



BIG *h* ART

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

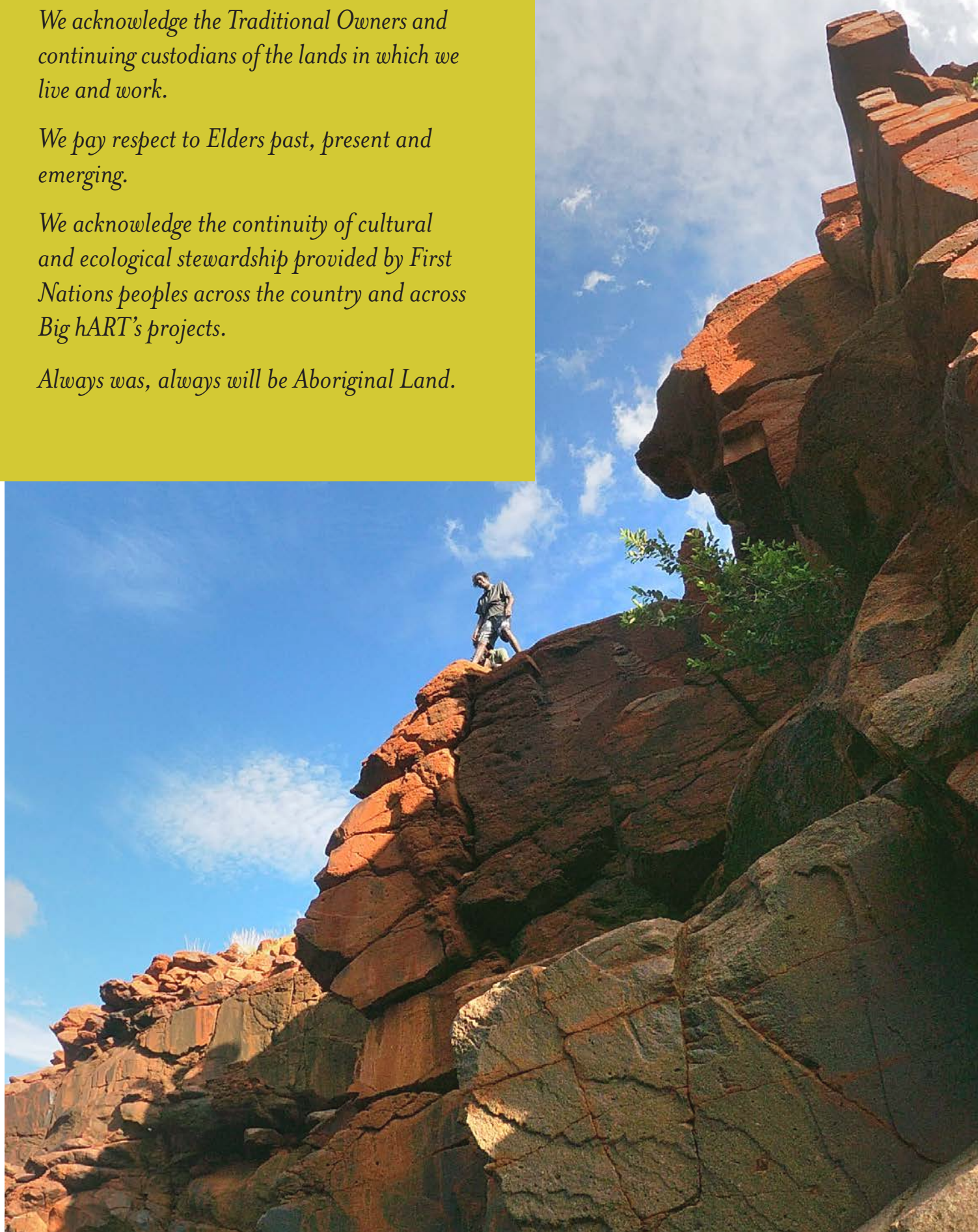
We **make** art.
We **build** community.
We **drive** change.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and continuing custodians of the lands in which we live and work.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the continuity of cultural and ecological stewardship provided by First Nations peoples across the country and across Big hART's projects.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land.



