

# The Art of Inspiring Communities

2023 - 2024



COUNTRY  
ARTS  
SA

# Major outcomes

## Saltbush Country

Celebrating great regional stories with seven fantastic female First Nations artists, *Saltbush Country* - curated by Tarnanthi Regional Curator Marika Davies, was the first regionally curated visual arts exhibition in partnership with Tarnanthi, the Art Gallery of South Australia's award-winning program.

Premiering in Port Pirie on Nukunu Country in September 2023, *Saltbush Country* then headed to Adelaide on Kaurana Country, before commencing its regional tour in Port Lincoln in June.

The exhibition explores family bonds, generational sharing, connection with Country, personal healing, revitalisation and maintenance of cultural practices, and stories about our shared history, utilising weaving, painting, textiles and fibre work, sculpture, large-scale installation and jewellery.



## Euphoria National Tour

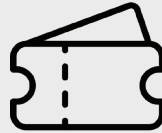
*Euphoria* by Emily Steel completed the final leg of a national tour - performing in Karratha and Geraldton in WA after performances in NSW and VIC - finishing in our own venues in Whyalla, Port Pirie, Renmark and Mount Gambier prior to the final season at the Odeon Theatre in Adelaide.

2,362 people across the country were moved and impressed by how this story reflects the highs and lows of living in a small regional town.



## Employment 1,636

artists and arts workers employed with **1,071** from regional South Australia, and **237** are First Nations



## Attendances 532,588

to events across South Australia

92,459 Adelaide Hills, Barossa, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island

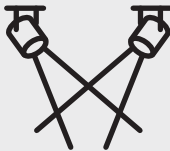
161,718 Yorke and Mid North

54,547 Murraylands and Riverland

57,314 Adelaide and National

112,285 Far West and North

54,265 Limestone Coast



## Events 2,423

**events** of which **1,832** were at Country Arts SA Arts Centres



Photo: Jessica Zeng

**New work**



## 6 new works produced

including 3 First Nations work



## 23 works presented

including 6 First Nations works

# Between Us: Gail Hocking

Gail Hocking's 2023 Breaking Ground exhibition *Between Us* was an invitation to experience an environment of profound emotional significance, sharing feelings of grief and loss of a landscape – Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere (Franz Josef Glacier) near her childhood home in Aotearoa (New Zealand). Working with Janet Laurence as her mentor over 12 months, Gail's solo exhibition was presented at Praxis Artspace.



Installation view: *At the edge of memory, 2023*, Gail Hocking; *Between Us* at Praxis Artspace. Photo: Sam Roberts.

## Foundation

### Nunga Screen 2024

The Country Arts Foundation shared stories, knowledge and cultural learning through our First Nations Program, Nunga Screen. This annual fundraising initiative gives workplaces the opportunity to watch a curated program of short films, animation and documentaries made by First Nations filmmakers.

Spanning National Reconciliation Week through to NAIDOC Week, all funds raised will support future First Nations works and employs First Nations artists and art workers.



Major "Moogy" Sumner delivering a Welcome to Country before Nunga Screen, hosted by the University of South Australia at The Mercury Cinema. Photo: Andre Castellucci.

**11** First Nations films screened

**110** schools participated  
in screenings across SA

**1,233** total screenings  
in workplaces across Australia

# Community

Audiences were more confident to attend live events with a 14% increase across our art centres to 160,980 people.

19,519 people performed on Country Arts SA's regional stages supported by a further 2,503 people backstage.

In partnership with seven local regional councils, Country Arts SA's arts and culture team delivered 107 events for regional artists and communities involving 12,902 participants.

The Regional Arts Fund supported 72 projects in 43 locations that attracted 258,904 attendees.

We thank SA Power Networks, the 10 regional local governments and 16 Community Circle small businesses that supported our work this year.

## Chaffey Theatre's 40th Birthday

We commemorated the 40th birthday of the Chaffey Theatre in Renmark with a week of activities culminating in performances by the Australian Chamber Orchestra Collective Quartet on 24 May 2024.

In the evening audiences enjoyed an intimate performance on stage, preceded by three local pianists performing in the foyer. School students were fascinated by daytime performances of *How to Catch a Star*.

# Funding

**Federal Government 13%**

**State Government 46%**

**Local Government 10%**

**Earned Income 31%**

**Total investment  
\$11.6m**

"Thank you and your team for the massive effort you all put in to make the 40th anniversary evening very special for those that attended. The joy of listening to the live music in both the foyer and on stage cannot be underestimated in the current circumstances we all find ourselves in. It was a brilliant idea to have us all on stage in such an intimate setting to listen and lose ourselves in the joy ACO brought to us; I absolutely loved it!"

– Rosalie, Chaffey Theatre patron

# Artists

With dedicated funding from Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Country Arts SA supported the careers of regional artists in the **Forge program** (Artists Sustainable Careers). A total of 223 regional artists took part in:

- Workshops in documentary film production, poetry and critical response for First Nations artists
- Residencies for artists at Grindell's Hut, at our arts centres in Adelaide and Thuruna
- Professional development for visual artists in Nebula, Nebula Studio Snapshot and Breaking Ground
- First Nations film commission *Gynburra – The Clem Graham Story*

# About Us

Our vision is for artists and the communities of regional South Australia to thrive through engagement with the arts, and be recognised as valued contributors to the nation's cultural voice.

Country Arts SA transforms the way the arts are made and engaged with in regional South Australia.

## Acknowledgement of Country

At Country Arts SA, we live and create on the land of the First Nations people of South Australia and pay our respects to elders past and present.

We embrace the principle of 'First Nations First' and are committed to working together to safeguard, celebrate and present First Nations' living cultures.