



Regional Galleries Association of SA DRAFT Annual Report 2023/2024

The Regional Galleries Association of South Australia is the peak body for not-for-profit galleries in South Australia.

As a united voice our mission is to advance and protect the interests of public galleries within regional communities.

We do this with great enthusiasm through visibility advocating for the role galleries play in healthy communities, professional development for members and enticing collaborators with mutual interests to join us.

We aim to have a vibrant network of regional galleries enriching local communities, artists and the arts across regional South Australia.

Strategic Priority One: Maintain and Grow Membership

WHY: to maintain financial stability, to increase the skills base across regional South Australia and to increase the visibility and impact of our work.

HOW: We will do this by building and maintaining a cohesive collaborative network of regional galleries, building support for members and broadening the membership base.

Membership

The financial year 2023-24 RGASA's membership remain stable. There were 29 financial members with 2 outstanding invoices during 2023-24. As report last financial year, several galleries have decided not to be members however they continue to participate in RGASA events and activities.

RGASA has continued to attract large numbers of people from non-membership organisations who engage with the organisations activities, demonstrating a need and desire to connect more broadly with the visual arts, university and local government sectors. Of particular interest has been the Study Tour and Forum. Usually RGASA holds a half day Forum each year.

The **Study Tour** of galleries in the Mid North of South Australia attracted 25 attendees, including a handful of people from Metropolitan galleries and councils. Again, this demonstrates that the association activities are relevant to art workers across the state and not just to regional member galleries. It remains a popular activity for members and reinforces the desire for members to network and see other member venues. Approximately half the participants completed the feedback survey indicating overall that the Tour was a beneficial exercise. The opportunity to engage with other gallery staff and volunteers in their workplaces is viewed as extremely beneficial.

RGASA focus on professional development continues to be critical for the not-for-profit sector in South Australia and visual arts in the regions.

Strategic Priority Two: Professional Development and Networking for Members

WHY: to increase the capacity of members to deliver high quality, valued outcomes in their communities.

HOW: We will do this through targeted training and networking opportunities for members, relationships with the broader public gallery sector.

ACTIVITIES

2023 Creative Spaces Summit

In July 2023 RGASA ran the very successful three-day Creative Spaces Summit at Lot 14 in Adelaide. The Summit was designed as an event that would progress this development across SA and provide people with an opportunity to learn and improve knowledge and skills to further progress professionalisation.

- Facilitates practical connections between artists, arts workers, gallerists, volunteers, sector bodies and government working throughout Australia.
- Provides opportunities to learn – talking about innovation that challenges the status quo and developing solutions to issues facing the sector.
- Showcase the gallery and visual arts industry and better understand and promote the value proposition it offers across the four pillars of sustainability.
- Provides South Australian artists, arts workers and volunteers with an opportunity to enjoy professional development and networking within their own state, affordably.
- Attracts artists, arts workers, academics and industry professionals from all over Australia.

The objective was to provide a professional development opportunity of high calibre within South Australia. Our members and their stakeholders in Regional South Australia are largely small volunteer run organisations, with little or no budget to expend on substantial professional development. Very few would have had the opportunity to attend a national summit of this nature - either in South Australia or interstate - largely due to the expense of travel and registration fees.

Given the focus on cultural tourism and the need to and interest in developing and updating cultural infrastructure, the Summit provided a good platform for discussing the role and nature of cultural infrastructure - particularly in relation to regional development, education and employment pathways and tourism. A focus on funding, partnerships / co-locating and commercial opportunities to support cultural infrastructure will also be a significant part of the conversation.

The Summit was supported by the Jam Factory, Ku Arts, Lot Fourteen, Arts SA, Country Arts SA and attracted 178 attendees and 28 presenters. Artists and artworkers from across regional South Australia contributed to the success of the event.

2024 Forum: Arts, Access + Inclusion. This was a half-day Forum hosted in Adelaide at the Art Gallery of SA focusing on Access and Inclusion. Presentations were from organisations and individual artists and artworkers who spoke about improving access for people experiencing disadvantage, or who have developed specific initiatives that have improved access and inclusion within a gallery or other setting. Access2Arts, Nexus Arts, Tutti Arts, Councils, CALD and First Nations artists etc.

Study Tour: The event is designed to offer participants an opportunity to learn how other galleries and cultural venues operate, network and make connections with other members and see the work of and meet artists – both local and those from further afield undertaking residencies. Delegates on the two-day study tour during September 2023 again had the opportunity to see how a number of small volunteer run regional galleries operate. This included the collaborative approach between the Riverton Light Gallery and the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council.