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“I wanted to be part of it, to give me ties to the family and to reconnect, because I had been Stolen Generation. To find my roots is so significant.”

LOIS OLNEY
SONGS FOR FREEDOM

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From the Chair



2020 – 2021 - what a year! It has been an amazing year of growth, engagement and delivery despite the enormous difficulties and constraints imposed due to COVID-19. Big hART has continued its remarkable work to make a difference - to individuals, families, and communities.

BIG hART's work illuminates untold stories, bringing them to the mainstream to generate better understanding, leading to a better and fairer world. Hearing these stories makes it harder to hurt someone - on an individual, community, and policy level. BIG hART's work is always best practice and works towards generational change.

The COVID-19 pandemic and border shutdowns placed numerous restrictions on how Big hART undertakes its work. Staff were unable to travel interstate for much of the year, which resulted a very challenging work environment with much communication by Zoom. Despite this, Big hART has had one of the most productive, successful and engaging years ever.

There are now 22 full time and seven part time staff, with 162 artists and arts workers engaged for events. We are proud of our staff diversity with 59% women, 27% Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people (ATSI), 9% culturally and linguistically diverse, 10% young people and 42% from rural and remote areas. There were 867 workshops delivered, an increase of 382 from last year, and in fact it was the most workshops delivered in the last 4 years. Big hART engaged 1772

participants which was an increase of 1,092, including 328 ATSI. There have been 47 events across seven states and territories, with an audience of 10,837, an increase of 3890. The media reach has expanded with 316 media stories captured.

When this year we were filled with COVID-19 stories, and fear in the community, it is a truly amazing result to have such a plethora of good new stories, great events for disadvantaged communities, engagement with individuals and local communities which supports them in finding their solutions for cultural, attitudinal change and creating new pathways forward.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our CEO Scott Rankin, Associate Creative Director Genevieve Dugard, and all the Big hART staff who've worked tirelessly with outstanding commitment, dedication, and integrity in all our communities and projects. They are an amazing group of talented committed people who without them this amazing successful year would not have happened - thank you!! I would also like to thank the Elders of the Indigenous communities where we work for their leadership and cultural safety assistance.

I would like to thank Wendy Page and Michelle Adams, who have stepped down from the board. They have both made an enormous contribution to Big hART over many years and their wisdom and input has been greatly appreciated. Lastly, I thank my fellow board members for their support, guidance, and generosity.

I look forward to working with you all in 2022.

BARBARA BAIKIE
CHAIR
BIG hART

From the CEO



The past year has had its challenges - in some parts of the country Big hART's work has been thriving, in others, teams have been locked down and holding feelings of languishing at bay, with more to come. And yet, in the midst of these difficulties there has been remarkable growth and creativity, ingenuity

and such great new work. Some of this creative output found its way through COVID-19 restrictions with online launches, and as Spring and Summer came, we were able to deliver in person in lutruwita/Tasmania and WA.

Tunes in the Tulips was our first event out of lockdown, followed on by Zinc which delivered a remarkable sold out work for Mona Foma in both nipaluna/Hobart and Launceston, which is now likely to tour internationally. Acoustic Life of Boatsheds also caught the imagination of the public in Launceston at Mona Foma and sold out, looking set to tour nationally. Following in quick succession, Songs for Freedom was a big powerful hit in the City of Melville on Whadjuk Boodja, as the public embraced this new work from Ieramugadu (Roebourne) in an open air concert.

However, these analogue, live presentations represent the tip of the iceberg. In NSW and VIC during lockdowns so much good work was produced with deep courage by dedicated artists and producers across our company. From Project O's Radio Diaries airing on ABC Radio; Kelp Pollen Rain Soil beginning in TAS; Banthanguru-bura and Punkaliyarra starting in WA; in VIC, Project O was presented in the House of Reps Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence; Connecting Lines was launched in Frankston VIC; NEO-Learning reached its first 1,000 school children; we secured a Digital Lab space in Ieramugadu (Roebourne) for young people, Project O

held a Roundtable with Rosie Batty in TAS. The list of influential outputs goes on.

