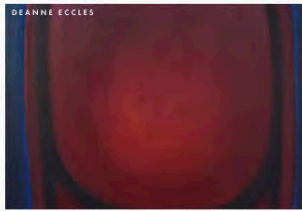
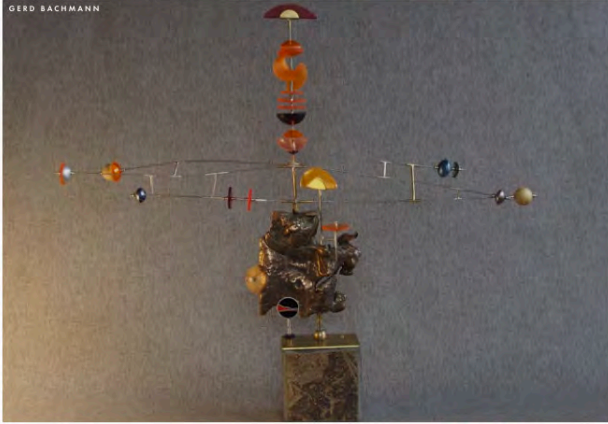
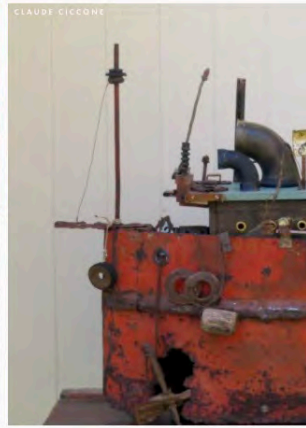




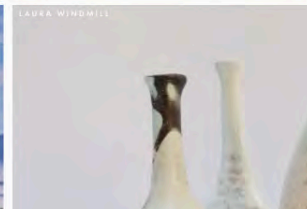
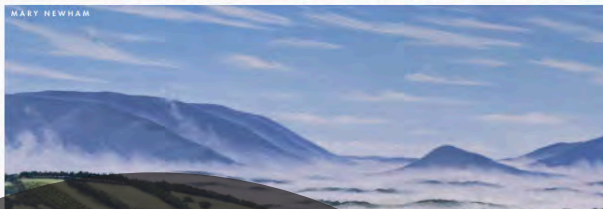
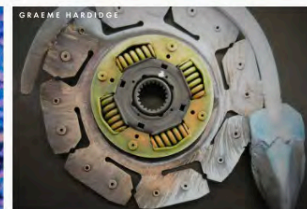
**ANNUAL REPORT  
2021**

**YARRA VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL  
T/A YARRA VALLEY ARTS**  
Incorporation registration no. A0028202A







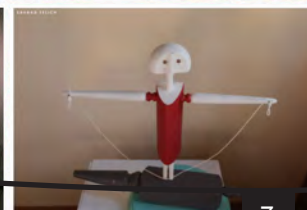
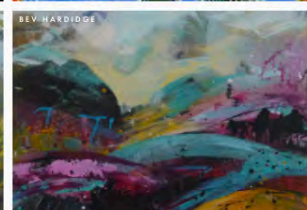
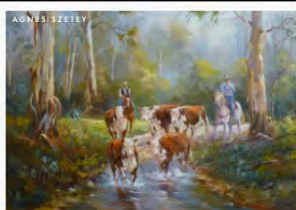


ARTS

ARTS

As a nonprofit, volunteer-based organisation we are dedicated to enriching the cultural lives of our members, Yarra Ranges residents and visitors to our neighbourhood.

We want our artists to reach wider audiences through diverse exhibitions and events, which in turn serves our community, increasing recognition and supporting our local economy.





# Supporters

**We value all our many behind-the-scenes supporters.**

Art at Linden Gate  
Atir Barriers  
Balgownie Estate  
Besen Foundation  
Bird on a Wire  
Bunnings  
Buxton Trout Farm  
Canson Art Supplies  
Chandon  
Cindy McLeish, MP  
Coldstream Hills  
Community Bank Healesville  
Cr Fiona McAllister  
Creswick Woollen Mills  
David Reddin  
DeBortoli  
Four Pillars  
Giant Steps  
Graceburn Wine Room  
Healesville Hotel  
Hoddles Creek Estate  
Ian Potter Museum of Art  
Innocent Bystander  
John Thomas  
Just Words  
Kitchen & Butcher  
Mac Forbes Wines  
Mandala Yarra Valley  
Margaret Lawrence Trust  
Melbourne Business School  
Nineteenine Films  
Oakridge Estate  
One Hour Out  
RACV Healesville  
Rae's at Balgownie  
Ricci's Bikkies  
Rob Dolan Wines  
Sanctuary Precinct  
Silas Constructions  
Silvermist Studio  
Star Mail  
Tarrawarra Estate  
Tarrawarra Museum of Art  
The street traders of Healesville  
Tokar Estate  
Tony Smith MP  
Total Climate Solutions  
Tourism Network Yarra Valley  
University of Melbourne  
Valley News  
Verso Books  
Watts River Brewery  
Wildeye  
Wine Yarra Valley  
Wonderment Walk  
Yarra Ranges Council  
Yarra Ranges Tourism  
Yarra Valley Cherries  
Yarra Valley Dairy  
Yarra Valley FM  
Yarra Valley Magazine Yarra  
Yarra Valley Regional Food Group  
Yering Station

Cover Artwork by Amanda Ruck

Concept & Design by Wilani van Wyk-Smit, Wildeye



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# Vision & Strategy

Our current strategic plan was endorsed by the Board in February 2020 and highlights our commitment to the arts community within the Yarra Valley region.

**Yarra Valley Arts Incorporated is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing the cultural lives of those who live in, work, and visit the Yarra Valley.**

**We provide development, support, education and economic opportunities for local artists and the extended community ensuring that the Yarra Valley area is recognised as a vibrant arts, food, and wine destination.**

Through a series of stakeholder consultations in late 2019 the Board identified five key strategies to guide our work:



- 1 Stakeholder engagement**  
To recognise the valuable contributions of all our key stakeholders - this includes: Members; Artists; Volunteers; Visitors; wider community and Partners
- 2 YAVA Gallery & Arts Hub**  
Provide a central presence for the community of artists, stakeholders, and visitors
- 3 Thought Leadership**  
To provide an arts focussed voice and leadership in the region
- 4 Marketing and Communications**  
All messaging will enable the local art community to grow and develop
- 5 Yarra Valley Arts sustainability and viability**  
To maintain management and governance actions to ensure ongoing sustainability

These strategies define and support the work articulated by the Board and supported by the CEO and the Gallery Director.

Key to the success of YAVA has been the extensive and continued support provided by the Members and Volunteers.



# President's Report



The ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the arts community and our region for the second year has been challenging and created difficulties for many in our community. The reliance on tourism to create jobs and encourage visitation to the region and, by default, our Gallery, impacted on us all. We were only able to open the Gallery for short periods and then close it again, disrupting our exhibition program. In April we farewelled our inaugural Director, Andrew Chew. Andrew established a strong profile for the YAVA Gallery and Arts Hub and developed an interesting exhibition program for our first 2 years of operation.

We thank him for his commitment, vision, and passion in developing and supporting our artists and community. The Board and CEO reviewed our operational requirements and advertised for a Gallery Manager. This position has a stronger operational focus as we consolidate and build on the work undertaken to date and consider new ways to ensure financial sustainability; in April we welcomed Dakini Maddock to the position.

