



ANNUAL REPORT  
2023



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# 2023

# 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 focused 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 operational leadership and team.

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

# President's Report



Another exciting year has been completed for Yarra Valley Arts and the YAVA Gallery and Arts Hub. Tourism in the Yarra Valley continues to grow and the YV Tourism Network continually explores ways to ensure mid-week growth of our tourism numbers. Visitation to the YAVA Gallery continues to grow, although we are hampered by our first-floor space – getting people up the stairs and into the Gallery continues to challenge us. However, once they are in the Gallery space our exhibitions and retail offerings continue to delight.

Our Members and their engagement and success as artists is a major reason for the establishment of the YAVA Gallery and Arts Hub. The Board continues to consider different opportunities of engagement so that they can exhibit and sell their work. The YAVA Gallery provides a welcome opportunity for art lovers, visitors and other community members to engage with art practice and to meet with artists.

The Out and About Program provides further opportunity for our artists to have works on display at Tolkar Estate, Steels Gate and de Bortoli and we continually seek ways to expand this further. For a second year we collaborated with Yarra Valley Wine in July at the Twilight Market, selling raffle tickets at YAVA and on-site at the market. We value these partnerships as a way of expanding our influence and at the same time supporting and showcasing other Yarra Valley businesses and events.

We are appreciative of the ongoing philanthropic support from the Margaret Lawrence Bequest Trustees as we were granted three year confirmed funding. This support has enabled us to solidify our physical presence in Healesville and employ staff to provide appropriate leadership and guidance. Our Partnership Grant with the Yarra Ranges Council continues to support our community focus work with Open Studios and the Yering Station Sculpture collaboration.

Our Curatorial Panel continues to take a strong leadership approach to establishing and supporting our exhibition program and planning our exhibition program a year in advance.

The Open Studios program will be held over two weekends in October and November and a full report will be provided in the 2024 Annual Report. This event is an important component of the YVA calendar and encourages visitation to our region, and the opportunity for artists to engage directly with visitors and to sell their work.

The Yarra Valley Arts | Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards is a collaborative event hosted by Yering Station, a premier winery in the Yarra Valley with an arts program encompassing painting, photography and sculpture, and Yarra Valley Arts. The exhibition presents new Australian sculpture, in all mediums, by emerging, mid-career and established artists. Having grown steadily since 2001, it is now the longest running annual sculpture exhibition in Victoria and an iconic event on the Australian arts calendar. This event will open on October 22nd and continue through to December 3rd, 2023. This will again be complemented by the YAVA small sculptures exhibition "INterior" at our Gallery.

The Board refreshed the strategic plan in early 2022 and established two sub-committees to help progress the objectives and to provide support to the staff. We also completed a resource review in January and a review of our strategy in July 2023 with the purpose of identifying the current and future needs of the organisation to ensure viability and sustainability. Staffing changes initiated in 2022 have seen staff settle into the realigned positions, the growth of our retail offerings and an increase in our workshop program. Kate Baker, the inaugural CEO, resigned in February 2023 to focus on her art practice and the Board welcomed Karen Meuleman into the role as Director. The Board thanks Kate for her key role in establishing the YAVA space and nurturing and extending the many YVA partnerships developed over several years.

The continued success of Yarra Valley Arts in 2022/2023 only occurs because we have dedicated staff, Board Members and Volunteers prepared to do the work required to keep a not-for-profit enterprise going. However, for YVA/YAVA to continue to grow and expand past 2024 when our financial viability becomes critical, requires your support, greater support from the community as well as various Government agencies. We were very appreciative of the \$55,000 election commitment provided to us and we will coordinate the expenditure of these funds with Creative Victoria, further details re this program will be advised shortly.

Thanks go to many people – especially the staff at YAVA, 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 many sponsors and donors are important to our success, and we appreciate their ongoing support.

We require your continued support as we consolidate our position in the Yarra Valley and continue to support the food, wine, and arts community; as there are many ways that you can become involved with us please contact the staff or our Volunteer Coordinator for further details.

*Denise Stevens*  
PRESIDENT

# Board & Governance

At the 2022 AGM we were pleased to have 3 new Committee Members. Through a skills matrix approach the Board has been targeting the skill set required to balance out the current skills of our Board Members. We aim is to have a representation of artists and general community members who have a strong business and community focus.

We meet bi-monthly from October to September and as the AGM was held in November, there is an overlap of representation from one reporting period to the next.

We held 6 Board Meetings in this period plus 2 extra meetings to consider future resourcing needs and a strategic review was conducted in July 2023.

Name	Position	Attendance
Denise Stevens	President	7/8
David Miller	Vice President	8/8
Reggie Clark	Secretary – resigned February 2023	3/3
Sarah Stewart	Secretary – appointed at AGM then March 2023	7/7
Kate Kilsby	Treasurer – resigned at AGM	1/1
John Callaghan	Treasurer – appointed at AGM	4/7
Savaad Felich	Ordinary committee – resigned May 2023	4/4
Wilani van Wyk-Smit	Ordinary committee	6/8
Suzanne Halliday	Ordinary committee – illness in 2023	1/8
Ted Secombe	Ordinary committee	8/8
Helen Wood	Ordinary committee	5/8
Serafina Munns	Ordinary committee	6/8
Jessica Rowe	Ordinary committee – appointed at AGM, resigned August 2023	2/7
Sophie Rowatt	Ordinary committee – resigned at AGM	0/1
Kate Baker	CEO in attendance – resigned Feb 2023	3/3
Karen Meuleman	Director in attendance – appointed March 2023	5/6



*From left to right:* Ted Secombe, Wilani van Wyk-Smit, Serafina Munns, David Miller, Helen Wood, Denise Stevens, John Callahan, Sarah Stewart.

*Absent:* Suzanne Halliday

All Board Members were engaged in the various sub-committees or working groups throughout the year and their contributions support the operational activities of YAVA staff.

Our skills matrix identifies that Board Members have 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 financial literacy.

The Strategic Plan adopted in early 2020 was updated in early 2022 and reviewed again in July 2023 to ensure that it meets our current needs. At this time, we established two subcommittees – Community Engagement and Sustainability & Revenue – with the aim of progressing our strategic objectives and expanding our reach in the wider Yarra Valley community. Other working groups that report regularly to the Board include Open Studios, the Curatorial Panel, Yering Sculpture, Volunteer Coordination, and our Workshop Program Coordinator.

The Finances were independently reviewed and are attached to this Annual Report. Board Members and Volunteers have provided support to the YAVA staff 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, Gallery Guides and Volunteers for the support provided.

# Director's Report



October 2022- September 2023

## A big hello to everyone!

My name is Karen Meuleman, and I took over the role of Director from Kate Baker in February. While no one can replace Kate, I come to the role with 17 years experience in the Creative Communities department of Yarra Ranges Council, and a long standing association with Yarra Valley Arts going back more than 25 years. You can definitely say my heart is in the community, and I have great belief in the power of community arts in transforming lives in general, and Yarra Valley Arts and YAVA in particular.

It is heartwarming to see the strong engagement from our broader community with YAVA, whether that be exhibiting, volunteering, attending events or workshops. Each new exhibition provides a catalyst for our members to come together in the welcoming space provided by YAVA, and be inspired to either begin or further their creative journey.

In the past year I have noticed many aspects of the ways in which community interact with YAVA. Primarily we are seen as being a welcoming place where people can spend time and leave feeling enriched. Although the YAVA gallery space is intended for exhibiting our local artists work, it is a hybrid space that provides a "hub" for community and allows for casual interactions and conversations.

