre and a large home schoolers group attended the matinees, accounting for 294 school children.

Pre-show colouring in activities and post show Q&A's further enhanced the enjoyment of this delightful show.

THE ARRIVAL

Saturday 11 November 10am & 2pm

Tickets: Adults \$18, Members/Youth \$15, Family \$60

Paid Audience: 121

Performance fee: \$6,661

Lotterywest contribution: \$ 5,500

Box Office Takings: \$ 1,731



This Spare Parts puppet show based on the book by Shaun Tan was the 5th kids show this year.

An additional 'Paper Puppetry and Play' workshop conducted by Spare Parts, was held between the two shows for a cost of \$5.

The Arrival was a wonderful production, visually beautiful with exceptional acting and puppetry and it was disappointing that not more people attended the shows. The poor attendance was attributed to the fact that there were so many kids shows this year, with Diary of a Wombat on only a week prior. Also, being late in the year when many families are busy with dance concerts, end of year school activities and less money spent on entertainment in the lead up to Christmas.

SYMPHONY IN THE CITY SIMULCAST

Saturday 16 December, 7.30pm

Tickets: No charge

Attendance: 93

Lotterywest contribution: NIL

This was the first year that the Symphony in the City simulcast was not held on the same date as the Arts Margaret River volunteer Christmas party, which was held in early December.



The simulcast was well attended with 127 tickets pre-booked and 93 people attending on the night. This was the last event in the Cultural Centre for 2017.

LITERARY ARTS—READERS & WRITERS FESTIVAL

Monday 29 May—Sunday 4 June

Festival Director: Tanya Perdue

TICKET Sales: \$83,194

GRANTS: \$95,522

SPONSORSHIP: \$13,687

EXPENSES: \$179,736



The Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival weekend was held from 02-04 June 2017 with the theme 'Where stories come alive'.

It was conducted at the Arts Margaret River Cultural Centre, with feature events and workshops held at Voyager Estate, Riversmith Café, Limeburners Distillery, South Regional TAFE and local libraries in Margaret River & Augusta.

The headline author for the 2017 Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival was renowned British comedian, actor, writer and television presenter Michael Palin as well as Australian headliners Kerry O'Brien, Clementine Ford, Jane Caro, Robert Drewe, Bruce Pascoe, Stephanie Alexander, Joan London and Tim Costello.

With Tourism WA supporting the event for the first year and Lotterywest increasing their support, as well as extensive cash and in-kind contributions from additional sponsors spanning the Platinum Plus, Platinum, Silver and Bronze Sponsorship levels, the event was well-backed locally and further afield.

Thanks to its headline speakers and extensive media coverage, the 2017 Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival achieved record-breaking attendance with 6,410 seats sold across the 3 days of the festival weekend with 55% of ticket purchasers being intrastate visitors.

Feature events contributed the most to ticket sales revenue, closely followed by Festival Passes and individual tickets. Ticket revenue for this year's festival represented 37% of all event income (up from 27% last year) and ticket sales rose 181% on last year.

The community got involved in the festival through volunteering opportunities, donating 650 hours of their time. The Visual Stories Art Competition & Exhibition also provided a unique avenue through which local artists could get involved.

The Young Readers & Writers Program had 3,813 students listen to and participate in sessions by six authors who visited 14 schools in the two weeks prior to the main festival. Of these, 58% of students were from schools in the City of Busselton with the remaining 42% in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

The 2017 festival can be deemed a huge success, with total attendance of 10,823 (incl. paid and free events). It exceeded both financial and non-financial objectives, receiving positive feedback from attendees, sponsors and speakers and delivering a surplus bottom-line. The profile of the event has been lifted locally, throughout WA and nationally, setting the stage for future festivals.



READERS & WRITERS PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS

THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS MOVIE — 12 JANUARY 7PM

Based on the acclaimed novel by M.L. Stedman
Tickets: \$14 adult, \$12 members, \$8 youth
67 people attended the screening.



CANDICE FOX — 28 FEBRUARY 7PM

Identified by the Australian Financial Review as one of Australia's top female crime authors, Candice Fox's gritty, suspenseful thrillers have propelled her into international acclaim.
Tickets \$12 (incl a glass of wine). 15 people attended an intimate, insightful and very entertaining talk in the foyer.