Our CEO, Kate Baker and Gallery Manager, Dakini Maddock, continued to balance 'working from home' and working in the Gallery. Zoom became part of our working life with regular Zoom meetings with staff, volunteers, artists, and the Board. We appreciated the Job Keeper support payment provided by the Federal Government to offset wages and loss of income.

The impact of COVID meant that we held our 2020 AGM in April 2021 as allowances were made for businesses to extend the compliance and reporting period. We welcomed four new Board Members, managed to have one meeting face to face and the rest have been via Zoom. The Board recognised the importance of maintaining community engagement during the period of social restrictions and the CEO and Gallery Manager maintained regular communication with our artists and wider community. The ongoing financial sustainability for YAVA is an area of focus for the Board in the next 12-month period as hopefully, businesses and community life attain some normalcy.

The ongoing philanthropic support from the Margaret Lawrence Bequest Trustees has enabled us to solidify our physical presence in Healesville and employ staff to provide appropriate leadership and guidance. We have been successful in gaining small grants from the Yarra Ranges Council to support our community focus work - one grant for the Video Storytelling and another one for our Youth Mentoring Project. Both projects have enhanced opportunities for our artists and other community members to be involved in the arts sector by building their skills and knowledge base. COVID-19 put a sharp focus on the importance of social interaction for mental health and wellbeing and we were committed to supporting our community in as many ways as possible.

The establishment of a Curatorial Panel has provided support to the Gallery Manager in developing the exhibition program. Our exhibition program continued with a mix of visitation when the Gallery was allowed to be open, but during the lockdown periods we hosted virtual exhibitions. Some of the planned exhibitions were rescheduled for future dates and a couple of the exhibitions were extended to enable the artists the best opportunity for exhibiting and selling their work. Consequently, 9 individual exhibitions were held in the gallery.



Professional development activities continued with regular Tuesday morning sessions and a Thursday evening catch up, mostly via Zoom. Unfortunately, our workshop program for the year has suffered with the various restrictions, impacting on opportunities for community development.

One of the overarching aims of the Yarra Valley Arts is the fusion of food, wine and arts and we were delighted to host five musical events in the Gallery space. These events were embraced by our community, and it was a joy to sit amongst the art works on display and be treated to world class musical activity. We look forward to continuing with these activities.

The 2020 Open Studios ended up being a virtual exhibition. Again, COVID-19 restrictions impacted on our planning processes and the artists' websites were enhanced and developed, supported by the Yarra Ranges Video Storytelling Grant. However, at the very last minute restrictions were lifted, and people were able to be out and about. This unfortunately impacted on our virtual attendance, and it was too late to swap back to visitation, but allowing for that, we still maintained a strong presence and provided several interactive ways of engaging with us. This event is an important component of the YAVA calendar and encourages visitation to our region, the opportunity for artists to engage directly with visitors and to sell their work.

The Yarra Valley Arts / Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition and Awards exhibition in 2020 was also cancelled and will now be held in early 2022.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 restricting Gallery visitation, the Board agreed to relinquish the front space as it seemed inappropriate to maintain this space. The rental of this space had been generously funded by one of our Members. The need for permanent and appropriate Gallery and office space is still a high priority of the Board.

The success of Yarra Valley Arts in the 2020/2021 period can be summed up by flexibility, dedication, innovation, and conviction. It has been a difficult time for many of us as we have navigated the impact of the restrictions and that stay-at-home orders changed quickly, and unfortunately, too frequently.

Thanks go to many people – especially Kate Baker and Dakini Maddock, the many volunteers who support the work we do in many ways and my fellow Board Members for their interest, dedication, and willingness to take on other roles. Our sponsors and donors are important to our success, and we appreciate their ongoing support. This year we developed a sponsor and supporters wall in the corridor leading to the Margaret Lawrence Studio and we proudly display their logos.

We require your continued support as we consolidate our position in the Yarra Valley and continue to support the food, wine, and arts community; there are many ways that you can become involved with us, so don't hesitate!

*Denise Stevens*  
President



# Board & Governance

There was an overlap of attendance by Board Members due to our AGM being held in April 2021 instead of November 2020. During the reporting period the Board met bi-monthly. Six Board Meetings were held and due to COVID-19 restrictions, 3 of the meetings were held via Zoom.

Name	Position	Attendance
Denise Stevens	President	4/6
David Miller	Vice President	6/6
Reggie Clark	Secretary	6/6
Kate Kilsby	Treasurer	6/6
Di Francis	Ordinary committee	6/6
Savaad Felich	Ordinary committee	4/6
Mary Newham	Ordinary committee	4/6
Laura Windmill	Ordinary committee	3/6
Wilani van Wyk-Smit	Ordinary committee	5/6
Bev Hardidge **	Ordinary committee	4/4
Anne Tuohey **	Ordinary committee	2/4
Elizabeth Nyssen **	Ordinary committee	2/4
Raelene Sharp **	Ordinary Member – resigned Dec 2020	1/2
Anne Flockhart*	Ordinary committee	2/2
Suzanne Halliday *	Ordinary committee	2/2
Ted Secombe *	Ordinary committee	2/2
Helen Wood *	Ordinary committee	2/2
Kate Baker	CEO in attendance	6/6

\* Appointed at April AGM

\*\* Resigned at April AGM



An updated skills matrix undertaken identified that Board Members had strengths in strategic planning, committee work, grant writing and art related activity. Areas of low skill engagement continue to include social media and marketing and finance. Where appropriate we buy-in these skills and during the period under review completed a marketing update activity and report.

The Strategic Plan adopted in early 2020 continues to provide the framework for our activity. A planned session to update our Strategic Plan was held over due to COVID restrictions. The KPIs established for the CEO and Gallery Manager are reviewed by the President and reported to the Board at Board Meetings.

We have been unable to secure volunteer support for an Audit & Risk sub-committee and this needs to be addressed. The Finances were independently reviewed and are attached to this Annual Report.

Board Members have provided support to the CEO and Gallery Manager throughout the year to ensure that many operational tasks are completed. This includes preparation of the Gallery for exhibitions, workshop, and volunteer coordination, grant writing, coordination of our external events and other artistic pursuits. This support is extremely valuable and especially as our operation relies on many hours of volunteer activity.

My thanks to all Board Members and to all YAVA Members and volunteers for the support provided.



# CEO's Report

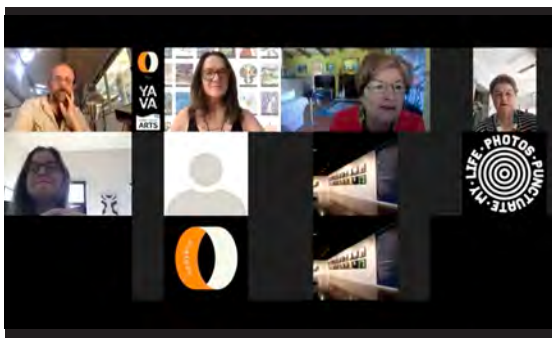
## October 2020 - Sep 2021

The fiscal year included a rollercoaster ride from lockdown (October) to emergence (November until February) to another series of lockdowns (Feb, May, July, Aug-Sep). Victoria experienced 104 days of lockdown during Oct 1 2020 and 30 Sep 2021. Flexibility and adaptability throughout was vital.