Our other activities, namely our Out & About program, workshop program, newsletters, website, events and social media profile, allows for artists and art lovers to delve into a cultural world and become "part" of an intentional community formed around mutual interests.

YAVA Gallery of course is the most significant and outward facing of our endeavours. In the past year there has been a diverse suite of exhibitions which have showcased our local talent and drawn visitors in.

Behind the scenes there is a team of staff, volunteers and supporters who keep the engine running and the doors open.

YAVA team now consists of 4 part time staff, totalling 2.5 full time positions:

Karen Meuleman - *Director*

Reggie Clark - *Artist Liaison*

Kimberley Hughes - *Retail & Marketing co-ordinator*

Vanessa Flynn - *Gallery/business co-ordinator*

## Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who volunteers with Yarra Valley Arts and YAVA. Volunteers are the life blood of YAVA. They are the vital ingredient that makes good ideas happen and enables them to become great events such as YAVA Gallery. Simply put without our volunteers we would not be, they are our most important asset and must be treasured.

Our most visible and obvious volunteers are the Board and the Gallery Guides but there are many more... from those who quietly come around and do the garden, deliver our brochures and posters, serve on the curatorial committee, and many many more tasks.

Post COVID it has been identified widely that the face of volunteerism is changing. We are working hard to adapt and broaden our approach and identify opportunities within YAVA for all our volunteers and members.

YAVA currently has 75 Gallery Guides on the books who have been active for at least one shift over the last year (from the beginning of Landscapes Exhibition in 2022 to the end of Museum of the Post Anthropocene at end of September 2023), they have contributed over 1580 hours of donated time to the organisation as Gallery Guides (\$73,660 in kind value).

As can be seen in the graphs below we continue to have a few people contributing significant hours consistently. This is immensely valuable as it enables them to build up knowledge and become skilled Gallery Guides. A second significant cohort is those who volunteer once or twice, during one or two exhibitions (often due to their obligation as exhibiting artists to volunteer as a Gallery Guide), this group has the advantage of being passionate and knowledgeable about their art, however they do require additional support from the staff due to lack of experience.

We are currently working to expand the number of artists sitting in the gallery as Gallery Guides and the base of experienced and skilled regular Gallery Guides.

## Acknowledgement and thank you to departing staff and volunteers

It seems that like any organisation there comes a time when people move on. While it is always sad to see people go, we realise that there is a limited lifetime for peoples commitment and people need to create space to explore their work and other aspects of their life. It is with our very best wishes that we acknowledge the contribution to Yarra Valley Arts of the following valued members:

**Kate Baker** - as former CEO and Director, Kate helped to set up valuable systems and processes, and established strong connections with external bodies that will help us to thrive into the future. Kate was loved for her positivity and "can do" attitude.

She is now concentrating on her artistic career as a photographer. Of course with Kates departure, we also lose the companionship of Poppysed our "office dog"!

**David Bennett** - David has provided us with high quality graphic design work for several years, helping us to present members work to a high standard. We appreciate Davids generosity and hope he is able to now devote more time to his painting, and perhaps exhibiting with us.

**Savaad Felich** - a lifetime member of Yarra Valley Arts, Savaad established the YVA/Yering Station Sculpture awards more than 20 years ago. As a member of our curatorial panel, Savaad has been a part of innumerable exhibitions and projects over his long relationship with YVA. He plans to concentrate on his sculpture, and his new found passion for abstract painting and collage.

**Elizabeth Nyssen** - Another long standing member, Elizabeth has been instrumental in building a comprehensive workshop program, that has attracted participants from far and wide. Her work in liaising, promoting and administering our workshop program has been invaluable to YAVA both financially and in cementing YAVA's reputation as an Arts "Hub". Elizabeth will be concentrating on her family, garden and her own arts practice.

**Zoe Meade** - Zoe has been one of our "invisible" contributors. Originally coming on board as a youth mentee, Zoe continued to assist us with social media, providing a steady stream of high quality content to promote YAVA and its activity. Zoe has many irons in the fire, and is now concentrating on her career.

## Membership

Membership has increased this year by 20 new members with an even split between Members & Member Plus (artists). Two of our new members are the People's Choice prize-winners from the YouthArt – Now & Then exhibition. We welcome these young artists into our organisation and will encourage them to participate in future exhibitions & events.

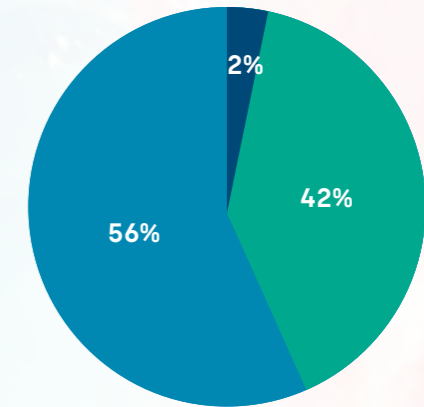
While overall our membership has increased, several members have relinquished their membership for various personal reasons including moving out of the region, illness or a change of focus.

We have held three membership meetings during the year, these being a mix of information, learnings, planning, entertainment, and social activities which have been moderately well attended.

We continue to provide meaningful and effective economic opportunities for our members via our Out & About wineries, partnering with Yarra Ranges Council & Warburton Waterwheel Gallery, Open Studios, YAVA group exhibitions, workshops, retail and learning opportunities which are communicated via a dedicated Member Newsletter.

Learnings have included tips on social media and free access to the online (supported) 6 week **Video Storytelling with your phone** program, enabling artists to improve their video skills which benefit their arts practice.

Membership type	Number of members
Life Member	5
Member	103
Member Plus (Artists)	139
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>247</b>



Members as at 30 September 2023

We have plans in place to continue to increase the social and educational aspects of membership. This currently includes a weekly social group (SCONES), bimonthly film sessions, and we have recently concluded a video storytelling course for members. We have also been asked to reinstate the regular members dinners at local eateries, and want to create more opportunities for younger people and families to get together.

## Open Studios

Occurring in October this year, Open Studios is proud to feature 36 Artists over 29 studios. Running since 2017, with a hiatus during the covid lockdown period, this event is much anticipated by both locals and visitors to the region. Having shifted back to its original date, there are not the details to include in this report. However the gallery exhibition of Open Studios gives a snapshot of what will be on offer, with many new and exciting artists to add variety and interest.



The event will run October 21 & 22 for Yarra Valley Studios, and November 4 & 5 for Upper Yarra Valley Studios

An addition this year is the inclusion of Artist led small group bus tours over both weekends, allowing visitors a unique and stress free way of enjoying the event.