JASPER JONES MOVIE — SAT 1 APRIL

Author Craig Silvey attended this special event. Prior to the screening patrons could meet the author and have books signed. Tickets included a glass of wine and the movie screened at 8pm and was followed by a Q&A with Craig. Tickets \$20 adult, \$18 Member, \$10 Youth

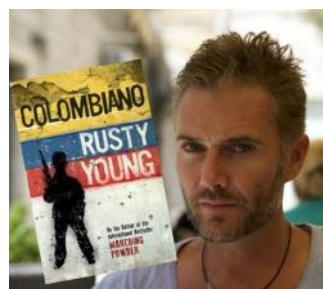
The event was attended by 135 people.



RUSTY YOUNG — 9 AUGUST

Rusty Young, author of the international bestselling book Marching Powder, talked about his latest book Colombiano. His heart-thumping journey into the violent and unpredictable world of post-Pablo Escobar Colombia and his tales of encounters with terrorist organisations and child soldiers had the audience riveted. Tickets: \$10, Drinks available to purchase

The event was attended by 92 people.



JUDY NUNN — 30 OCTOBER

Judy Nunn discussed her new book 'Sanctuary', a stunning portrait of love, hope and survival on an isolated island off Western Australia.

Tickets \$10 and drinks available for purchase.

The event was attended by 47 people.



VISUAL ARTS

JANUARY –

As the Cultural Centre closes for 2 weeks over the Christmas break it was felt that a January exhibition would not provide an artist with enough exposure. General Manager, Andrew Frith, arranged for a watercolour collection from the Augusta Community Centre to be on display for the month of January. 26 pieces depicting local scenes were on display.



FEBRUARY – ANITA REVEL 'COLOUR ME HAPPIER'

Anita is a local emerging artist. The exhibition 'Colour Me Happier' was a celebration of values and virtues expressed through colour. Intrigued by her research into colour therapy theories and scientific studies, and how colour affects mood, Anita began exploring what values and virtues might look like if expressed in colour. Using a limited palette of eight core colours, Anita found that different combinations evoke different emotional experiences. The exhibition comprised of 42 paintings of which eight were large-scale abstract paintings.



MARCH - MARSHA BRAWLS 'META COGNITION'

A visual journey through sacred geometry and microbiology using hand made resins and mixed media. Marsha depicts meta cognition and modern neuroscience in her work. She often uses found objects in her textural works and in this exhibition she used ethically sourced Balga resin for her glazes. 29 larger pieces plus 14 small pieces were included in the exhibition and prices ranged from \$55 to \$1200. The exhibition was well attended and 5 large pieces and 9 small pieces were sold.



APRIL – MIRELLA PROLONGEAU & STEPHANY DURACK 'DOUBLE SCOOP'

Mirella Prolongeau of Margaret River and Stephany Durack from Busselton collaborated on this joint exhibition.

The exhibition included original artworks in acrylics, mixed media, drawings and prints.

Each artist has an inspired love of colour and place and offers unique interpretations of the world around them.

The exhibition was opened by Carl Altmann, art historian, educator and judge. The artists also arranged for Carl and Jan Altmann to offer 3 low cost art sessions and a free floor talk during the exhibition month in the gallery space. The art sessions included 'Guidelines for Judging Artworks', 'Art Review and Resolution' and 'What is wrong with Contemporary Art'.



MAY - VISUAL STORIES ART EXHIBITION COMPETITION

Each year, the Visual Stories Art Competition and Exhibition forms an exciting part of the Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival with works displayed before and throughout the event, adding a unique perspective on the festival theme for all to enjoy & contemplate. The theme of the 2017 Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival was 'Where stories come alive'. Artists were asked to respond to the festival theme with an artwork that showed stories coming to life, or an interpretation on where, or how, stories come alive for them.

47 entries were received, ranging in price from \$77 to \$1,200 with 9 pieces sold. 3 Prizes and a Peoples Choice was awarded (1st prize pictured).



JUNE - RESTART

The artist pre-booked for June had to withdraw her exhibition due to personal reasons. As it was too short notice to find a replacement, the gallery team offered select members and artists the opportunity to display and sell iconic works of art from their local art collections.

