



Regional Galleries Association of SA Annual Report 2022/2023

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 2022-23 we can assume the RGASA's membership remain stable at 30. Currently we have 22 financial members with 11 outstanding invoices. It is expected that several of the eleven have decided not to be members although 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. Usually RGASA holds a half day forum each year. In 2022-23 the forum was omitted because the organisation decided to host the national regional galleries summit, although due to competing event the summit was pushed out to July 2023. The events that bring the members together are of particular importance to the members for the networking and learning opportunities that they provide to the members.

The **Study Tour** of galleries in the Fleurieu peninsula and Adelaide Hills attracted **x** attendees, including a handful of people from Metropolitan organisations – galleries and councils. Which again demonstrates that the association activities are relevant to art workers across the state and not just to regional member galleries. It was a popular activity for members and reinforces the desire for members to network and see other member venues. The feedback received via the post event

survey, which is summarised below, has been very positive – indicating it is relevant and useful for gallery staff and volunteers.

RGASA continues to provide an important role within 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

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 October 2022 tour enjoyed learning more about First Nations culture, public art and artist residencies.

Galleries:	Sauerbier House, Port Noarlunga Fleurieu ArtHouse, McLaren Vale Choral Street Arts Space, Victor Harbor Victor Harbor Regional Gallery, Victor Harbor Southeast Arts Centre, Goolwa Signal Point Gallery, Goolwa Willunga Gallery, Willunga Murray Bridge Regional Art Gallery Heysen Gallery, Hahndorf
Other	First Nations Tour with Mark Koolmatie at Ratalang, Port Elliot
Activities:	Public Art Walk at Murray Bridge

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 and visiting artworks in-situ
- Artist residencies – talking with venues and artists who have participated in residencies
- Retail development and merchandising
- Programming – exhibitions and other activities
- First Nations Culture
- Infrastructure development and broader planning and development of venues
- Working with Councils / Local Government
- Governance / operational models and systems for community, commercial and Council operated facilities
- Financial management, fees and charges / commissions etc.

In addition to the Fleurieu Peninsula Study Tour, RGASA organised a day visit to the **APY Gallery and Studio in Thebarton and a talk at the Art Gallery of SA** that focused on working with First Nations Artists. These two activities build on the 2021-22 AGM that was hosted by Ku Arts in Adelaide. Ku Arts provided an opportunity to learn about one of South Australia's arts service providers and the work they do for the First Nations artists.

Artist, Sally Scales hosted the RGASA visit to the APY Gallery in May. In addition to gaining a better understanding of how the APY art collective has become successful, participants met a number of other artists that were working in studio. In June an online Hot House session was held that further expanded participants knowledge of First Nations Artists with talks by First Nations Elder and freelancer, Mandy Brown and First Nations Artist and Small Business Owner Kristal Matthews from Wilay Designs. A second online workshop was scheduled with Jared Thomas, First Nations Curator from the SA Museum and Gabrielle Sullivan, CEO at the Indigenous Art Code but the small number of registrations meant the event had to be cancelled but RGASA will present it during the 2023-2024 year.

Although some members have complained about the reduced number of face-to-face networking meetings the organisation has had greater success in getting people to attend online meetings. The Executive have continued to meet online because it has enabled us to meet us more frequently. Most of the work for the Regional Arts Australia grant was done online, as was the advisory group for the Summit preparation. r

For our **First Online workshop** was to have Jared Thomas, First Nations Curator from the SA Museum and Gabrielle Sullivan, CEO at the Indigenous Art Code. The event was cancelled because of low numbers.

For our **Second Online workshop** we have First Nations Elder and freelancer, Mandy Brown and First Nations Artist and Small Business Owner Kristal Matthews from Wilay Designs.

The RGASA executive will undertake a survey of members to ascertain their preferred method of engagement outside of forums, summits and study tours. It may be that the organisation needs to make greater use of online meetings.

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 mostly because the breakfast meetings were suspended for a period. However, it now has developed a program and RGASA could consider re-engaging with AMaGA SA and have a member of the Executive Committee attend their monthly activities.