Galleries and sites visited as part of the Study tour were: Kapunda Art Gallery and walk to view the murals in Kapunda; Riverton Light Gallery, Clare Art House; Court House Gallery at Balaklava; Belaile Gallery at Jamestown and the Burra Regional Gallery.

A Summary of Professional Development and Networking Opportunities

The Study Tour provided opportunities for members to meet with each other and people from other non-member organisations. Unlike other shorter events, the length of the study tour allows for much stronger deeper connections to be made with a range of activities encouraging dialogue and learning. Most who attend the event indicated that they have connected with a person and/or venue that they will follow up after the event to connect with and continue to share resources and knowledge.

The following provides an overview of the topics that were discussed throughout the event:

- Public art development.
- Community arts and engagement.
- Creating place-based work.
- Infrastructure – maintenance, redevelopment, expansion etc.
- Retail set up and systems.
- Volunteer management, challenges, structures and recruitment/retention.
- Programming – exhibitions and other activities
- Financial management, fees and charges.
- Working with artists – exhibition costs and set up etc.

The First Online workshop for 2024 was held in May and focused on volunteer management and recruitment. Current best practice and showcase quality volunteer programs.

Several more **Online workshops** are planned for second half of 2024. One will focus on a Peak Bodies Famil – featuring a range of peak bodies talking about what they do and what they offer e.g., Guildhouse, NAVA, RAA, Access2Arts, AMAGA (SA), Arts Law. A third online workshop will focus on Interpreting Heritage and Working with Community Museums.

Strategic Priority Three: Advocacy, Development and Marketing

WHY: 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.

HOW: Clear and accessible distribution of information to members and stakeholders, representation at relevant national organisations and alliances (NAVA, NPGA, AMaGA) and keeping the website current and useful.

An organisation the size of RGASA relies on the strength of partnerships to carry out meaningful work. Our chief partners are the organisations, including many Local Government agencies who support our members' ongoing operations. As a peak organisation, it is our role to work with a range of partners to assist the sector more broadly.

Locally, the association with AMaGA (Australian Museums and Galleries Association) has waned and RGASA has not maintained attendance at its breakfast meetings.

The RGASA maintained its connections with the national cohort of gallery peak bodies again this year as an active member of the **National Public Galleries Alliance**.

The Alliance meets regularly to talk about major issues, network and share information and for the duration of 2023-24 it has been part of a regular catch up with the **National Association of Visual Arts (NAVA)** via the Visual Arts Roundtable.

Key items discussed at the Roundtable were:

- Closure of the Gallery at Griffith University
- The lack of support for the visual arts by the federal government

At a national level, we have maintained our relationships with the national not-for-profit gallery sector through the NPGA and the NAVA facilitated Roundtable.

The **Art Gallery of South Australia, Country Arts SA, ArtLab, Ku Arts and the SA History Trust** continue to be supportive partners to RGASA. With access to venues, advice and ongoing relationships with individual members.

RGASA has participated in a number of face to face and online workshops with Arts SA as part of its desire to develop and Arts Policy.

EDMs – Electronic Newsletter

EDMs continues to be an important tool for RGASA for advocating good news stories, information sharing, Association updates and reporting, tips and tricks, opportunities, and notification of special projects.

EDMs were distributed to members and key industry people in November 2023 February 2024 and May 2024.

In these publications we included two good news stories in each of our EDMS. These good news stories included:

Strategic Priority Four: Exhibitions and Public Programming

WHY: to maintain an active facilitation role in the development of vibrant, challenging and relevant programming opportunities for member galleries and to provide a conduit between curators, artists and regional galleries.

HOW: We will do this by collaborating with AGSA and Country Arts SA; and facilitate and encourage exchanges between member galleries and with metropolitan galleries

With changes to funding models and Country Arts SA stepping back from its direct relationships with RGASA access to touring visual arts exhibitions has diminished. However, individual galleries over the years have forged direct relationships with AGSA and Country Arts have strengthened. The galleries benefiting from these relationships include Port Pirie, Murray Bridge, Burra, and

Bordertown. Most of these galleries are directly supported by Local Government and/or have benefited from the Country Arts Project Grants Program.

RGASA took the decision in early 2020, to concentrate its resources on professional development for members. However, our fruitful relationships with partners continue to thrive and we provide a conduit for collaborative programming opportunities through our member networking channels.

Through EDMs we encourage our members to apply for grants, and promote exhibitions suitable for tour and exchange.