The result was an exhibition of 50 artworks, with 6 pieces sold.



JULY - THE ART, THE VINEYARDS, THE HISTORY



Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the commercial wine industry in the region, this exhibition featured connections the arts have with the wine industry. Curated by Arts MR life member, Heather Locke OAM, the retrospective exhibition was based on the Willyabrup Wine Art and Craft

Weekends which for 10 years showcased artists and their art in the cellar sales areas of 15 wineries. Photographs and stories from the early beginnings of the vineyards were on display telling a detailed and intimate history of the connections between artists and particular vineyards. All artworks were on loan from private collections and none of the works were for sale.

AUGUST - LAURIE HILL & DOROTHY GALLOP 'STILL FRIENDS'

A joint exhibition by Laurie Hill and Dorothy Gallop which was a culmination of over 8 years of friendship and featured 45 paintings in acrylics and pastels.

8 pieces were sold.



SEPTEMBER - MRSHS LOWER SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

70 students featured over 80 artworks including prints and felted artworks, most of which were for sale.

This was the first time that the lower school artworks were formally exhibited and it was viewed by many families that attend the school Arts Festival which was held at the Cultural Centre.



Artwork by Jemma McGregor - Year 10 & Kirsten MacDonald - Year 8 (Left - Right)

OCTOBER - 'OUT OF THE SHED'

Following on from the successful first 'Out of the Shed' exhibition last year, the Foyer Gallery Team

approached 6 new artists to display their works. A rare and wonderful opportunity to view projects from the sheds of Colin Andrews (artworks), Ken Collins

(sculpture including metal work and limestone), Rob & Dawn Klok (a collaboration of glass and wood), Kerry Sibly (Art on recycled materials) and Chris Williamson (art using recycled materials).

The exhibition attracted an enormous amount of interest and was very well attended by a variety of people, many of whom would not usually attend art exhibitions.

A large number of items were sold.



NOVEMBER — THE TARTAN FLECK

The Tartan Fleck started as a visual celebration of the contributions of Scottish migrants to the rural South West Capes of Western Australia. Capturing the tales of Scottish Western Australian's who have helped to shape the life of this area from its colonial roots to the present day. Combining artists, communities and exploring our cultural heritage.

With a focus on the South West Capes, The Tartan Fleck brings together the talents of Scottish artist Chrissie Heughan, with 12 local wineries to produce paper from grapevine cane. Providing a unique canvas for 12 talented regional artists, who through their works trace the 'tartan influence' of the South West Capes' from past and present.



DECEMBER — MARGARET RIVER TAFE VISUAL ART STUDENTS 'MAKING THEIR MARK'

An exhibition by twenty visual art students including sculptures, paintings, textiles, drawings and print-making.

Over 150 pieces on display. The work of full-time and part-time students from the Certificate III and Visual Arts Diploma course were included. The artworks were of a high standard and many pieces were sold.



Artist Hollie Rowley



Artist Amy Penrose



Artist Jilly Crossley

CINEMATIC ARTS

The Arts Margaret River Cinema continued to grow in popularity and attendance over the year with weekly Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening screenings plus 2-3 matinee screenings a week over the school holidays.

A mix of new release films, arthouse/independent films, documentaries and family movies were shown. Advertising and marketing comprising of cinema posters, weekly press ads, weekly Facebook posts on the Margaret River FB page as well as the MR Community Noticeboard plus posters emailed to accommodation providers and a cinema database ensured a wide exposure. In addition, the large new electronic sign outside the Shire building allowed for cinema and event advertising which increased awareness and attendance. Special event movies were also promoted via targeted community interest groups such as surfing, dance, mountain biking etc.



School holiday matinee screenings were the most popular sessions with many new release movies selling out. The local Kids Club School Holiday Day Care continued to bring a group of children each week during the holidays.

We again offered movie Fundraising opportunities to local community groups. These movie nights not only offer groups an easy opportunity to raise funds for their cause but it also introduced new people to our venue who may not otherwise have attended. Community fundraising groups included: Margaret River Senior High School, Cowaramup Boardriders, Hemp Association, Amnesty Margaret River, Football Margaret River, Montessori Margaret River and AMR Clean Community Energy.