I particularly want to thank the staff in Naarm/Melbourne and Eora/Sydney who have had so much to deal with, and as of the middle of 2021, the light at the end of the tunnel is still a distant glimmer. There is no certainty for other Big hART centres around the country. What is certain however, is that Big hART will remain collegiate and supportive of each other across the company.

Even amongst these uncertainties, we've managed to employ and support 162 artists and arts-workers this year, standing with them rather than closing down. We have followed through on our commitment to not retract or retreat, and to keep employing staff, even with some calculated risk. This has seen us increasing to 29 full and part time staff, with strong creative productivity, for which I am so grateful and full of admiration.

In terms of Big hART's purpose, we have not been diverted from working to drive positive change to issues such as poverty, education, inclusion, digital justice, and there are many positives: Project O TAS alumni entering higher education; through NEO-Learning sharing Roebourne's living culture; Elders speaking in national media about solutions for Indigenous incarceration; a young woman in foster care shares their story directly to the Minister concerned, and on national radio; young men living with autism perform in nationally acclaimed arts festival, and more. Big hART's impact during COVID has increased rather than diminished, and for this I thank the staff in the field, who run the workshops, and make the art.

I'd also like to thank the board, and importantly the national staff who do an enormous amount of extra work and deal with additional stress on a daily basis, and without whom, my service role would be impossible.

The reader can find project statistics elsewhere in this report, however, just to give a sense of the year, here is a snapshot: 867 workshops generated 47 arts events, with audiences of 10,837 during COVID is a remarkable achievement. So a big thankyou to our 29 staff, and 162 artists and arts-workers who've helped. It is humbling to be part of.

SCOTT RANKIN
CEO & CREATIVE DIRECTOR
BIG hART

1772

PARTICIPANTS



Facts & figures



10,837

AUDIENCE



47

EVENTS



7

STATES & TERRITORIES



29

TRAINEES



1557

YOUNG PEOPLE
ENGAGED
AUSTRALIA WIDE



23,311

SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS



867

WORKSHOPS



70

PRISON
INMATES
ENGAGED



316

MEDIA
STORIES



104

ARTISTS



328

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER PARTICIPANTS



6

CONFERENCES



5

DISADVANTAGED
COMMUNITIES



“Zinc opened doors for the young women of Project O, getting a first-hand look at STEM career paths.”

ABC ONLINE

About Big hART

Big hART is Australia’s leading arts and social change organisation, telling Australia’s most invisible stories, and creating social impact through art.

Founded in the north west of lutruwita/Tasmania 29 years ago, Big hART has worked with over 55 communities in regional, remote and urban Australia to great acclaim, winning over 45 awards. Big hART makes art, builds community and drives change, exposing injustice through powerful campaigns.

Big hART’s Work

It’s harder to hurt someone if you know their story.

Big hART’s work exists to restore justice and disadvantage through innovative transformational projects.

Big hART uses film, theatre, documentary, events, music, podcasts, apps, digital media, augmented and virtual reality to tell powerful stories which ensure that the voice of the powerless influence decision makers.

No issue is too hard. Big hART’s projects have highlighted issues of homelessness, addiction, slavery at sea, domestic violence, inequality and the intergenerational injustice faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Big hART supports First Nations communities to tell their own stories, enables young women to be change-makers in family violence hotspots, backs young people to create a new future for their planet, and works with isolated communities and prisons, delivering exceptional community driven solutions which are proven, evidence based and innovative.



“Changing culture.”

THE MERCURY

Year at a glance

"Big hART revels in staging performances in unusual places."