Against this backdrop, YAVA hosted two completely virtual exhibitions, a Virtual Open Studios Weekend event, and seven in-person exhibitions with face to face visitors. Two of those seven exhibitions were interrupted by lockdowns and one additional exhibition (not ideally suited for virtual adaptation) had just 1 day open to the public before Lockdown #6.

Despite this YAVA also introduced and hosted 5 musical concerts in the gallery and 13 workshops. Several of these workshops were rescheduled multiple times due to lockdowns - the community were fully supportive and very few workshop places were cancelled despite several reschedules.

With stage 4 lockdowns for several months during 2020 the decision was ultimately made to run a Virtual Open Studios program in early November 2020.



While the timing for this was unfortunate in the sense that the Virtual Open Studios weekend coincided with the first real weekend Melbourne residents were able to travel and see loved ones and friends (who wants to be on a series of Zoom sessions that weekend???). We were able to develop and realise capabilities for online production and real-time live-streaming - a capability we will be able to leverage for the future.

During the various lockdowns this year we took the opportunity to tighten our internal systems and processes, and strengthen our links with community and artists. We also worked with Melbourne University to conduct independent research of Yarra Valley Arts and YAVA's reach and impact on the community.

Andrew Chew moved to Mount Martha early in 2021 and made the decision to move on from his time at YAVA. We thank Andrew for the valuable contribution he made in helping place YAVA on the map and for his innovation and 'can do' approach. Any new venture requires a particular set of skills in the very early days to those needed further on its establishment and so we took the opportunity to redefine the gallery leadership role with a stronger operational focus.

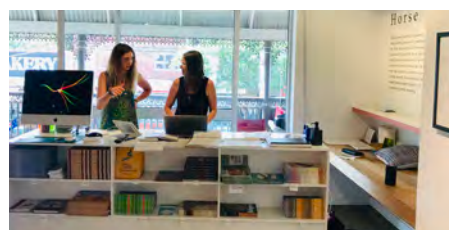


In April our new Gallery Manager Dakini Maddock came on board and using her arts management background has been working closely with artists to create robust processes and a strong and supportive culture. Dakini has worked closely with a curatorial panel to develop a strong program of exhibitions for the 2022 year and we are very pleased to welcome Dakini to the YAVA team.

The 20th anniversary of the Yarra Valley Arts / Yering Station Sculpture Award & Exhibition was postponed to 2021, and since further postponed to early 2022 due to covid lockdown impacts. We have planned an inaugural small sculpture exhibition to take place at YAVA Gallery at the same time as this event, which will further extend and strengthen the reach of this longstanding and celebrated initiative. Finalists and other applicants for the YVA/Yering Sculpture Award have been invited to put forward a submission to participate in the exhibition. The small sculpture exhibition will also serve to strengthen the partnership with Yering Station.

Community is an important focus. During 2021 the Men's Group continued to meet when able and supported YAVA with maintenance of the rear car park and garden. Richard McLoughlin also generously transformed the back garden area with succulents. The Healesville Community Choir rehearses in the gallery regularly and Tourism Network Yarra Valley holds their monthly committee meetings at YAVA. Earlier in 2021 Yarra Valley Arts participated in the Healesville and Yarra Valley Tourism forum initiated by Tourism Network Yarra Valley.

Engaging Youth - As a result of an idea initiated by 15 year old Yarra Ranges resident Inica Smit, YAVA will host a Youth Art Exhibition and Awards at YAVA in partnership with Canson Australia. Seven primary schools are engaged to participate in this first exhibition. The exhibition itself has been postponed from 2021 due to lockdowns however will now take place in January 2022. Inica, as project initiator, has been mentored to lead and project manage this initiative as a way of both honouring and developing this young leader.



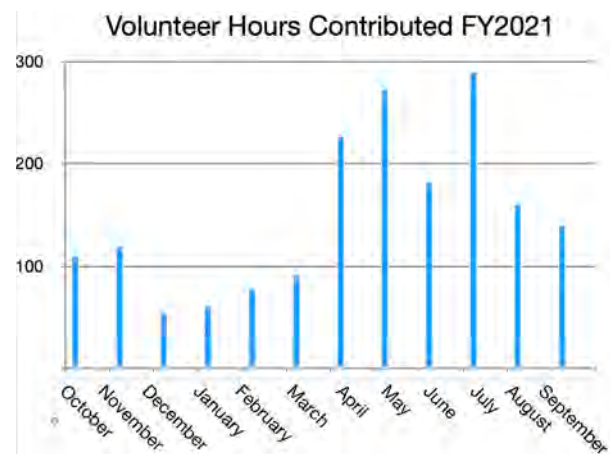
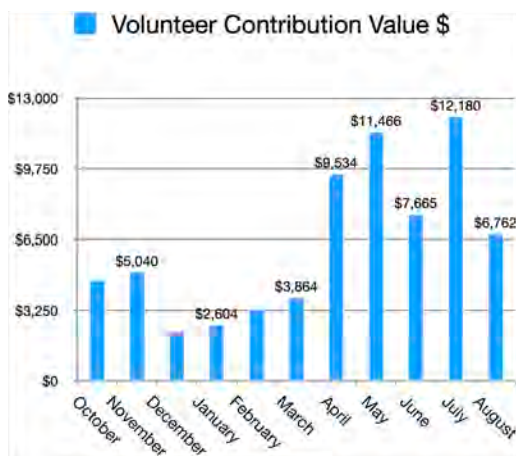
YAVA was invited by YR Council to submit ideas for Re-engaging Community post COVID. Our proposal was accepted and funding received to create a youth mentoring program for 18-25yr olds using arts management as the vehicle to support the development of transferable skills, practical gallery experience for CV and to provide income opportunities for those skills developed during the program. In FY2021 five young people commenced the program which is supported by board member and successful business person Helen Wood as project sponsor and Kate Baker as CEO. A project manager (Bronwyn Ward) was funded by the project which is currently in progress.

Volunteers continue to be the lifeblood of Yarra Valley Arts and in enabling YAVA to continue to function and grow. We are tremendously grateful for the many and varied valuable contributions to YAVA. The financial value of this support is significant (over \$75,000 annually) and critical to our ability to deliver programs that effectively reach into our community. Some 1793 hours were given to Yarra Valley Arts during the fiscal year 2021, even despite the COVID interruptions to our society.





*Thank you John Thomas for generously using your sign-writing skills to help make sure YAVA cannot be missed in the main state of Healesville!*



Membership has remained stable. While many community organisations have substantially dropped in membership, YAVA has managed to retain its membership. We have worked hard to focus on providing support and value for members and to create meaningful opportunities for both artists and the broader community.

We honour Life Member and Yarra Valley Arts Council co-founder Adrian Francis, who sadly passed away in September 2021. Adrian over a period of 40 years made a profound contribution to the Arts in the Yarra Valley.





Partnerships remain an important focus - while we have needed to limit our gallery opening events and offer a more modest representation of our food and wine partnerships, we retain strong support from the Yarra Valley with Wine Yarra Valley and Four Pillars Distillery - even our sanitiser has been donated by Four Pillars (thank you!)

We remain immensely grateful to the Margaret Lawrence Bequest and Perpetual Trustees for the major philanthropic funding which has allowed YAVA Gallery & Arts Hub to establish itself in the Yarra Valley as a centre for the Arts.

Since YAVA began in early 2019, thanks largely to this funding, we have more than tripled our Membership (210 at end September 2021), we have exhibited the works of 80+ artists (many of who have been included in multiple exhibitions), we have sold over \$113,000 of artwork and welcomed over 13,000 visitors through our doors.