Documentary screenings included 'Le Ride', 'Another World', 'The Ocean Film Festival', 'The Music of Strangers', 'A Life of Its Own', 'Whiteley', 'The Eagle Huntress', 'Just Eat It', 'An Inconvenient Sequel', 'Chicken People', 'Risk', 'Secrets at Sunrise' and 'Fade to Black'.

Special event screenings: the monthly Bubs Club cinema screenings for mothers and young children continued until August after which it was decided that the poor attendance numbers could no longer justify these special matinee screenings. A new initiative by Australian National Theatre saw an offering of screenings of live theatre productions that did not tour to WA. We screened the 'Wharf Revue' and 'Rumpelstiltskin' but despite excellent promotional material, the attendance and interest in these screenings were low. In November movie classics were trialled on Sunday evenings. Cinema goers were surveyed as to their interest and choice of classics and the following movies were screened: 'Breakfast at Tiffany's', 'Casablanca' and 'Life of Brian'. Unfortunately attendance numbers were poor and it was decided not to continue with these classic movie screenings.

Special Readers & Writer's movie fundraisers included 'The Light Between Oceans' and 'Jasper Jones'.

Over 150 films were screened over the year. Total attendance was 9050 which was 429 less than the previous year.

VENUE HIRE—LIVE SHOWS

MAX KAY - THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 7.30PM

Owner and operator of the Perth Civic Theatre, Max Kay presented an evening of songs, jokes, stories and sing-alongs. This one man tour included many metropolitan venues as well as Mandurah, Albany, Margaret River and Bunbury.

Interest and attendance was very poor with 51 tickets sold through Arts Margaret River. Tickets: \$45 Adult, \$40 Member



SATURDAY'S NIGHTS ALRIGHT - SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 8PM

Local musician Noah Shilkin and his band performed the Elton John album 'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road' in its entirety. Cabaret and theatre seating was available and patrons were encouraged to dress in Elton inspired 1970's outfits.

The show was well supported by locals with 114 tickets sold. Tickets: \$35 Adult, \$30 Members/Group 8+



WAYJO - TUESDAY 6 JUNE 7PM

WAYJO's Tuesday Night Orchestra, featured 18 accomplished musicians who performed the works of jazz legends; Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie & Buddy Rich. The group did a workshop with the local high school music students during the day and performed their concert at the Cultural Centre that evening. 45 tickets were sold.

Tickets \$15 and workshop attendees \$5.



CIRQUE AFRICA - WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 7PM

Featuring a world-renowned African troupe consisting of 25 performing artists from 6 African countries. Acrobats, dancers, percussionist, musicians and contortionists performed a 100 minute awe-inspiring show. The show travelled to other regional venues. 187 tickets sold.

Tickets: Adults \$79, Conc \$69, Members \$59, Child \$49, Group 8+ \$49 Family \$179 plus 60 discounted early bird ticket prices offered.



A SAXOPHONE JOURNEY - SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 8PM

Local Busselton musician, Serge Le Goueff, and his family of saxophones performed a jazz musical theatre show with comedy, songs and stories. The show was well supported by a mainly local crowd and 134 tickets were sold.

Tickets \$28 Adults, \$25 members/conc



WATOTO SIGNS & WONDERS CONCERT - SAT 7 OCTOBER 7PM

Organised by Surfside Church, this was the second time that Watoto, orphans from Uganda, performed at the Cultural Centre. The concert was free admission but bookings were required and a \$1 booking fee was charged to cover ticketing fees.

253 people attended.