## Additional Activities and “of special note”

Attracting people into the gallery for multiple reasons is an important part of our function as an 'Arts Hub'. In conjunction with this aim, it is also important to take our activities "Out & About" to spread the YAVA love and to engage new members. To achieve this we have offered the following:

- 'Woman' textile project "Filling the void" an interactive textile activity
- Additional concurrent exhibition at Waterwheel
- Guest musician at fantasy Faerietales & Myths. Dress up occasion for this exhibition
- Deanne Eccles musical response to her Sublime exhibition
- Ian George hosting Toolangi primary school students
- Worawa students visiting the Ted Secombe and David Miller exhibition
- Co-presentation of a second Jane Fitzherbert exhibition at Memo Gallery
- Filming Music video: Angus Legg local musician
- Saltbush Ensemble - chamber orchestra concert
- Video Storytelling skills building workshop
- Fireside Yarra Valley attendance at their mid winter event
- Healesville Community Garden Fair - children activities and promotional activity stall
- Reintroduction of Artists talks before exhibition launches
- Addition of Bus tour to Open Studios
- Members casual post exhibition launch dinner
- Open Gardens: Wingspread - 5 artists painted "en plain air" during the 2 days the garden was open
- Art films at the Memo
- Members nights - once per term
- Big Bold Brainstorming night producing project ideas for future events and funding
- Our second Work Experience student



## Sponsorship and Funding

We are extremely grateful for the support we receive from the Margaret Lawrence bequest and Perpetual Trustees for the major philanthropic funding which has allowed us to continue our work bringing our creative community together. Without this funding to support rental costs and contribute toward staff wages we simply could not exist.

Yarra Ranges Council is also an extremely valued supporter of YVA through their Partnership funding of some of our major activities, Annual Grants funding, and ongoing support and collaboration with our activities, The Creative Communities staff continue to be a great source of knowledge and provide us with a wealth of opportunities to flourish as a community organisation

## Partnerships

We rely on developing and maintaining strong partnerships both within our immediate community and further afield to maintain relevance and currency. Our partnerships enhance what we do, and offer additional opportunities.

The partnership with Yering Station has been a long standing one, of 20+ years, collaborating on the YVA/Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards, and this continues to be an outstanding event that both supports our local artists and attracts attention nationally.

Wine Yarra Valley has been an important partner for us, ensuring that the connection between wine and art is strong and sustainable, with their advocacy for YAVA and the cultural landscape of the valley. As Wine Yarra Valley members, our wine sponsors enhance the experience of our exhibition launches, and our partnerships with the Out & About venues, Tokar Estate, Steels Gate and De Bortoli provide us with credibility as one of the major attractions of the Yarra Valley, as well as providing a marvellous opportunity for our artists to exhibit in stunning and secure locations.

Our partnership with Yarra Ranges Council is of inestimable value. As already mentioned, they support us in so many ways, financially, with provision of resources, information, and a sounding board for ideas and current knowledge.

## Auspiced projects

In addition to our own events and projects, YVA provides a valuable service to local creatives by auspicating their projects when applying for Grant funding. The projects and artists that we have supported in this way during the year have been:

- **Badger Creek Womens Choir** - successfully received a 4 year Partnership Grant from Yarra Ranges Council
- **Gypsy Cabaret** - one off event by members Andrew Darling & Szara Fox
- **Beth Williams** - proposed creative installation "community pianos"
- **Fleur Dean** - proposed theatre performance



There is great value in auspicating local artists when they apply for grants. Our auspicating fee is minimal but it allows those artists to benefit from our knowledge and expertise and promote their actives through our extensive channels.

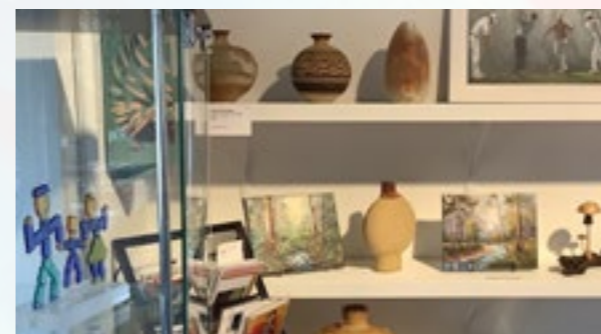


## Potential Opportunities

YAVA continues to grow and attract attention. There is huge potential to attract more people to the gallery, through improving visibility from the street, and making the entrance more enticing, and targeting our marketing more efficiently thus attracting visitors from outside the region. Our partnerships with other organisations have helped us in this respect, and we need to build on this.

We have had several younger volunteers join us recently with enthusiasm and ideas. If we are to thrive, we need to capture and retain that enthusiasm, embrace their ideas and encourage a younger cohort to participate. Our program of events has room for expansion, and our recent brainstorming night generated a suite of viable ideas for us to seek funding to deliver.

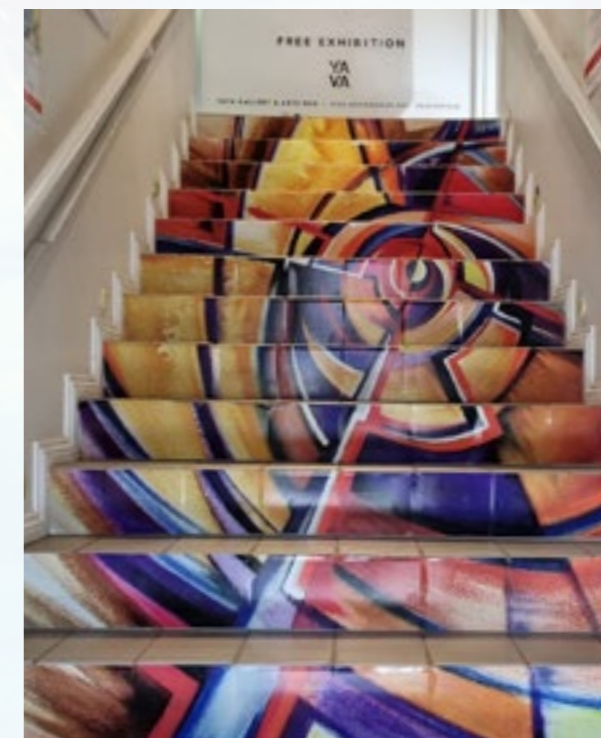
With a membership of 250 members, it is obviously not possible to offer exhibition opportunities to all members. However, there are other opportunities and reasons for involvement which include our Out & About programming, events, workshops and retail.



There is also the opportunity to expand our workshop program and co-deliver with other external partners including Yarra Ranges Council, who are enthusiastic about this approach.

To sum up, the future of YVA depends on all our members contributing to the best of their ability to make this the most welcoming, diverse and energising organisation in the region. As a smaller organisation we can respond more nimbly to opportunities, and with the co-operation and willingness of members and partners to assist, we can continue to make this region a wonderful place to live, work and play.

*Karen Meuleman*  
YAVA DIRECTOR



# Exhibitions & Retail Report

## Exhibitions - October 2022 - September 2023

### October - Traces

Elizabeth Haigh, Jerry Osadczuk & Laura Windmill

YAVA's 'Traces,' Exhibition was concerned with the exploration of layers, surfaces, textures & the memory of what is left behind. In this exhibition, three artists across three mediums expressed how traces of memory, geology, light and atmosphere create a testament: a modern artefact that acknowledges what came before.

For Elizabeth Haigh, whose matrilineal heritage in tailoring informs her artwork, this exhibition is a way of 'Tracing time and memory,' where she 'intersects family textile traditions to express her respect for the land.' Her handmade fabric is embedded into handcrafted prints, allowing light to pass through yet simultaneously referencing sedimentary rock. Jerry Osadczuk paints abstract landscape works, offering the viewer a portal into a textured and surreal place. Layers of paint are themselves traces of his brush strokes, and act as a marker of his movements, materials, textures and colours. Laura Windmill is a ceramicist whose skill in unpredictable techniques, such as Raku and Saggar firing, results in remarkable works. In this exhibition, her pieces manifest her memories and love of wild places, as well as offering a contemplation of bushfire and what is left behind.