We are grateful for all our sponsors, supporters, donors, volunteers and community who have become a part of this YAVA Community.

**Current and emerging Focus**

*We are currently focused on:*

- Strengthening our gallery processes and policies and procedures for long term viability
- Developing and strengthening partnerships with Regional Arts Victoria, community groups, local businesses
- Developing our connections with young people of the Yarra Valley, both through the Youth Art Exhibition (schools) and Youth Mentoring program (18-30yr olds).
- Developing avenues to support stability and financial sustainability
- Focus Theme: ‘Stabliise what we’ve created, Grow from within, Expand from a place of strength’

**Independent Research**

Survey conducted by Melbourne University in 2021 - sent to all members, all subscribers and promoted through both YAVA Facebook and Instagram.

Also included a series of telephone 1-on-1 interviews conducted by Melbourne University Researchers.





## YAVA Stats

Since Commencing YAVA:

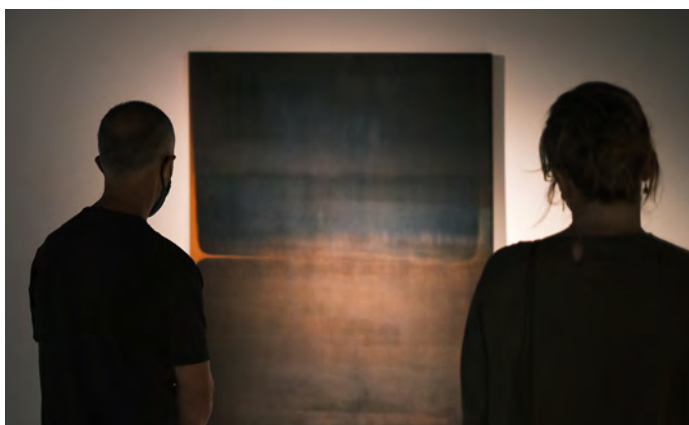
Visitors in person at YAVA by exhibition - lockdown impacts evident

81 unique YAVA Exhibiting Artists since YAVA opening (tracking who has exhibited when, what and how often)

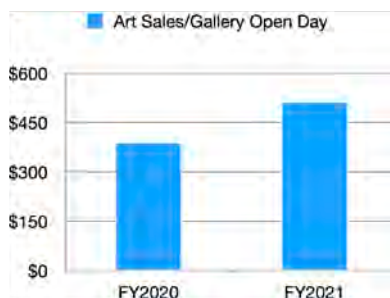
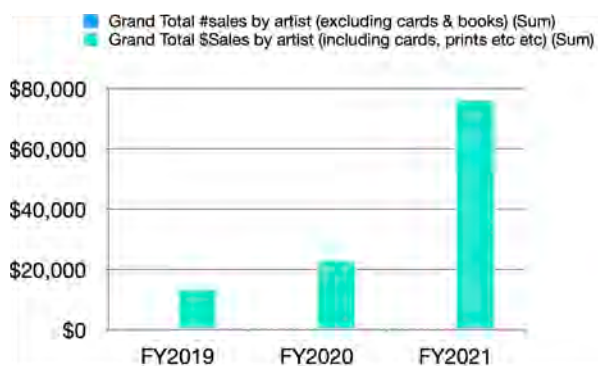
FY	#wall or sculpture artworks exhibited and for sale (ignore prints, cards, etc) (Sum)	#sales by artist (excluding cards & books) (Sum)	\$Sales by artist (including cards, prints etc etc) (Sum)
FY2019	130	14	\$13,715
FY2020	271	59	\$23,190
FY2021	302	136	\$76,485
FY2022	0	0	0
Grand Total	703	209	\$113,390







Despite this, our sales trajectory has been increasing, an indicator of community engagement with the arts.



# Gallery Manager's Report

## Exhibition Guiding Principles

Our goal is to inspire, educate and bring people together. World-class art, artists, patrons and collectors coalesce in our space, which is inherently tied to the Yarra Valley region.

Our strategy of selectively pairing established artists from further afield with those from the Yarra Valley sees a dynamic calendar of events and exhibitions in our gallery. Canvassing the fields of visual arts, dance, theatre, music, poetry, literature and film-making, we support the careers of creatives, whether they are high-profile artists or emerging in their genre.  
<https://www.yava.org.au/whoweare>



## List of Exhibitions FY2021

October 2020	- Christine Cafarella-Pearce - Healesville Snapshot (virtual)
November 2020	- Virtual Open Studios
December 2020	- Holding Pattern
January 2021	- Horse
February 2021	- Belinda Rogers solo exhibition
March 2021	- Ian George - Tidal
April 2021	- Soundscape

Andrew leaves as Manager & Dakini joins YAVA 22 April 2021

May-June 2021	- Margaret McLoughlin - Journey
July 2021	- Re Covered - Elise Hurst & YVA members
August	- Clare James - Hideaway - extended beyond 30 September

## Introduction

During my seven months at YAVA, I have been building on the foundations set by my predecessor Andrew Chew. A solid reputation for the Gallery & Arts Hub has been firmly established as a venue producing interesting, dynamic and engaging exhibitions. The gallery has been well attended by visitors from near and far. The local press, Star Mail, has been very supportive and has featured YAVA's exhibitions on numerous occasions – this free publicity engages with a wider audience, drawing in more people to the gallery.

In late April we formed a curatorial panel. The panel members hold a wide range of skills which greatly enhance the programming and decision making process. We meet

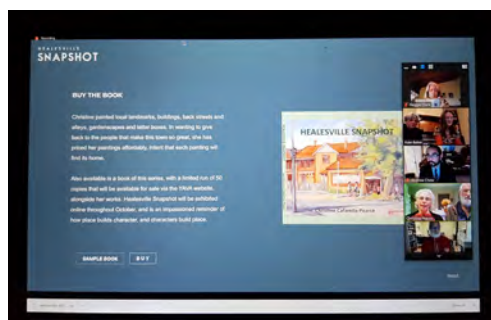


regularly to discuss proposals, programming and view art works for consideration. This panel consists of: Savaad Felich (Chair), David Miller, Wilani Van Wyk-Smit, Ari Smith (Youth Mentee) and Dakini Maddock (Gallery Manager), who reports to Kate Baker (CEO) and the Board.

## Exhibitions:

### Healesville Snapshot - virtual exhibition

While the first lockdown was taking place, local artist Christine Cafarella-Pearce found herself noticing beautiful details around Healesville town and feeling compelled to paint them. She began to wonder about her town's history, its buildings, its First Nations people. She has since produced a series of 73 paintings (oil paint, pen and wash) as a kind of ode to Healesville.



Christine painted local landmarks, buildings, back streets and alleys, gardenscapes and letter boxes. In wanting to give back to the people that make this town so great, she has priced her paintings affordably, intent that each painting will find its home.

The virtual exhibition page was visited by higher numbers than usual and resulted in 26 works being sold.

*"I think the local flavour of the exhibition attracted locals who really embraced the concept. It brought a sense of pride to a town that was experiencing some tough challenges during COVID". Andrew Chew*

### Virtual Open Studios

Planning for Open Studios 2020 began just as COVID hit Melbourne and as time progressed it became more likely that OS20 could not go ahead physically so we pivoted to enabling our artists to participate in Virtual Open Studios.

A huge amount of effort was expended in creating a Virtual Exhibition for 29 artists plus extensive online stores for 240+ products. Sales of 6 artworks from the exhibition and stores was very low compared to physical Open Studios.