ABC ONLINE

2020

JUL

- Project O work on Paper on Skin, TAS
- Project O present at Audiocraft Festival

AUG

- Big hART celebrates 10 years in Roebourne
- New Roebourne website launched

SEP

- Songs for Peace, Roebourne WA
- Kelp Pollen Rain Soil initiative begins, TAS
- Banthanguru-bura program begins, WA
- Punkaliyarra begins, WA
- Sounds Around Town, Smithton TAS

OCT

- Tunes in the Tulips, TAS
- All of Us documentary announced
- Zinc begins development, TAS
- Future Tasmania Zine published with CCYP
- Project O Present to House of Reps Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence

NOV

- Zinc creative development at Nyrstar
- NAIDOC Week concert, WA
- Roebourne School Book of photographs published
- Kelp workshops Smithton & Wynyard, TAS

DEC

- Connecting Lines launched, Frankston VIC
- Digi Jam, Roebourne WA
- NEO-Learning reaches 1,000 school children

2021

JAN

- Acoustic Life of Boatsheds premieres, Mona Foma, Launceston
- Zinc premieres, Mona Foma, Hobart & Launceston

FEB

- Positive Futures begins, TAS
- Big hART begins working in Sheffield, TAS
- Project O Frankston MC Louisa Dunkley Oration with Julia Gillard
- Big hART Online Shop launches

MAR

- Songs for Freedom premieres, Perth
- Project O's Radio Diaries air on ABC Radio
- Project O Zine launched on International Women's Day
- Do Something About It commences, University of Tasmania

MAY

- Project O Roundtable with Rosie Batty
- Project O host panel of Tasmanian Australians of the Year
- Positive Futures presentation Smithton, TAS
- Red Dirt Riders Beatmaking Workshops, Roebourne
- Warramurrungkas: The Story of the Flying Fox, Museum of Western Australia

JUN

- Our Ngurra Exhibition, Cossack WA
- Positive Futures presentation Wynyard, TAS
- When Water Falls Premieres, Sheffield TAS



Our Projects

“Big hART’s truth grows from a refusal to lower its expectations — of itself, of the art it creates, of its audiences and, always, of the people it invites to make art together.”

FRANÇOIS MATARASSO
WRITER/RESEARCHER
UK



'BURIYAMANGGA' BY KARELLA WALKER

"I love this photo because it is of my brothers and sisters: Kimberly, Selleck and Nickalayia. The photo was taken at Buriyamangga (Red Rock). We had just eaten damper and kangaroo stew and were fishing and feeling very happy. I remember sitting on the red rocks, having fun and learning on country. Makes me feel good."

NEW ROEBOURNE

NGARLUMA COUNTRY

“Freedom takes centre stage.”

THE KOORI MAIL

Big hART acknowledges the support and guidance of Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi, Banjima, Marduthunera, Guruma, Niyiyaparli, Kariyarra and other Pilbara Elders past, present and future.

Big hART was first invited to Ieramugadu (Roebourne), the land of the Ngarluma people, by senior women Elders in 2010. With the guidance of Elders, cultural advisors and members of the community Big hART's work in Ieramugadu (Roebourne) is focused on building community strengths, developing skills and capacity and driving long-term change.

Initiatives support increasing digital inclusion, connection to culture, engagement in education, and strengthening the inclusion of women with a view to promoting generational change. Working with all language groups of the Pilbara, Big hART's methodology is practical, non-welfare and task-focused and aims to strengthen skills in the community, across age groups. Big hART's work aims to support intergenerational cultural practices, keep young people safe, and foster pride and respect.

The 2020-2021 New Roebourne program supported the community in their objectives to be future focused and build on what is strong. Steered by Aimee Kepa, Patrick Wundke and Andy Clarke who live and work in Ieramugadu (Roebourne), the program aims to fulfil the following outcomes:

01 | EDUCATION AND PATHWAYS

- Increasing digital inclusion and essential new skills
- Increasing educational engagement
- Expanding vocational pathways

02 | SAFETY & WELLBEING

- Building confidence and agency
- Developing leadership
- Speaking up for equality

03 | INTERGENERATIONAL APPROACH

- Connecting to Elders
- Connecting to Country
- Engaging families





'BOSS MAN' BY TRE WALLY, NEW ROEBOURNE PARTICIPANT

“Students get voices heard.”