### November - Sublime

Deanne Eccles

For her solo exhibition, Sublime, Deanne developed a series of paintings that were hung in subtly pocketed spaces of YAVA Gallery, which created a one-on-one experience that invited immersion and contemplation. Aligned with her practice of flow, she incorporated the concept of sensory perception to build musicality into the exhibition.

During the exhibition, through an osmotic process, musicians worked with body sense response techniques to tap into the atmosphere of Deanne's artworks. From their response, Kaylie and Gelareh created new musical compositions.

During Deane's events attendees felt their own body sense responses as they witnessed the culmination of this process in the final concerts by these professional musicians.



### December to January - Inspired

GROUP CALL-OUT EXHIBITION

Aukje van Vark, Bev Hardidge, Chris Jensen, Ian George, Ilze Cant, Jan Liesfield, Julie Ricketts, Junko Azukawa, Karen Ridley, Khoi Bui, Lynn Baxter, Lynne McDowell, Mary Newham, Mim Kocher, Pamela Gordon, Phoebe Rose Lines, Ricci McAuliffe, Szara Fox, Savaad Felich, Serafina Munns, Wayne Rankin, Ying Tang.

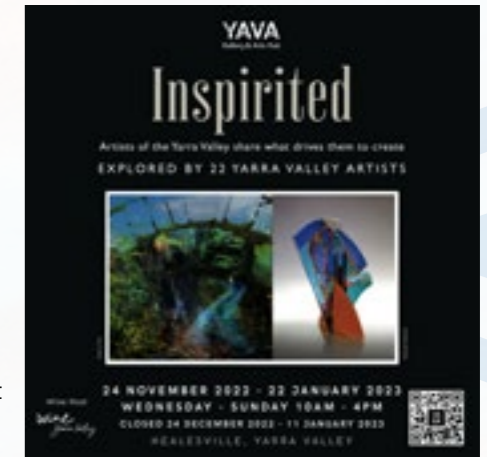
For this exhibition, YAVA member artists were challenged to propose a work that acknowledged the way art operates out of its time and place, beyond the frame of its execution. So although there are 22 artists showing in this exhibition, there is yet a common ground. The artists all respond to the notion of timelessness and what makes art essential.

In turn, the diversity of responses — of mediums and modalities, too — reflects the diversity within the community at large. Each response reminds us that the artist's interpretation is a reflection of the unique spirit that we all possess.

### February - Making Her Mark

Jane Fitzherbert Retrospective

In 'Making her Mark,' YAVA presented a retrospective of Jane Fitzherbert's works. YAVA has long wished to exhibit the paintings of this prolific local painter and were thrilled to present this representative selection of her work. It complemented the exhibition that was held at Yarra Ranges Memo Gallery in June and was a rare opportunity for visitors to spend time enjoying her vibrant and lush abstract painting by this late artist.



### March - WOMAN (Warburton & YAVA Gallery)

GROUP CALL-OUT EXHIBITION

Ali Griffin, Amanda Ruck, Belinda Rogers, Bev Hardidge, Cathie Berry, Cherie Brown, Christine Cafarella-Pearce, Di King, Ilze Cant, Genevieve McLean, Janet Hayes, Jenny Davis, Jessica Harris, Jodie Westall, Julie Merrigan, Karen Ridley, Karen Meuleman, Kate Baker, Kate Taylor, Kathleen Abraham, Kerryl Shirley, Khoi Bui, Lynn Baxter, Lynne McDowell, Margaret McLoughlin, Maria Patterson, Mary Newham, Mim Kocher, Pamela Gordon, Rachael Rose, Raelene Sharp, Serafina Munns, Susanne Richards & Wilani Van Wyk-Smit.

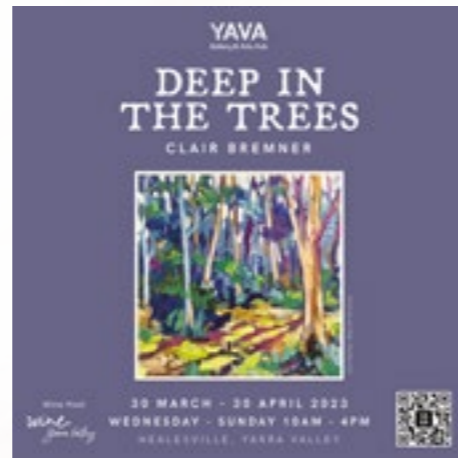
Aligning with International Women's Day 2023, this exhibition highlighted the multi-faceted experiences of being a woman in today's World. Exhibiting artists expressed their experiences through their artwork, exploring different aspects of their lives - drawing on such diverse influences as humour, sadness, anger, joy, work or play. This exhibition was held across two venues; YAVA Gallery & Arts Hub & the Warburton Waterwheel.



## April - Deep In the Trees

Clair Bremner

Clair Bremner's solo exhibition titled 'Deep In The Trees,' celebrates the rich landscape of Warburton that surrounds her home & studio. Her works take inspiration from her memories and impressions of the bush. Her love of nature with effervescent delight is translated through her volumes of colour and tone & layered textures. Each of Bremner's paintings remind you of a bush walk & how it feels to be stopped still by nature and its beauty.



## May - Fantasy Faerie Tales & Myths

GROUP CALL-OUT EXHIBITION

*Nerissa Box, Amanda Ruck, Aukje Van Vark, Bev Hardidge, Caz Rogers, Chris Jensen, Faerie Sarah, Ian George, Jerry Osadczuk, Jo Stone, Julie Merrigan, Kate Baker, Khoi Bui, Libby Fordham, Lucy Hawkins, Lynn Baxter, Max Grierson, Mim Kocher, Phoebe Lines, Serafina Munns.*

This exhibition encouraged our Member Artists to let their imaginations run free & to create works that drew from their childhood memories, folklore, stories, or the secrets of nature to bring to life their fantastic visions and dreams.

All notions of faerie tales and myths came to life in this exhibition; the mystery and darkness, secrets, magic, and the possibilities beyond our worldly realm.



## June - Now & Then (Youth Arts)

GROUP CALL-OUT EXHIBITION

*Allie Spencer, Ben Guerrine, Bonnie Dillon, Christian de Oliveira, Eboni Rowe, Emma Payne, Fern Stowe, Kelly Wallace, Kezia Truman, Lachlan Scully, Louis Jenkins, Mia Pensa, Poppy Faul, Ali Griffin, Amanda Ruck, David Miller, Jenny Reddin, Paul Sonsie, Rachael Rose.*

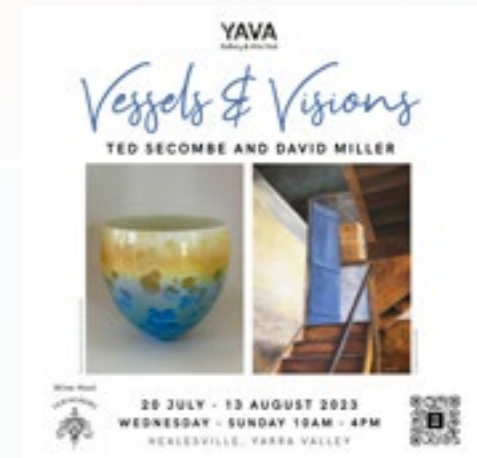
YAVA's 'Now and Then' exhibition looked at artists at varying stages in their artistic career; shining a spotlight on young artists at the beginning of their journey, while also looking at the work of established artists both "then and now". The progression provided a glimpse into those artists' youthful visions, contrasting them both with their recent work, and with the work of today's young artists.