Strategic Priority Five: Good Governance

We will maintain a strong and vibrant organisation to fulfil our commitments to members and key stakeholders, ensuring programs, services and advocacy are relevant to the regional gallery sector and holding at least four gatherings a year of members. The executive developed a governance guide to ensure matters are not forgotten throughout the year. Significant changes with bank practices to reflect the increase in risk with online security has meant the organisation has had to manage changes of bank signatories to reflect the changes in the executive in a timely way.

Operational funding remains positive and **Arts SA funding** was confirmed for the 2023 and RGASA expects to be invited to apply for funding for 2024. Arts SA Funding together with membership fees ensure that key development and networking opportunities are provided to members (and others) throughout the year. RGASA were also fortunate to receive a \$15,000 grant from Regional Arts Australia to develop regional cultural tourism products

As in previous years, RGASA is registered with **Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission** (ACNC). This requires that we lodge our annual report with them and keep up to date the names of the office bearers.

Membership Fees

Whilst the Association recognises that it is essential to maintain a tiered system of fees to remain inclusive of all regional public galleries. The fee structure for 2022-23 were \$110 volunteer run galleries and \$290 council galleries with paid staff.

To facilitate access for RGASA members to attend events and activities outside of their region, travel assistance is again being made available.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met electronically throughout the year to manage the affairs of the Association and the directions for professional development and marketing strategies. The executive committee meets at least quarterly with additional meetings called for special business. The meeting of the Executive committee aligns with the Associations Constitution and it met four times during the 2023-2024 financial year.

As in the previous few years, **Maz McGann** of **Play Your Part** has acted as the project office for RGASA. Maz, along with the Executive Committee, again have been responsible for developing, organising and running RGASA program.

General meetings of members will occur twice per annum and additional meetings may be called for special business requiring a vote. Members will also gather for events, professional development opportunities, and sharing of successes and challenges. The 2022-23 AGM was held at Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council on 28 September 2023.

2022-23 Membership

- ART MUSEUM OF KANGAROO ISLAND Kangaroo Island
- BALAKLAVA COURTHOUSE GALLERY Balaklava
- BAROSSA REGIONAL ART GALLERY Tanunda
- BAY DISCOVERY CENTRE Glenelg
- BELALIE ART GALLERY Jamestown
- BURRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY Burra
- CLARE ART HOUSE Clare
- COORONG ART GALLERY Tailem Bend
- FABRIK Lobethal
- FLINDERS UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM
- GALLERY M Oaklands Park
- HAHNDORF ACADEMY Hahndorf
- JAM FACTORY Adelaide and Seppeltsfield
- KAPUNDA COMMUNITY GALLERY Kapunda
- MILLICENT GALLERY Millicent
- MURRAY BRIDGE REGIONAL GALLERY Murray Bridge
- NARACOORTE ART GALLERY Naracoorte
- NAUTILUS ART CENTRE Pt Lincoln
- NEWMARCH GALLERY Prospect
- PORT PIRIE REGIONAL ART GALLERY Port Pirie
- RIDDOCH ART GALLERY Mount Gambier
- ROXBYLINK ART GALLERY Roxby Downs
- SOUTH COAST REGIONAL ART CENTRE & SIGNAL POINT GALLERY Goolwa
- VICTOR HARBOUR REGIONAL GALLERY Victor Harbour
- WALKWAY GALLERY Bordertown
- SAUERBIER HOUSE Onkaparinga
- SIGNAL POINT GALLERY Goolwa
- VICTOR HARBOUR REGIONAL GALLERY
- CITY OF HOLDGAST BAY Brighton
- ANNE NEWMARCH Prospect
- TOWN OF GAWLER
- YARTA PURTLI Pt Augusta

2022-23 Executive

- Chair – Helen Macdonald

- Treasurer – Rachel McElwee
- Secretary – Ursula Halpin
- Committee Members: Joy Crawford, Melinda Rankin, Joy Crawford, Diana Perkins
- Public Officer: Melinda Rankin

TREASURERS REPORT 2023-24

Opening bank balances	216,216	(Income from the Creative Spaces Forum)
Income	57,952	(Member fees, Arts SA Grant)
Total	274,168	
Expenditure 2023-24	164,287	(much of this was invoices from the Creative Spaces Forum)
Profit/Loss	109,881	

Bank Accounts

Account #1

Opening Balance 1 July 2023 **\$171,526**

Closing Balance at 30 June 2024 **\$ 48,839**

Account #2

Opening Balance 1 July 2023 **\$ 44,690**

Closing Balance at 30 June 2024 **\$ 61,042**

Total as at 30 June 2024 *\$ 109,881*

Invoices for 2023-24 membership were sent out on 20 August 2023.