THE PILBARA NEWS

Big hART worked with 317 participants across all language groups, delivered 186 workshops, and produced 24 events which attracted 6,000 audience members.

Young people continue to be a strong focus of the program in this period, and Big hART engaged with 152 young participants, supporting them to build personal agency, resilience and wellbeing. Young people were supported to develop their leadership skills and presented at forums which involved the Governor-General of Australia, the Attorney-General of Western Australia, local councils, philanthropists, corporate leaders, Children’s Commissioners and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

Big hART is committed to working with all members of the community, supporting intergenerational learning and inclusion. The important relationship with Elders from the Yaandina Aged Care Centre continued, as did the 10 year songwriting and music program at the Roebourne Regional Prison which reached over 70 participants in this period.

Big hART’s work supports the importance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to learn on country, and this year saw 51 workshops delivered offsite in significant cultural places.

Big hART works with the community to create a new story for Ieramugadu (Roebourne), changing public perceptions and using media to create social impact. In the 2020-2021 financial year there were 120 media stories, which equates to two positive stories in the media every week. Positive stories about Ieramugadu reached over 500,000 people online and via social media.



“We need to have more meaningful conversations. Overturning stereotypes, sharing diverse and rich history and story. Let’s talk about the nurturing of Aboriginal women. Let’s talk about the nurturing role of grandparents. Let’s talk about strength.”

MICHELLE ADAMS
YINDJIBARNDI CULTURAL LEADER
ABC RADIO

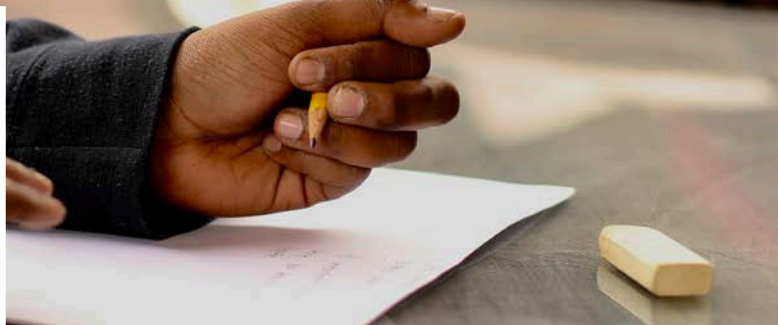
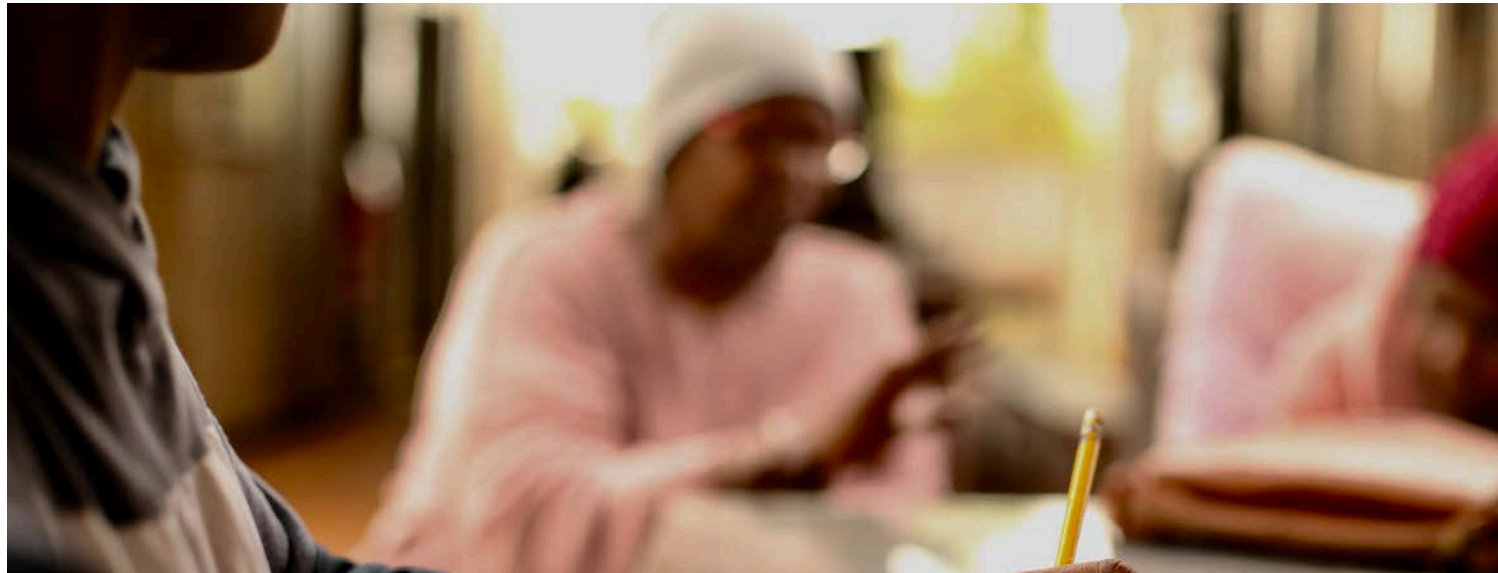
Punkaliyarra