Each artist hosted a dedicated online session along with several panels i.e. Meet the Potters. Visitors could also view the artists' videos of their studios, showing their processes and their stories.

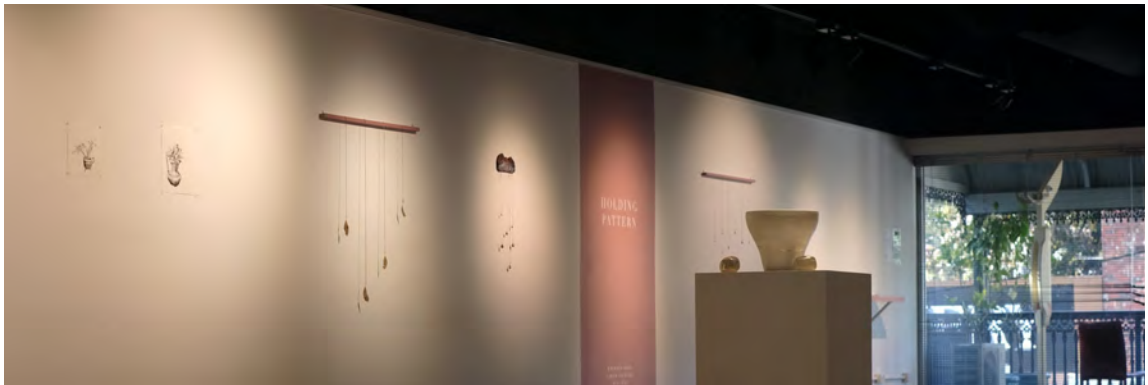


Virtual Open Studios unfortunately began the week Melbourne's long lockdown restrictions were eased at very short notice so the attendance was less than expected. Feedback from those visitors was excellent with comments that they loved the intimacy and sharing of the artists stories, techniques and demonstrations. Artist feedback was also positive as they appreciated the support.

### **Holding Pattern**

After a long awaited return back into the gallery, we felt that a beautiful, calm, considered exhibition was important to reopen the gallery with. Holding Pattern was intentionally positioned to maximise Christmas sales thereby benefiting both artists and YAVA. Visitor numbers were high and many locals supported the artists and gallery in buying their Christmas presents from the exhibition. It also allowed 3 of our newer members to be included in the Gallery programming.

Artists: Jess Rae, Sarah Stewart & Rachael Rose



### **Horse**

Horse was designed to give our equine and more traditional artists an opportunity to exhibit in the gallery. 13 members participated in this exhibition with over 40 works on the wall. Group exhibitions are a challenge to get right because of the differing sizes, frames, mediums and styles - however we did deliver a cohesive exhibition and visitor numbers were extremely high despite having to climb the stairs to reach the gallery. This may partly be due to the email marketing campaign targeting local riding groups and dressage clubs. Interestingly the high visitor numbers didn't translate to many sales.

Participating Artists: Agnes Szetey, Amanda Lithgow, Cathie Berry, Di King, Kate Taylor, Kerryl Shirley, Khoi Bui, Savaad Felich, Julie Ricketts, Wilani Van Wyk-Smit and Mary Newham.





### Belinda Rogers - Solo

A 2020 call-out to members, inviting them to put forward exhibition ideas for 2021, resulted in Belinda Rogers' Solo Exhibition in February.

Belinda works with deliberate slowness, repetitive washes and wiping movements of hands and feet to achieve an immersion into colour. Her paintings transport the viewer to a place beyond landscape - beyond the canvas itself. The culmination of care and intention within her paintings meets the viewer in that moment. Her works float and glow in the gallery space.



Attendance was high despite February traditionally not being a busy month for this tourist area. The majority of visitors appreciated the calmness and quality of the works and understood that time needed to be spent immersed in the artworks. Several works were sold.

### Tidal - Ian George

TIDAL exhibition featuring timber sculptural works, inspired by the sea, by Ian George. This was the second of two exhibitions resulting from YAVA Member callouts in 2020. This exhibition was extremely popular with over three-quarters of the artworks sold plus several commissions. Visitor feedback complimented Ian on his talent and craftsmanship. Another covid-safe opening event.



### Soundscape

A group photographic exhibition, attracted a wider range audience, with its innovative ideas. Andrew's idea to incorporate sound recordings to match each featured photograph, greatly enhanced the visitor experience. Soundscapes, specially composed, emitted from speakers hanging from the ceiling created a deeper way to engage with the art-work. We received many compliments from intrigued and delighted younger audience members. One very special piece was composed by Dr Thomas Fitzgerald who was an outstanding Australian composer, musical director, conductor and musician as well as member of Yarra Valley Arts. Tom's recent passing has made this piece even more poignant.



Participating Artists: Andrew Chew, David Miller, Elizabeth Haigh, Ian Spencer, John Bodin, Kate Baker, Khoi Bui, Lee Herath, Suzanne Phoenix.

## Journey - Margaret McLoughlin

Journey by Margaret McLoughlin was a great success, despite storms, power cuts and lockdown half way through, we were able to adapt and extend the exhibition.

Well known in the local community, her retrospective was a delight to all. Taking visitors on a journey from her early days in South Africa, through her travels overseas, to her familiar landscapes of the Yarra valley. Her landscapes feature her iconic red trees reflecting on the impact of the bush fires in the community. Her more recent works are ablaze with the light of the Australian sun, especially those featuring Lake Mungo. Margaret gave artist talks to the volunteers and opening night guests and held workshops while her exhibition was on, charming ever captivated members of her audience.



Press: <https://upperyarra.mailcommunity.com.au/news/2021-06-01/margarets-journey/>

## RE|COVERED

This show was originally conceived by Andrew Chew, in collaboration with the Yarra Valley Writers Festival, featuring Elise Hurst and 24 Yarra Valley Artists. Each piece in the exhibition had a connection to literature.

Elise's pieces depicted her original artwork featured in two of the many books she has illustrated. One of these, entitled 'The Ocean at the End of Lane' was written by acclaimed British/American author Neil Gaiman, who has a cult following. Both Elise's high profile and Neil's renown attracted new and diverse audiences. At the opening Elise gave an insightful talk about her arts practice and the research which goes into producing a body of work for books. Her presentation was followed by many questions. This allowed all present to participate in an engaging session, providing budding illustrators with advice and professional development.



Each of our YAVA artists also had the opportunity to present their work, discussing the literature they were inspired by, relating to their artwork. Brook Powell spoke about the Yarra Valley Writers Festival.

YV Artists: Amanda Ruck, Christen Jo Stone, David Miller, Jerry Osadczuk, John Christie, Julie Ricketts, Kate Baker, Lori Kravos, Lucy Hawkins, Mary Newham, Melissa A Shemanna, Kim Kocher, Pamela Gordon, Phoebe Lines, Sabina Wills, Suzanne Phoenix, Wilani van Wyk-Smit.

Press: <https://upperyarra.mailcommunity.com.au/news/2021-07-12/bringing-literature-to-life/>  
<https://elisehurst.com/>



## Hideaway - Clare James

Hideaway is a collection of works embodying the knowing of the forest as both balm and treasure. The varied artworks in the exhibition convey Clare's relationship with the forest as a sanctuary, a place that holds her, us, and all of the wild things within its complex and miraculous ecology.



Unfortunately Lockdowns due to COVID once again have hampered operations and the gallery has been closed for over four months of the past seven months. Due to people suffering from ZOOM and on-line content fatigue a decision was made not to convert exhibitions to virtual content.