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 2022 it has been part of a regular catch up with the National Association of Visual Arts (NAVA). Key areas for discussion this year have been the development of the National Cultural Policy, ongoing data collection for public galleries nationally and NAVA's code of conduct. RGASA made a submission to the Federal Government as part of their consultation for the new National Cultural Policy and contributed to NAVA's new Code of Conduct

NPGA Quarterly Meeting. Key items discussed were:

- Creative Spaces Summit, Issues with Sharing the National Gallery Collection, Revive - Advocating for Gallery Priorities.
- The previous meeting in February 2023 focused on National Cultural policy, National Benchmarking, and the Creative Spaces Summit.

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

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 meetings with various South Australian organisations with the view to establishing a peak body that represents the interests of the Arts, although this seems to have lost momentum. In addition, it continued to advocate for members grant applications for particular projects.

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 September 2021 and February 2022.

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

- Interview with Marika Davies and her path to learning about First Nations Art in Australia
- Clare Art House - Artists Leading the Way
- Big Ideas + Opportunities for Art Museum on Kangaroo Island
- RGASA Port to Port Study tour - Photo Gallery
- Overview of the new RGASA Executive Team

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 and to encourage membership, members agreed to maintain the existing fees. Unfortunately, the departure of the treasurer in late May 2022 and a misunderstanding with the dates of the membership invoices, no fees were received for the 2022-23 year. Fortunately, the organisation managed to cover its costs essentially with grants and fees paid to attend events.

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 eight times during the 2022-2023 financial year. The increased number of meetings was primarily due to decision making in relation to the **Creative Spaces Summit**. The Executive Committee since COVID has continued to meet online, one of the best ways to overcome the tyranny of distance that most regional galleries face.

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, been responsible for to 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. Two face-to-face and one online meeting were held with members during the 2022-23 year. The 2021-22 AGM was held at Ku Arts on Nov 2022. Unfortunately, the meeting did not get a quorum so an online AGM meeting was held February 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
- 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
- CITY OF HOLDGAST BAY Brighton

2022-23 Executive

- Chair – Helen Macdonald
- Treasurer – Rachel McElwee
- Secretary – Ursula Halpin
- Committee Members: Joy Crawford, Naomi Fallon, Melinda Rankin

TREASURERS REPORT 2022-23

RGASA INCOME/EXPENDITURE END OF YEAR 2022/23				
INCOME	2022/23	2022/23	Bank Statement	Notes
	Budget	Actual		
Cash in Accounts 1 July 2022	\$ 149,357.75	\$ 149,357.75	\$ 149,357.75	Opening Balance Acc 1 & 2
INCOME				
Arts SA	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 27,500.00	
Membership Fees	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00	Invoices 22/23 not sent out.
Interest Received	\$ 15.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Study Tour	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,925.00	\$ 1,925.00	
Forum	N/A	N/A		
APY Visit & Hot House	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 911.32	\$ 911.32	
Sponsor - Summit	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	
Country Arts - Summit	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 49,509.00	\$ 49,509.00	
Summit Fees	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 44,690.00	\$ 44,690.00	
RAA - Cultural tourism grant				
Annual Income - Sub total	\$ 128,515.00	\$ 132,345.32	\$ 132,345.32	
TOTAL Cash Available	\$ 277,872.75	\$ 281,703.07	\$ 281,703.07	
EXPENSES				
Insurance	\$ 650.00			Paid in July 23
Reimbursements	\$ 300.00			Reimbursements
Domain - Wix	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00		Not reimbursed
Survey Monkey	N/A			
Google Suite	N/A			
Webnet	\$ 240.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00	
Project Officer - RGASA	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 17,010.00	\$ 17,010.00	exp flow into 2024 b/c of Grant
Road Trip	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,689.50	\$ 3,689.50	
Consultancy - Summit	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,275.00	\$ 4,275.00	Most Summit Exp fall into 2024 FY
Summit Expenses	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 18,093.11	\$ 18,093.11	
Forum	N/A			
Cult Tourism Generator RAA	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 11,390.73	\$ 11,390.73	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 40,235.00	\$ 54,693.34	\$ 54,648.34	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 40,235.00	\$ 54,693.34	\$ 54,648.34	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 134,710.00	\$ 281,703.07	\$ 281,703.07	
PROFIT / LOSS	\$ 94,475.00	\$ 227,009.73	\$ 227,054.73	
Bank Balance 1 July 2022			\$ 149,357.75	
Bank Balance 30 June 2023			\$ 234,260.65	