Punkaliyarra is an intergenerational cultural transmission project where young women work alongside senior women Elders, female artists and mentors to build new skills as the next generation of storytellers and leaders in the community.

This project has been developed and delivered in partnership with emerging Yindjibarndi Elder and community leader Michelle Adams. Punkaliyarra follows a direct request from Michelle to deliver opportunities for young women to connect to country and in doing so, increase safety, engagement in education, employment, leadership and justice diversion.

102 women have been involved in Punkaliyarra so far, this includes 78 young women who participated in the workshop program and 15 senior women involved in on country trips and program planning.





CASE STUDY:

Millstream Camp

In May 2021 eight young women accompanied eight of their senior women Elders on a 3 day camp at Millstream National Park.

Mrs Berry Malcolm, a very senior Yindjibarndi Elder came on the trip, marking the first time she had been able to travel to Millstream in a number of years. Over the course of the three days, the young women were taken to different sites by the Elders who shared important stories. Importantly, Nanna Berry Malcolm, one of the few remaining female tjaabi singers (important cultural songs that relate to country and are passed down through generations) shared some of these songs on country. Under the guidance of their Elders, the young women collected different ochres and rock pigmentations that are used in lore ceremony and learnt how to make different animal tracks.

Following this trip, Michelle Adams has been documenting the tjaabis recorded from Nanna Berry, and with her permission, has been exploring with both the young women and artist mentors how these critical songs might be layered into animation and digital art to be shared with the community.



'TEACHING FROM THE LAND' BY KIMBERLY WILSON
NEW ROEBOURNE PARTICIPANT

“My photo is of Grandmother teaching granddaughter how to fish. The best school with the best teacher, learning out in the bush.”



“It’s important for kids to go on country with their old people, so we can learn. We learn about our language. I feel strong when I’m with my family. I feel strong when I’m on Country.”

