

## President's Report 2023

Dear members

On behalf of the Board and members, I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where Strathnairn is located, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, and pay our respects to elders past and present.

I am writing this report on behalf of Nanette Bak who was President through to May 2023.

There were a number of people changes in the Strathnairn team last year. We welcomed our new Director, James Holland, who took over from Peter Haynes from April. We also farewelled our Business Manager, Leah Molony, in January (her role has been included in James role). We welcomed Wendy Dawes as our new and excellent Marketing Manager. Di Libke has continued to run our excellent shop and front of house and Phillip Van Zmeren has continued as our book-keeper. Every day this team supports our artists in many, many ways.

Board membership also changed. During 2023 membership was: President - Nanette Bak to May and Trevor Heldt from June; Vice President/Deputy Chair - Nanette Bak to May and Joanne Searle from June; Secretary - Joanne Searle to May and Tenna Langdon from June; Treasurer - Martin Fitzpatrick to May and Mayuri Kain from July; Members - Shannon Wilson-McClinton all year and Craig Edwards from June.

The new Board's first priority was to orient ourselves the business of Strathnairn, to on-board the new Strathnairn team and engage with our artists and stakeholders. There is much to learn and settle given the number of people changes. In recognition of the work required, we increased the role of Director to full time from October.

The Board met eight times in 2023, including a planning day in July. The main focus for the Boards work has been to begin to make the organisation financially sustainable and to improve operations. Members of the Board have also been active attended openings, visiting studios and helping out at the Open Day.

We have worked closely with artsACT to implement the new Deed of Grant, Licence Agreement and to update the Strathnairn Business Plan in line with the new arrangements. Our aim has been to deliver on the program for 2023 and 2024 and to secure funding for 2025-7.

The Deed of Grant placed some special governance requirements on how we operate as a Board and organisation. This included Board membership, how we identify and manage conflicts of interest and how we run the business. A new Conflict of Interest Policy and Register is now in place and is part of the agenda of every Board meeting. We are also making good progress on the 'modern management' requirements referred to in the Deed and how they apply to Strathnairn. We are confident we are taking the rights steps to meet all the requirements to secure 2025-7 funding.

Despite best efforts by everyone, our Licence Agreement has not been finalised. However we have been assured it will be soon and members can be confident that current operations will continue as usual.

# Strathnairn Arts.

The arts program has featured many excellent exhibitions which James will detail in his report showcasing the work of studio holders, members and artists from the region.

Open Day was a highlight for members and for the community. With the entire site open, more than 1000 people visited the studios, galleries and facilities. Not only was it a fun day, but many people visited us for the first time and were blown away by our exhibitions, the diversity and quality of our artists and our wide range of facilities. Having the Foundry and wood firing groups active on the day was a special highlight. Pleasing, our membership level has grown.

In 2024 we will continue to focus on delivering arts programs, maintaining and improving use of our facilities and growing our financial sustainability.

On behalf of members, thank you to James, Wendy and Di who make Strathnairn work every single day of the year. Thank you also to our valued volunteer Board for working collaboratively despite your busy personal and business workloads.

We thank artsACT team and the Minister for the Arts, Tara Cheyenne, for their continued support of the work and potential for Strathnairn. We also thank our major sponsor, Gininderry.

And a special thank you to our members for your many many contributions in 2023. Strathnairn is a member organisation and everyone's care for Strathnairn and willingness to contribute is evident, and much appreciated.



Trevor Heldt  
President on behalf of the Strathnairn Arts Association Board  
22 April 2024