## July - Vessels & Visions

Ted Secombe & David Miller

Two friends, two lifelong artists, two great appreciators of nature, brought their work together in this exhibition, which showcased Ted Secombe's precise ceramic vessels alongside David Miller's bold landscape paintings. Ted created glazes for his pieces in this exhibition specifically from David's colour palette.. In Vessels & Visions, two established artists brought a fresh perspective to their own work while subtly reflecting that of the other, as seemingly disparate practices coalesced.



## August - Anthropocene

Ian George & John Bodin

This exhibition asks us to ponder "How does life evolve from what we've left behind?" Sculptor Ian George, takes a playful and humorous look at this topic, with an abundance of whimsical and often disturbing creatures, crafted from wood, steel, found and organic materials.



## September - Spirit of the Valley

Di King

In 'Spirit of the Valley', Di King seeks to convey the essence of all that makes her home of many years; the Yarra Valley – exceptional. While we see beloved places such as LaLa Falls, Steavenson Falls, and resplendent valley views, we also see people. Di has brought the cooks, the community and the culture to her work, in this celebration of the multifaceted Yarra Valley.

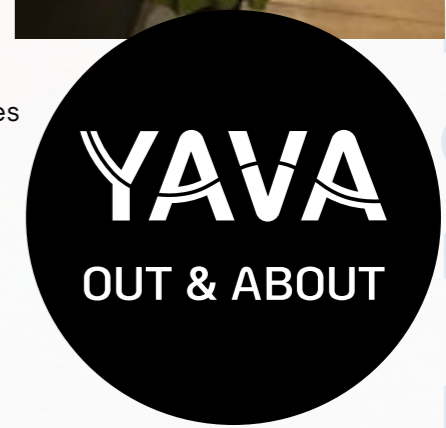


## Retail store

The retail area is becoming increasingly important for us in maintaining interest in the gallery, and supporting our artists to have a viable income stream. As we expand our offering, we are also putting additional resources into making this area attractive and in line with other similar galleries. We have cleaned up shelving, added a new improved brochure rack and installed some new cabinets and shelving to brighten up the space. We have further plans afoot to improve this space, by adding in a purpose built card rack, and repositioning furniture to allow better access to the balcony.

The expansion and revamping of the retail area has given artists an opportunity to showcase and sell their work and we have seen steady sales from this avenue. There is now further potential to increase revenue. As we improve the space, so we can attract more of our artists to trust us with their beautiful work. It is important that we are able to let people know that this area exists, and that it is specifically for Yarra Valley artists.

This is a great selling point and quite unique. Better signage is required for this which we are working on. The balcony also is a great asset and has been cleaned up to provide volunteers and guests access to enjoy the street view and a place to relax.



We currently successfully operate 3 Out & About venues at wineries - **Tokar Estate, Steels Gate, and De Bortoli.**

These venues have provided a fantastic opportunity to our artists to exhibit work in a busy, dynamic environment, and in return YAVA ensures that their spaces are kept looking beautiful and interesting with a changing suite of artworks. It also gives some of our artists the chance to exhibit over a longer period of time and in a discreet environment.

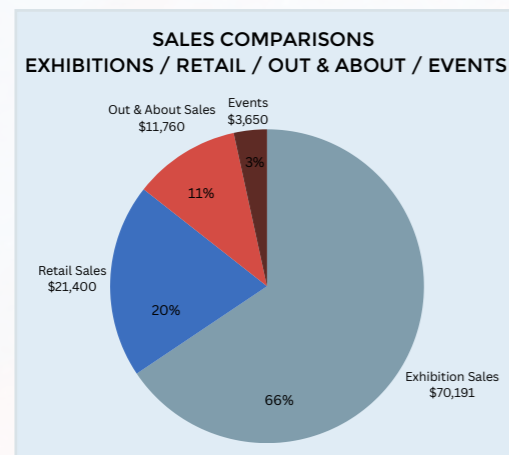
Artists who have been supported in this way in the 2022/23 period have been

**Steels Gate:** Bill Proctor & Janet Hayes, Peter Sank & Mike Lutz, Margi Mc Laughlin & Denise Smith, Savaad Felich & Jo Stone.

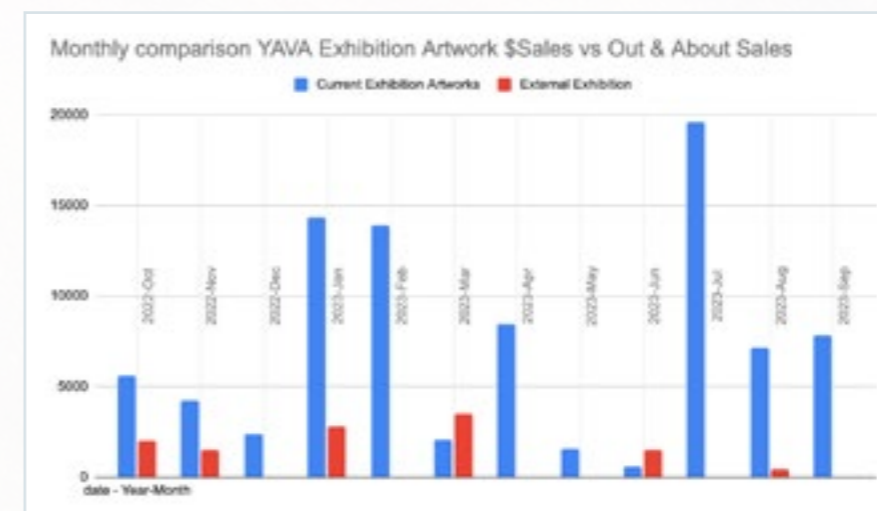
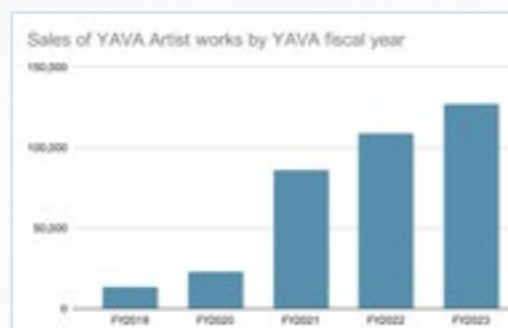
**De Bortoli:** Chris Jensen, Tania Chanter.

**Tokar Estate:** Beth Williams, Jo Carroll, Amanda Ruck, Joan Segrave.

We are very grateful for the support of these important partners, as well as the valued collaboration with Yarra Ranges Council who support us in so many ways. We presented our "Woman" exhibition across two venues, both Warburton Waterwheel and YAVA Gallery.