Artist Clare James has worked with the Youth Mentor Group to provide regular posts to social media giving audiences a taste of her exhibition, Hideaway, without revealing too much. This strategy was developed to engage with audiences without spoiling the surprise and wonder of her physical exhibition. The show is best experienced in person as an immersive experience which Clare wanted to preserve.

*Press <https://upperyarra.mailcommunity.com.au/news/2021-08-06/clares-hideaway/>*

A weekly YAVA artists social night was established with a core group contributing to insightful discussions about their arts practice, influences, inspirations and ways of working. These Zoom get togethers strengthened connections and a sense of community whilst in lock down.

Another group S.C.O.N.E.S submitted photographs reflecting on what they were doing in lock down. These were collated to become tiles for social media posts.

Artists who participated were Denise Smith, Amanda Ruck, Mary Newham. Mim Kocher, Di King, Christen Jo Stone, Bev Hardridge and Kate Taylor.

# Workshop Program

*"I really enjoyed the 3 hour ink painting workshop with our teacher Junko Azukawa.*

*She was so beautifully organised for our class, with everything we needed set out for us. It was fascinating learning how to make inks and it slowed us all down as we concentrated. It was a very calming activity. Junko demonstrated clearly the brush holding technique and ways to paint bamboo and leaves, then later we learnt how to paint Koi carp.*

*Everyone's work was different, always great to see. We had plenty of time to paint and practice. We all got to apply a red wax seal to our finished work. I loved this workshop and learnt so much. I hope to continue Japanese ink painting."*







**INTRODUCTION TO PASTELS** WORKSHOP  
 252 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville VIC 3777, Australia  
 Click to add tags  
 Views: 1520 | Reviews: 1 | Waitlist: 2

*"This was an excellent course, Jan shared her knowledge and love of linocut, the class was well organised and the venue perfect."*



**TUTORED LIFE DRAWING WITH JANET HAYES** WORKSHOP  
 252 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville VIC 3777, Australia  
 Click to add tags  
 Views: 213 | Reviews: 0 | Waitlist: 2

*"I found Introduction to Pastels by Janet Hayes an amazing class for a beginner. Great guidance and tips to help understand the basics. Since the class I have purchased some sun flowers and cannot wait to pastel up my sunflower 'masterpiece' ;-)"*



**LOOSEN UP WITH FLOWERS WITH CLAIR BREMNER**  
 252 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville VIC 3777, Australia  
 Click to add tags  
 Views: 939 | Reviews: 4 | Waitlist: 2

*"What a privilege it is to be guided to paint a landscape in acrylics by such a highly respected artist.. Clair (Bremner) generously and patiently supported each of us there to deepen our understanding of acrylics and develop our skills and confidence. A wonderful day."*

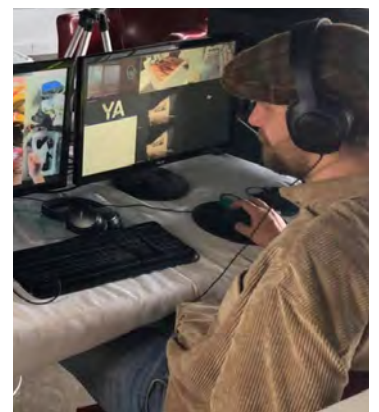
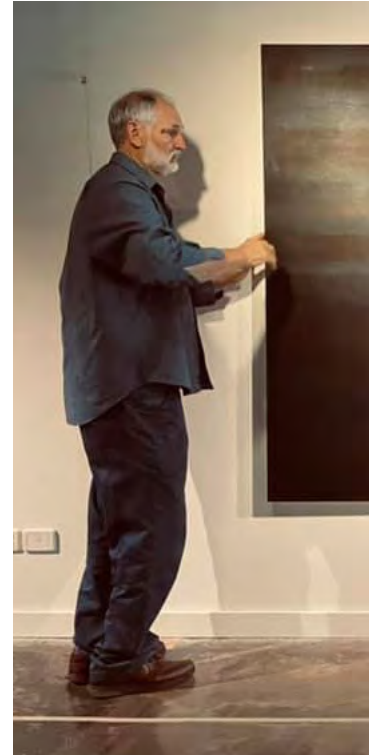


**PAINTING FUNGI** WORKSHOP  
 252 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville VIC 3777, Australia  
 Click to add tags  
 Views: 139 | Reviews: 0 | Waitlist: 2

*"Loved this workshop. Relaxed and informative. Thoroughly enjoyed it and Clare (James) was brilliant. Only sorry it didn't go longer."*

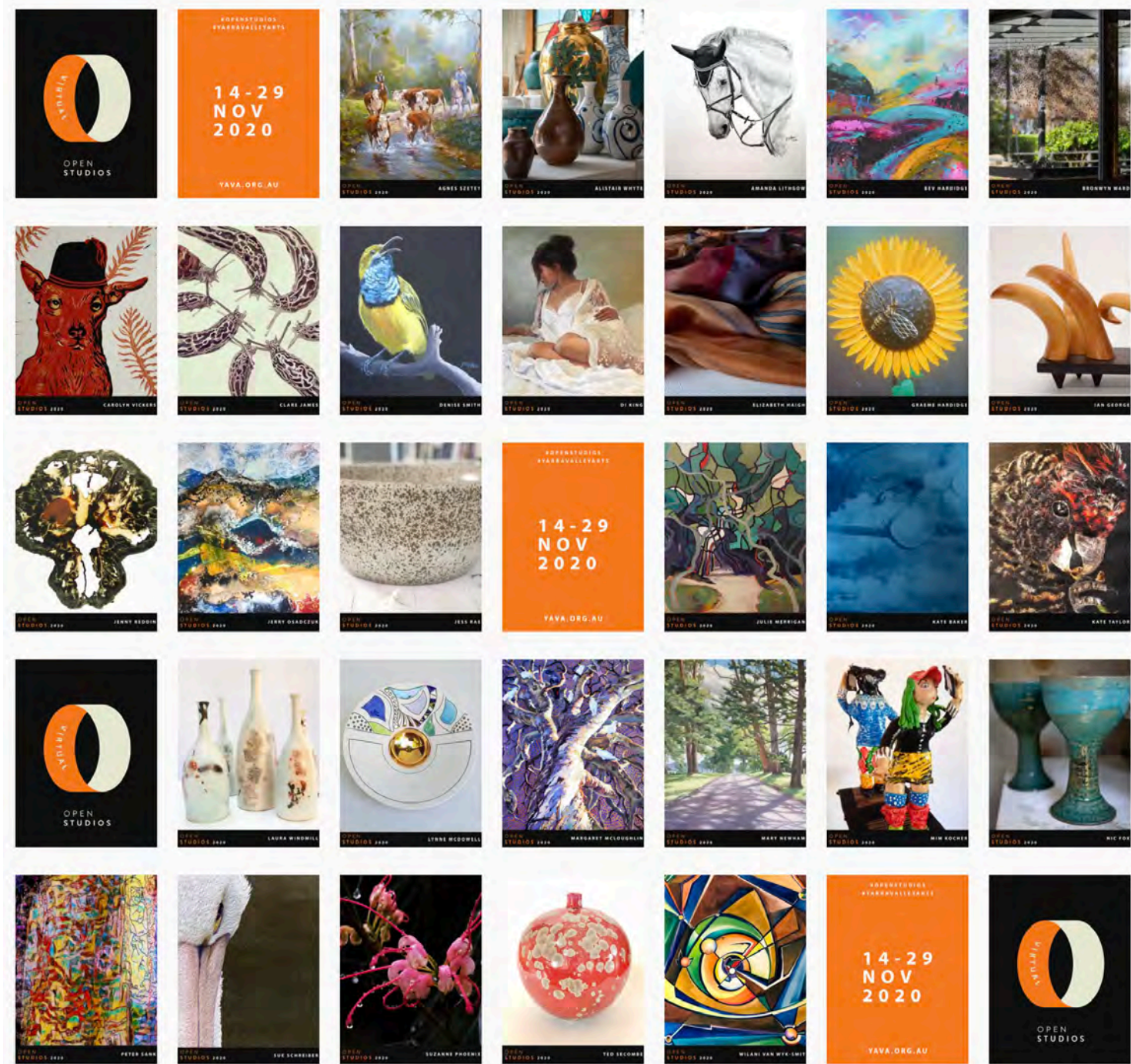
**Elizabeth Nyssen**  
 Volunteer Workshops Coordinator