VENUE HIRE

Augusta Square Dance (Annual Dance Weekend)—Friday 13 to Sunday 15 January
Tai Chi Workshop—Sunday 19 March
Ocean Film Festival - Monday 20 March
Margaret River Theatre Group (Pinocchio rehearsals & 5 performances)— May
Augusta Margaret River Shire Function—12 May
Augusta Margaret River Shire Food education movie screening—31 May
Margaret River Senior High School Showcase rehearsals & Concert—June
Margaret River Chamber of Commerce Awards Night— 3 August
CinefestOZ movie screenings—24—27 August
Margaret River Senior High School Performances—4 & 5 September
St Thomas More Primary School Event—21 September
Aged Care Games—22 September
Mental Health Forum—16 October
Margaret River Primary School (All School discos) - Saturday 28 October
Augusta Margaret River Shire (Life in Pictures screening) - 1 November
RANZCO Business Event—4 November
Margaret River Senior High School Valedictory—16 November
Blackwood Dance rehearsals and Concert—25 November
Augusta Margaret River Kids Club Presentation—4 December
Nature Conservation Margaret River schools' film presentation—8 December
Outloud Dance rehearsals and Concert—9 December
Leeuwin Dance rehearsals and Concert—10 December
Margaret River Senior High School Awards Presentation—13 December

AN EVENING WITH BEN ELTON—6 APRIL

An event to raise funds for the redevelopment of the Cultural Centre.

Ben Elton, Patron of the redevelopment, generously offered his energy and time to the cause.

Ben, in conversation with Ian Parmenter talked about his books, television, movies and more.



Tickets were free for Arts Hub members and \$10 non-members including light nibbles. Door prizes, a raffle and bar facilities were available.

The event was a sell-out with 136 paid tickets and 103 complimentary member tickets issued, totalling 239 people in attendance.

ARTS MARGARET RIVER SPONSORED EVENTS

LIVE BANDS FUNDRAISER FOR LAMP - SATURDAY 25 MARCH

Arts MR was approached by local artists and Electric Tattoo to sponsor a mental health fundraiser for Lamp Inc. The evening featured a local surf film followed by a line-up of 5 live bands in the auditorium, live artwork on skateboard decks in the courtyard and a licensed bar.

Tickets were \$10 each and sold via Electric Tattoo.

Arts Margaret River donated 10% of all bar proceeds to Lamp Inc and a minimal venue hire and staffing fee was charged. The event ran from 6pm to 11.30pm and was well attended by predominantly heavy metal music fans.

It was a good opportunity to support a worthwhile cause and showcase the Cultural Centre to a local audience that does not attend Arts Margaret River events.



MARGARET RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBER SUNDOWNER - THURSDAY 20 APRIL

Arts Margaret River hosted the April MR Chamber of Commerce sundowner in the Cultural Centre. Drinks and nibbles were served in the foyer before a presentation of the Cultural Centre's multi-million dollar redevelopment project and Update on the Readers and Writers Festival was screened in the auditorium. The sundowner was very well attended.



MARGARET RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS NIGHT - THURSDAY 3 AUGUST



The annual Awards night was once again held in the Cultural Centre, with a 3 course dinner for 160 people in the auditorium. Drinks and canapes were served in the foyer before attendees took their seats for dinner and the presentations.

CINEFEST OZ— 24—27 AUGUST

6 films were screened at the Cultural Centre for CinefestOZ: Wednesday—school screening, Thursday—Premiere, Friday – evening, Saturday—screening and music performance, Sunday—matinee + evening.



517 people attended the 6 screenings.

WORKSHOPS



Diary of a Wombat—In-school workshops Monday 23 October & Tuesday 24 October

As part of the Diary of a Wombat show, presenters were offered free pre-show workshops for 2 local schools to complement the show. These workshops, facilitated by qualified teaching artists, were in addition to extensive

Education packs that were supplied to the schools.

The workshops were offered to St Thomas More Primary and Cowaramup Primary as they were the first two schools to book to attend the shows.

5x 45 minute workshops were held at the schools and they were attended by over 100 students.



Paper Puppetry & Play' workshop as part of The Arrival by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre - Sat 11 November

A simple puppet making experience that encouraged children to explore how paper can be transformed into living breathing puppets.

The one hour workshop for children aged 7-12 years was facilitated by two Spare Parts performers in the foyer

between matinee shows. Children were charged \$5 each and the workshop was attended by 13 children.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Arts Margaret River volunteers helped out at a variety of fundraising events during the year including ushering at the annual Leeuwin Estate Concert, ticket collection at the annual Gourmet Escape Weekend, ushering for Cinefest Oz movie screenings at various locations in Margaret River and running a breakfast bar at the Farmers Market.



Leeuwin Concert



Gourmet Escape



Farmers Market