Exhibition Category	SUM of \$ gross sales	SUM of Sales Revenue to	SUM of Quantity
Current Exhibition Artworks	\$87,771.00	\$61,414.50	96
Current Exhibition Cards	\$162.00	\$113.40	27
Current Exhibition Prints	\$3,155.00	\$2,208.50	27
Current Exhibition Takeaway Obj	\$1,520.00	\$1,344.00	32
Event Ticket	\$3,650.00	#N/A	118
External Exhibition	\$11,760.00	\$8,232.00	8
Prior Exhibition Artworks	\$2,420.00	\$1,694.00	5
Retail Books and CDs	\$1,382.20	\$581.84	83
Retail Cards	\$760.50	\$532.35	122
Retail Objects	\$9,365.85	\$6,556.10	108.25
Retail Prints	\$4,655.00	\$3,258.50	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$127,201.55</b>	<b>#N/A</b>	<b>655.25</b>



## Artists with works represented in exhibitions and or retail through YAVA & Out & About

Agnes Szetey	Ian George	Margaret Ann Gooch
Ali Griffin	Ilze Cant	Margaret McLoughlin
Alistair Whyte	Ivor Wolstencroft	Marija Patterson
Amanda Ruck	Jacqui McMaster	Mary Anderson
Anders McDonald	Jane Fitzherbert	Mary Newham
Antonia Green	Janet Hayes	Max Grierson
Asha Innes	Jan Liesfield	Michelle Payne
Aukje van Vark	Jena Bedson	Mike Lutz
Belinda Rogers	Jennifer Carlyon	Milie Woods
Beth Williams	Jennifer Took	Mim Kocher
Bev Hardidge	Jenny Davis	Nerissa Box
Bill Proctor	Jenny Reddin	Pamela Gordon
Bronwyn Ward	Jerry Osadczuk	Paul Sonsie
Carolyn Rogers	Jess Rae	Paul X Stoney
Cathie Berry	Jessica Harris	Perie Whitefield
Cecilia Sharpley	Joan Segrave	Peter Revelman
Cherie Brown	Jo Carroll	Peter Sank
Chris Jensen	Jodie Westall-Kimpton	Phoebe Lines
Christen Jo Stone	John Bodin	Rachael Rose
Christine Cafarella-Pearce	John Christie	Raelene Sharp
Clair Bremner	Julie Merrigan	Ricci McAuliffe
Clare James	Julie Ricketts	Robin Henchel
Corina Horstra	Junko Azukawa	Ruth Woods
Crystal Tan	Karen Meuleman	Ryan Tews
Dani Rapinett	Karen Ridley	Sarah Stewart
David Miller	Kate Baker	Savaad Felich
Deanne Eccles	Kate Taylor	Serafina Munns
Denise Smith	Kathleen Abrahall	Sharmain Lowe
Di King	Kerryl Shirley	Shlomit Moria
Elizabeth Haigh	Khoi Bui	Steve Freestone
Ernst Fries	Lachlan Scully	Susanne Richards
Faerie Sarah Kilgariff	Laura Windmill	Szara Fox
Felicity Priest	Libby Fordham	Tania Chanter
Gabriele Pelling	Lindy Schneider	Ted Secombe
Genevieve McLean	Lucy Hawkins	Wayne Rankin
Gerd Bachmann	Lynn Baxter	Wilani van Wyk-Smit
Graeme Hardidge	Lynne McDowell	Zora Verona

## Youth Artists

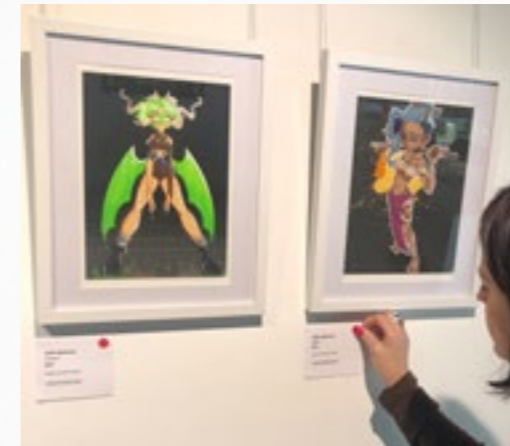
We were particularly pleased to attract such high quality work from our young artists in our "Now & Then" exhibition.

We didn't stipulate that our youth artists become members. However, the 2 People's Choice winners received a membership as a prize, and have now joined our stable of Artist members.

Ben Guerrine  
Bonnie Dillon  
Christian de  
Oliveira  
Eboni Rowe  
Ella Tampiyappa

Emma Payne  
Fern Stow  
Kelly Wallace  
Kezia Truman  
Lachlan Scully  
Louis Jenkin

Madeleine Cain  
Mia Pensa  
Poppy Faul  
Zali King



# Committee Reports

## Community Engagement Committee

This year the focus of the Community Engagement Committee has been refined to focus on stakeholder engagement and how we work with members to increase engagement. After being established early last year the committee members have continued to reflect on the strategic plan priorities along with additional initiatives to increase engagement with members and ensure everyone feels they have a meaningful connection to the organisation. We have had several events this year to provide more opportunities to come together and this will be a continued focus this coming year.

A recent workshop with staff and board members mapped the stakeholders and their potential relationship with YAVA and how we might work together to increase the profile and success of YAVA as well as support us in our growth. This planning is being finalised and relationships owners will be allocated to ensure we progress these discussions. We continue to focus on increasing business to business relationships across the Yarra Valley and Healesville. Our key goal remains – we must increase awareness, referral and engagement with YAVA amongst other businesses and destinations along with enhancing visitor experience to our region. Promoting art as an essential part of our community continues to be central to our community engagement approach.

Thanks to our committee members – Suzanne Halliday, Serafina Munns, Wilani van Wyk-Smit and Sarah Stewart for their work on the committee this last year - we look forward to continuing to engage with members more in the coming year as we collectively grow YAVA's reputation and presence in our region and beyond.

*Helen Wood*

## Revenue and Sustainability Committee

The Revenue and Sustainability Committee was established in 2022 to identify and complete the work required to further the strategic objectives of YAVA. The Board needs to develop a sustainability framework for YVA/ YAVA that will deliver financial security for the future.

We are appreciative of the financial support provided by the Margaret Lawrence Bequest, the Shire of Yarra Ranges and most recently, the Victorian Government via Creative Victoria. However, we have a difficult situation to face in the future unless we receive stronger philanthropic and Government support as it is unlikely that YAVA will be able to function post December 2024 unless secured funds are forthcoming.

Thanks to committee members Ted Secombe, Denise Stevens, and John Callahan, for their engagement to date. However, due to other commitments this committee did not meet as frequently as expected. Future activity needs to consider the development of a sturdy financial framework and opportunities for other grants and funds.

*Denise Stevens*

# Committee Reports

## Curatorial Committee

The Curatorial Committee, Wilani van Wyk-Smit, David Miller, Ted Secombe and Ari Smith working with Vanessa Flynn and Reggie Clark meets fortnightly to plan and implement the gallery exhibition programme for the next twelve months. A programme that creates exhibition opportunities for YAVA members and offers visitors to the gallery a rich, stimulating showcase of local art. The programme consists of solo and group shows interspersed with exhibitions of invited, acclaimed artists from beyond our membership. We are very conscious of the need to keep this balance right.

In addition to curating the YAVA Gallery, committee members are responsible for curating the Out and About programmes in Steels Gate, Tokar Estate and De Bortoli Winery and Yarra Ranges Council.

A curator is allocated for each exhibition, they make curatorial decisions such as the exhibition title and layout of the art in the gallery. We have plans to invite guest curators for future exhibitions.

During the year Savaad Felich resigned from the Curatorial Committee. We thank Savaad for all the wonderful work he has done and for his wise leadership over the past years. We will miss his experience and knowledge, but his legacy lives on, not only in the way YAVA presents the art of its members but in the Yering Station Sculpture Awards which he was instrumental in establishing and nurturing.

We are pleased to have welcomed Ted Secombe to the committee and his contribution has been significant.

*David Miller*





# Workshop Program

YAVA works with artists and community to deliver an interesting and engaging workshops program for both artists and enthusiasts.