# Our wonderful Volunteers





# Virtual Open Studios



# Treasurer's Report

For the 2021 financial year Yarra Valley Arts revenue was \$479,922 with an operating surplus of \$216,326

## Yarra Valley Arts received the following support:

<u>Margaret Lawrence Bequest</u>	\$310,660
<u>Yarra Valley Ranges Council</u>	
Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition	\$12,000
Open Studios	\$10,000
Youth Mentoring Program:	\$22,000
Covid Support	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total	\$49,000
<u>Victorian Government Business Cost Assistance</u>	\$41,600
<u>Federal Government Job keeper and Job keeper</u>	\$53,000

Financial year 2020/21 proved disappointing in terms of gallery closures and workshop cancellations. Despite this, the gallery showed substantial income growth from art sale commission, with commission income topping \$20,000.

Bookings in workshops continued to grow even with the threat of Covid related cancellations and postponement. Musical events held in the gallery was a new income stream this year and contributed \$2,811 to our income. Adding a "donate now" button to the YAVA web page in September has proved successful in it's first 3 weeks.

Throughout 2020/21 the board and CEO gave increased consideration to strengthening and building our financial resilience for the future. This not only included looking at new revenue streams but improving financial process and reporting to better understand our opportunities and risks. Clearer more detailed accounting will also provide readily accessible information which will be beneficial for future grant writing and funding accountability.

A review of our financial records revealed a past recording error. This was rectified and we took up a prior year income adjustment of \$1235.

There is much to be proud of in the way Yarra Valley Arts has been able to meet its costs throughout this difficult year.

Yarra Valley Arts finishes the year with a total equity of \$400,113, an increase of \$216,326 on the previous financial year. This puts us in a strong position going into 2022.



Yarra Valley Arts received \$155,663 from the Margaret Lawrence Bequest this year, a further \$155,663 was taken up in July, however this was an amount relating to financial year 2020. Margaret Lawrence continues to be a most significant financial supporter and we would like to sincerely thank the trustees of the Margaret Lawrence Bequest for their generosity.

We would like to extend our thanks to the Yarra Ranges Council for their support, and to the local businesses who partner with us and for providing sponsorship and donations.

Yarra Valley Arts extends their thank to our volunteers who have provided "in kind" donations to Yarra Valley Arts. Whether it be contributions of time in the gallery, donated goods or technical, administrative or artistic expertise. These and the many other contributions from members have provided a direct financial benefit to Yarra Valley Arts and helped keep us a viable community organisation.

**Kate Kilsby**  
*Treasurer*

# Profit and Loss

## Yarra Valley Arts Council Incorporated For the year ended 30 September 2021

	2021	2020
<b>Income</b>		
Art Sales - Fundraisers	-	386
Commission - Art Sales from EXHIBITIONS	19,967	9,135
Auspicing Services Commission	27	1,364
Book Sales (YAVA prepurchased)	(5,692)	14,914
Donations	1,120	5,225
Entry Fees, Artist Exhibition Fees, Competition Fees	4,186	-
Events income	4,377	5,144
Gifts - Philanthropic Trusts & Bequests OTHER	-	213,663
Gift - Philanthropic - The Margaret Lawrence Bequest	310,663	-
Grants - Federal (COVID ASSISTANCE)	41,600	28,000
Grants - Local Council	37,000	10,857
Grants - Partnership Funding with YRC, specified for Yering Sculpture Award	12,000	-
Grants - State	-	10,000
Interest Income	590	981
JobKeeper	11,400	13,500
Membership fees	13,844	13,478
Other Revenue	1,445	205
Prior Year Adjustment	9,317	5,166
Space Hire	782	473
Sponsorships - Corporate. Includes Community Bank Sponsorships	-	1,000
Square Shipping/Delivery Fees	-	14
Workshop Income	17,023	7,518
Commission - Retail Sales (from items on Consignment at YAVA)	13	-
Commission - Art Sales OUTSIDE current Exhibition	259	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>479,922</b>	<b>341,022</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>479,922</b>	<b>341,022</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Depreciation	825	-
Administration	6,663	2,800
Advertising & Promotion	10,407	4,736
Bank Fees	21	21
Book Stock Purchases	-	6,572
Bookkeeping fees	3,270	3,887
Communications	1,906	1,039
Consulting & Professional	68,845	55,525
Employee Expense -Superannuation	6,982	7,892
Employment Expense Wages and Salaries	76,580	83,077
Entertainment	160	-
Event and Catering Costs	2,466	3,285



	2021	2020
Fees - Stripe / WTM / Paypal / Square	2,849	1,673
Freight & Courier	-	291
Function & Exhibition Install and Expenses	2,572	2,431
General Expenses	5,628	215
Gifts and Donations	-	115
Insurance	2,194	4,366
Accountancy and Legal expenses	1,364	-
Office Expenses	1,590	3,151
Permits & Fees	-	85
Postage	77	139
Printing & Stationery	4,668	578
Rates	4,178	4,055
Recruitment Costs	198	-
Rent	32,229	41,970
Rental Outgoings	1,945	1,048
Repairs and Maintenance	642	836
Square Fees	120	-
Subscriptions & Memberships	2,466	1,140
Telephone & Internet	1,345	1,228
Utilities - Light, Power, Heating, Water	2,823	3,311
Workcover Insurance	790	681
Workshop Expenses	5,793	608
Grant - YRC Yering Station Expenses	12,000	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>263,596</b>	<b>236,755</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>216,326</b>	<b>104,267</b>

# Balance Sheet

## Yarra Valley Arts Council Incorporated As at 30 September 2021

30 SEP 2021

30 SEP 2020

### Assets

#### Current Assets

##### Bank and Equivalent Accounts

YAVA - Transaction Account	2,763	2,193
YV Arts - Transaction Account	47,595	2,299
YAVA - Savings Account	9,927	13,350
YAVA - We Teach Me	3,214	1,135
YV Arts Gift Fund	283,827	71,626
YV Arts - Term Deposit Account	10,410	10,282
YV Arts Gift Fund Term Deposit	70,995	100,600
<b>Total Bank and Equivalent Accounts</b>	<b>428,731</b>	<b>201,483</b>

GST	1,830	2,793
Accounts Receivable	1,347	888
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>431,908</b>	<b>205,164</b>