Many thanks to Elizabeth Nyssen for her continued support in coordinating this program.

## Workshops

Our workshop program ably co-ordinated by Elizabeth Nyssen has continued to attract significant interest and brings new visitors to YAVA and to Healesville. The workshops cover diverse topics such as *Landscape*, *Abstract painting*, *Gelli printing*, *Japanese ink art*, *Mindful stitching*, *Weaving with natural materials*, *Mixed media*, *Pastel painting* to name just a few.

In the past year we have offered almost 40 workshops at various skill levels through the online platform *We Teach Me*. Reviews and ratings of the workshops are consistently 5 star with very positive reviews.

Last years total income from workshops was \$24,664.50 with 206 attendees, some attending multiple times. Elizabeth has planned workshops until Christmas, with a Summer School intensive planned for 1 week. We intend to co-host this with Yarra Ranges Council in order to provide a bigger space and better promotional support. In her time delivering these workshops, Elizabeth achieved \$100,481.15 of sales, (minus refunds during covid of \$17,242) with 718 attendees discovering or engaging with YAVA. She is now bowing out of this duty for some well earned "me time"

We are now looking to continue the workshop program and looking for assistance to do so. This is a great opportunity for someone wanting to apply their skills, get back into the workforce, or help to enrich their community. One of the bigger challenges, as with most of our activity is promoting and marketing. The workshops offer lots of potential for YAVA and are a great way for people to begin or deepen their artistic journey.



# Our Volunteers

**Thank you to all our volunteers!**

Our volunteers are the lifeblood and beating heart of Yarra Valley Arts. It is impossible to acknowledge them all personally, but I would particularly like to thank those volunteers who are on our Board, and sub committees, gallery guides who volunteer on a regular basis to provide a first point of contact in our gallery, distribute postcards and fliers, who make phone calls, help with promoting and supporting events, co-ordinate our workshops and a multitude of other tasks. Our Board member Suzanne Halliday has been invaluable sourcing wine sponsors and following through with details.

Volunteering is a way to utilise skills and enthusiasm, and stay connected to your community.

Many thanks to Serafina Munns for her professionalism in her role as volunteer co-ordinator.



# Open Studios

Occurring in October this year, Open Studios is proud to feature 36 Artists over 29 studios. Running since 2017 with a hiatus during the covid lockdown period, this event is much anticipated by both locals and visitors to the region. Having shifted back to its original date, there are not the details to include in this report. However the gallery exhibition of Open Studios gives a snapshot of what will be on offer, with many new and exciting artists to add variety and interest.

The event will run October 21 & 22 for Yarra Valley Studios, and November 4 & 5 for Upper Yarra Valley Studios

An addition this year is the inclusion of Artist led small group bus tours over both weekends, allowing visitors a unique and stress free way of enjoying the event.



# Yering Station Sculpture Awards

For more than twenty years Yarra Valley Arts has partnered with Yering Station to hold the Yarra Valley Arts | Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards, with entrants selected and awarded by a panel of respected arts-industry judges.

Highly regarded for its consistency and longevity, the exhibition showcases a cross section of new Australian sculpture from both emerging and established artists. Having grown steadily since 2001, it is now the longest running annual sculpture exhibition in Victoria and an iconic event on the Australian arts calendar.

The substantial awards recognise the beauty and diversity of form through the indoor and outdoor divisions.

This year the exhibition will run from 22 October to 3 December and will host the sculptural artworks of over 50 artists (14 of these artists reside in the Yarra Valley and Ranges).

The Interior Sculpture exhibition is run concurrently at YAVA Gallery with selected works from both Yering Station entrants as well as other YAVA members.



# Treasurer's Report

## For the 2023 financial year of YAVA

YAVA received the following financial support for the year:

1. Margaret Lawrence Bequest \$114,999
2. Yarra Ranges Council \$ 30,000
3. Membership Fees. \$ 18,945
4. Commission on Art sales form YAVA exhibitions. \$ 22,173
5. YAVA retail sales \$ 7,058
6. YAVA workshop income \$ 20,774

The operating profit for the year was a deficit of \$76,179.

YAVA would like to thank the following people:

- a. The Margaret Lawrence bequest is our biggest contributor to operating income and we would like to thank the trustees of the Margaret Lawrence bequest for their ongoing generosity.
- b. Yarra Ranges Council for their continued, on going support
- c. Community supporters and sponsors for their financial support. Local wineries make a significant contribution.
- d. YAVA is fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who continue to make significant "in kind" donations to the organisation.

Now, the breakdown.

Let me say, to begin with, that this report will highlight issues that threaten the future of YAVA, as it currently operates.

For the past two years we have have had significant losses on our operational budget.

As you can see from the attached accounts, for this financial year we have had a loss of \$76,179.

The flow on from this is a hit to our bank accounts, which you will note on our balance sheet (Opening amount on the balance sheet was \$253,535. Closing balance was \$175,504).

For the new financial year which commenced at the start of October, we have a budget with a projected loss of around \$65,000.

There are some significant changes to our income and expenditure accounts that will impact YAVA's future viability. On the expense side our rent and outgoings have gone up, as has our staffing costs. These reflect the current state of our national economy. On the income side the Margaret Lawrence bequest has gone from \$120,000 (three years ago) to \$90,000 this financial year. Basically, costs are going up and income is coming down.

In summary, YAVA has sufficient funds to operate for the current financial year but a serious review of our operating model will need to be the main focus for the incoming board.

*John Callahan*  
YAVA TREASURER

## Profit and Loss

### YARRA VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL INCORPORATED For the year ended 30 September 2023

	2023
<b>Trading Income</b>	
Auspecting Services Commission	800.00
Commission - Art Sales from EXHIBITIONS at YAVA	22,173.26
Commission - Art Sales from EXHIBITIONS Externally	3,177.27
Commission - Art Sales OUTSIDE current Exhibition	962.91
Commission - Retail Sales (from items on Consignment at YAVA)	7,057.87
Donations	2,154.62
Entry Fees, Artist Exhibition Fees, Competition Fees	3,263.61
Events income	2,558.63
Gift - Philanthropic - The Margaret Lawrence Bequest	114,999.00
Grants - Local Council	30,000.00
Grants - Partnership Funding with YRC, specified for Yering Sculpture Award	12,210.00
Interest Income	581.94
Membership fees	18,913.47
Open Studios Other Income	1,513.63
Retail Book Sales (YAVA prepurchased)	219.11
Space Hire	508.45
Square Shipping/Delivery Fees	431.56
Workshop Income	20,773.74
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>242,299.07</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>242,299.07</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Administration	1.49
Advertising & Promotion	1,091.11
Bank Fees	45.43
Communications	2,572.26
Consulting & Professional	30,904.99
Employee Expense -Superannuation	16,043.64
Employment Expense Wages and Salaries	150,890.80
Entertainment	303.86
Event Expenses	693.62
Fees - Stripe / WTM / Paypal / Square	2,974.52
Freight & Courier	407.79
Function & Exhibition Install and Expenses	8,941.68
General Expenses	1,768.59
Grant - YRC Yering Station Expenses	12,210.00
Insurance	1,894.44
Office Expenses	569.38
Permits & Fees	304.11
Prizes	200.00

	2023
Project Expenses - Open Studios	6,391.68
Project Expenses (not Open Studios)	4,674.30
Rent	44,784.40
Rental Outgoings	5,059.47
Subscriptions & Memberships	4,128.75
Telephone & Internet	1,086.02
Utilities - Light, Power, Heating, Water	3,203.36
Workcover Insurance	1,784.80
Workshop Expenses	15,548.05
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>318,478.54</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(76,179.47)</b>

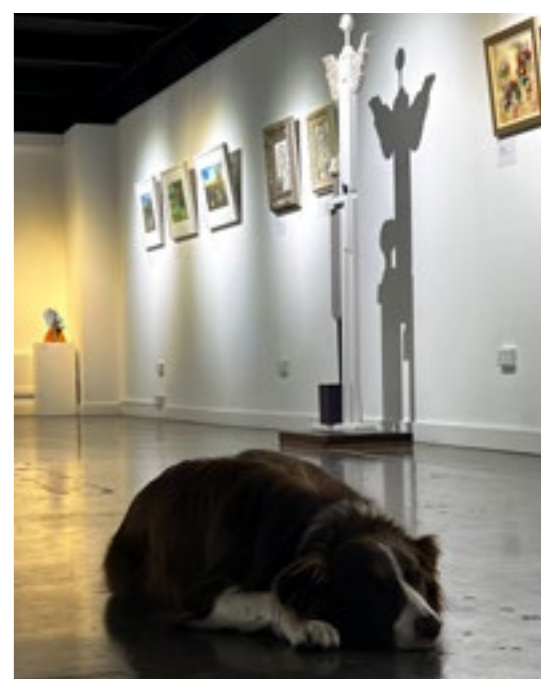
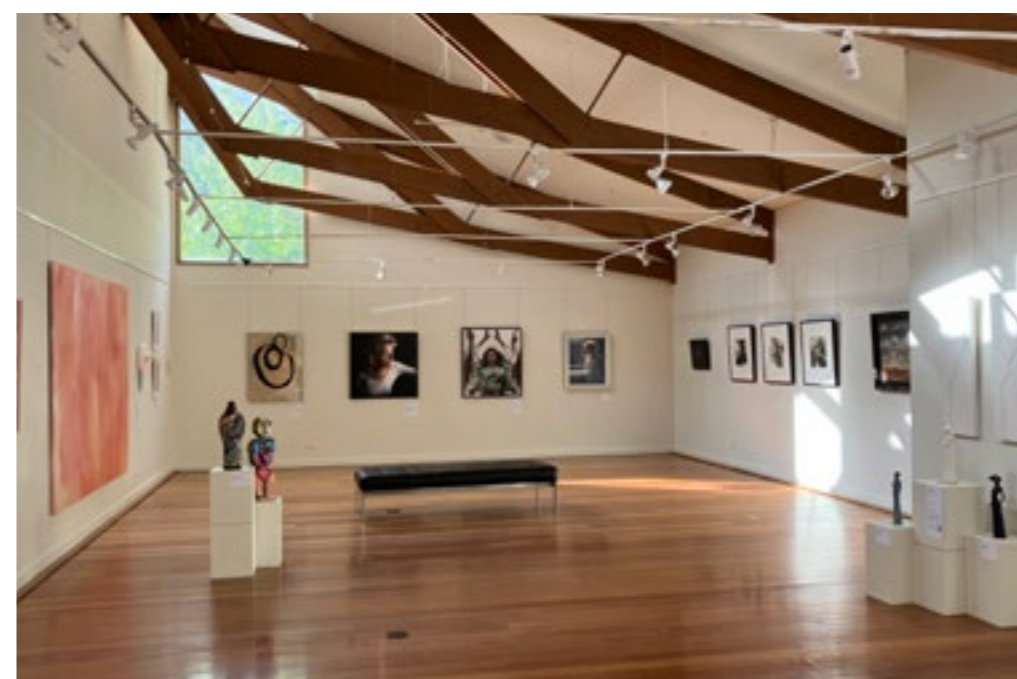
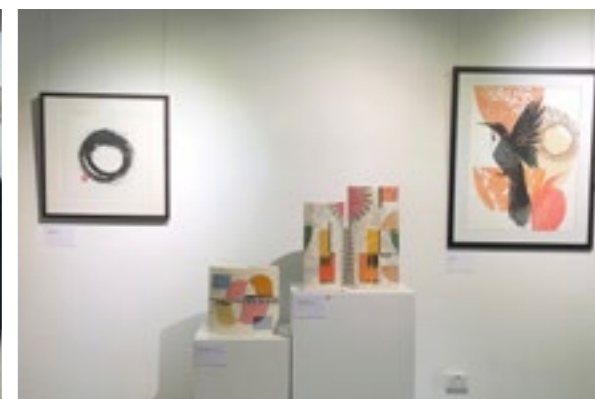
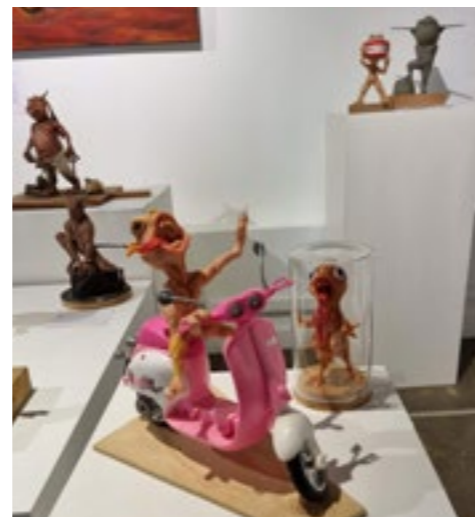
# Balance Sheet

## YARRA VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL INCORPORATED

As at 30 September 2023

	30 SEP 2023	30 SEP 2022
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
PayPal Giving Fund	948.54	-
Stripe AUD	122.44	0.24
YAVA - Transaction Account	1,436.31	12,175.69
YAVA - We Teach Me	5,988.63	7,217.15
YV Arts - Term Deposit Account	10,494.90	10,449.38
YV Arts - Transaction Account	13,371.21	4,413.41
YV Arts Gift Fund	161,720.26	256,706.08
YV Arts Gift Fund Term Deposit	101,722.94	71,207.50
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>295,805.23</b>	<b>362,169.45</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	190.00	99.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>190.00</b>	<b>99.00</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Computer Equipment	5,857.27	4,858.18
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Computer Equipment	(3,893.03)	(2,039.87)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>1,964.24</b>	<b>2,818.31</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>297,959.47</b>	<b>365,086.76</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	-	330.00
CLEARING Account - Art Sales	8,492.84	10,905.27
CLEARING Account - Auspicing	9,544.79	9,224.26
CLEARING Account - Yering Station Sculpture	18,763.95	3,015.24
GST	89.33	(3,687.08)
PAYG Withholdings Payable	6,012.00	1,764.00
Rounding	0.04	-
Square Gift Card	150.00	-
Superannuation Payable	4,401.59	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>47,454.54</b>	<b>21,551.69</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>		
INCOME IN ADVANCE	75,001.00	90,000.00
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>75,001.00</b>	<b>90,000.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>122,455.54</b>	<b>111,551.69</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>175,503.93</b>	<b>253,535.07</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	(78,031.14)	(146,577.82)

	30 SEP 2023	30 SEP 2022
Other Reserves	48,702.60	48,702.60
Retained Earnings	204,832.47	351,410.29
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>175,503.93</b>	<b>253,535.07</b>





**YAVA**

Gallery & Arts Hub

252 - 254A Maroondah Highway, Healesville  
[www.yava.org.au](http://www.yava.org.au)