#### Non-Current Assets

Computer Equipment	3,768	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Computer Equipment	(825)	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>2,943</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>434,851</b>	<b>205,164</b>
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### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

CLEARING Account - Art Sales	3,928	(9,763)
CLEARING Account - Auspicing	58	14,299
PAYG Withholdings Payable	2,928	5,166
Superannuation Payable	-	2,046
Wages Payable - Payroll	103	-
CLEARING Account - Workshop Commission	48	48
CLEARING Account - Yering Station Sculpture	27,674	9,581
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>34,738</b>	<b>21,377</b>

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>34,738</b>	<b>21,377</b>
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<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>400,113</b>	<b>183,787</b>
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### Equity

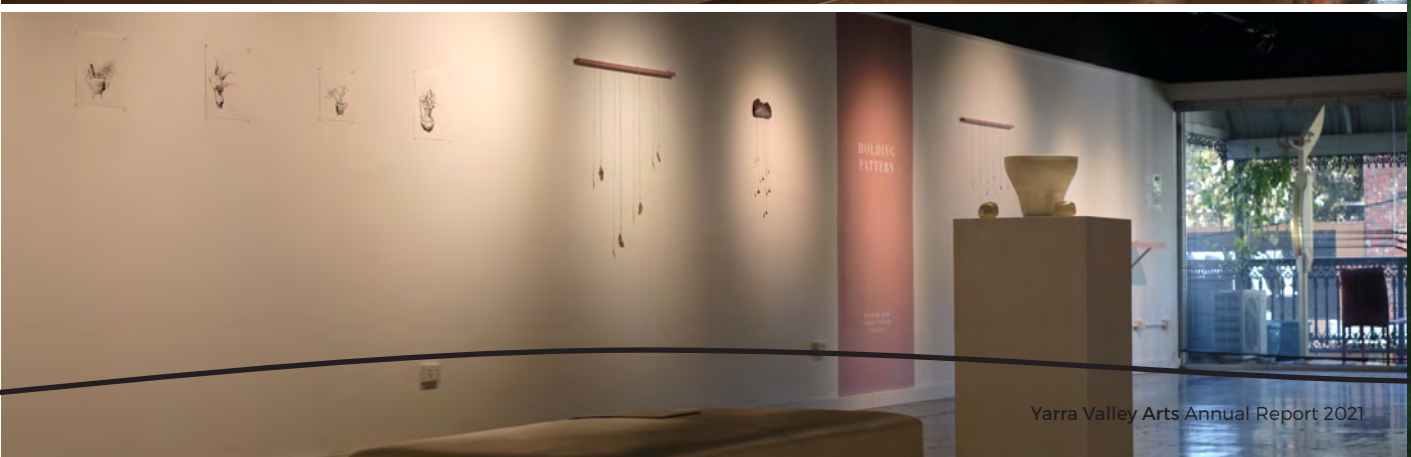
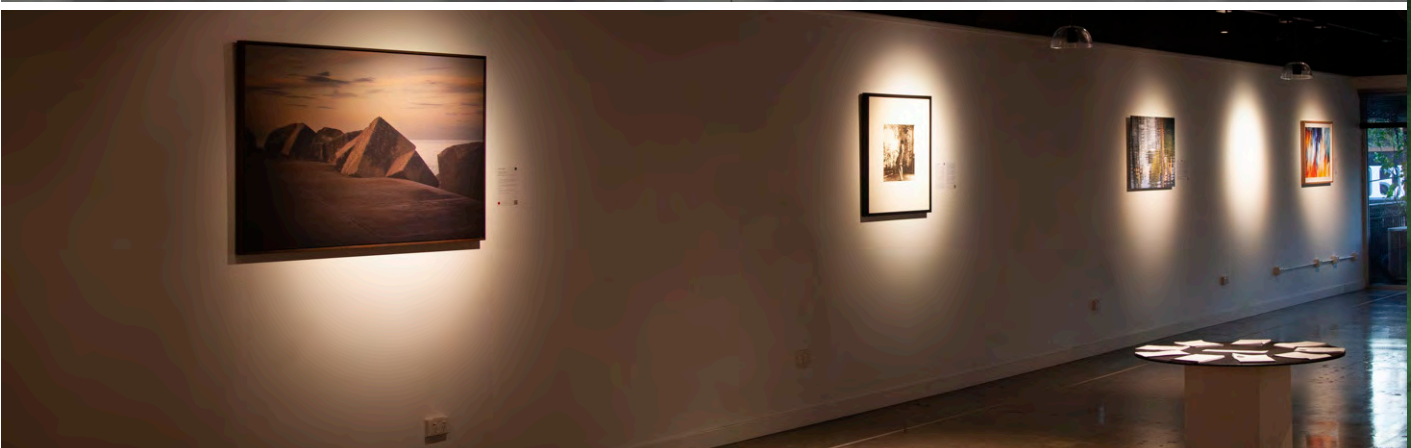
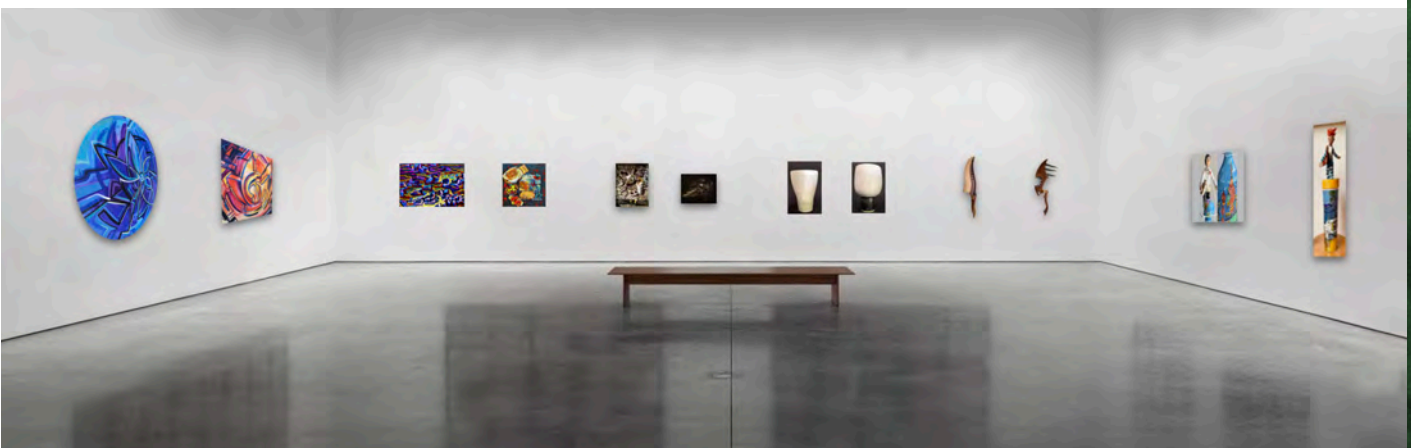
Current Year Earnings	216,326	104,267
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#### Retained Earnings

Other Reserves	48,703	48,703
Retained Earnings	135,084	30,817
<b>Total Retained Earnings</b>	<b>183,787</b>	<b>79,520</b>

<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>400,113</b>	<b>183,787</b>
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**YARRA VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL  
T/A YARRA VALLEY ARTS**

Incorporation registration no. A0028202A

**YAVA Gallery & Arts Hub**  
252-254A Maroondah Highway, Healesville

[www.yava.org.au](http://www.yava.org.au)