KARELLA
NEW ROEBOURNE PARTICIPANT

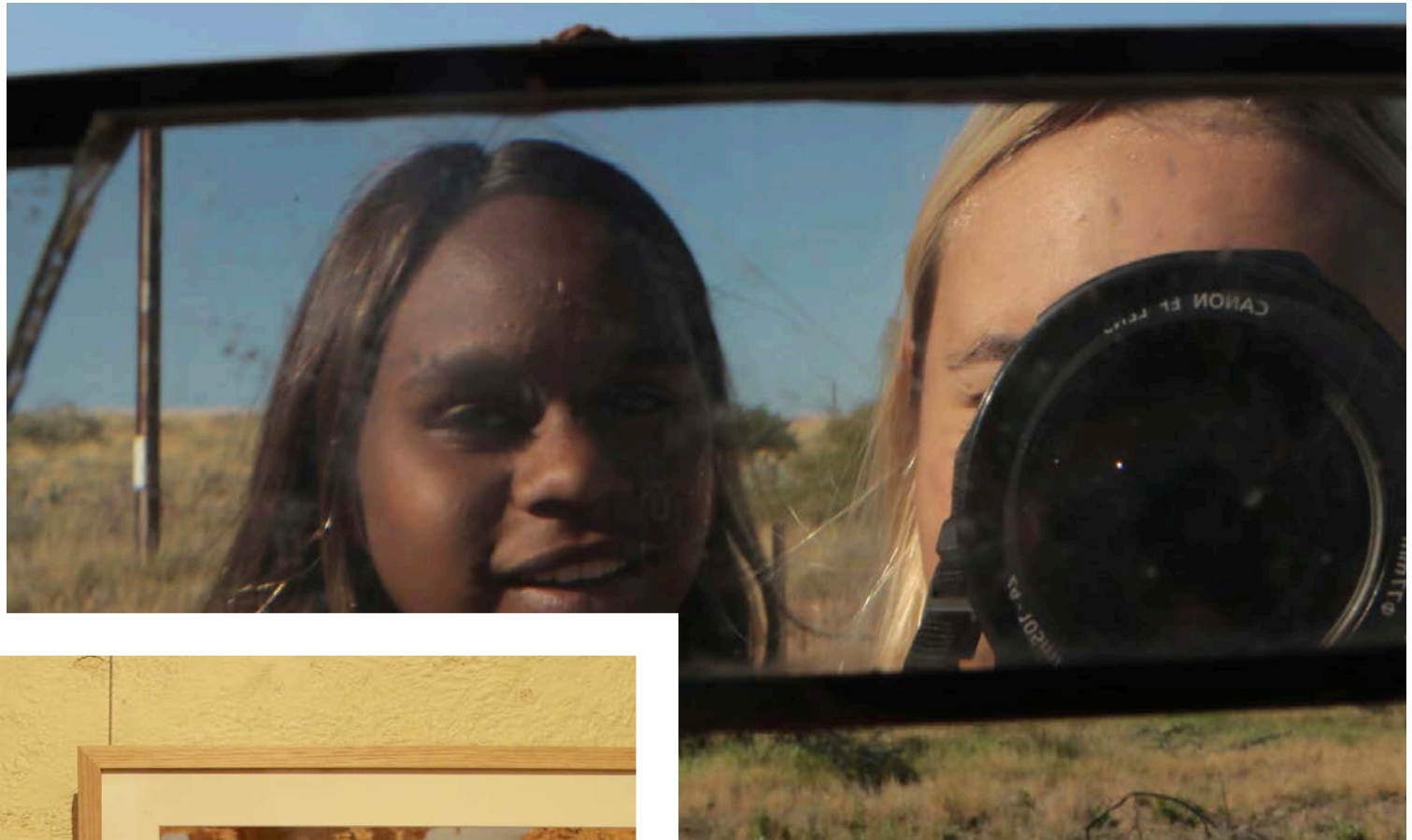
Banthunguru-bura: The Next Generation

Banthunguru-bura is a new program introduced over the last 12 months, delivered in partnership with Ngarluma/Yindjibarndi leader and established cultural tour operator Clinton Walker.

Utilising Big hART’s strong relationships and engagement with high school aged young people, the team worked with Clinton to design and deliver a collaborative program that provided learning and career pathway opportunities through intergenerational on country trips, complimenting Big hART’s digital workshop program.

Through Banthunguru-bura, young people were able to develop new knowledge around Aboriginal ecology and sustainability practices, visiting important sites on Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi country. In doing so, participants were introduced to alternative career pathways such as cultural tourism, natural resource management, caring for country and ranger programs working with mentors from Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, National Parks and Wildlife and the City of Karratha.

One of the stand-out trips was to Delambre Island as part of a turtle monitoring activity with Parks and Wildlife. Participants actively took part in the monitoring, working with researchers to hold the turtles, take and record measurements and other observational data, which was a significant feat for some participants who struggle with low literacy and numeracy skills.



Our Ngurra (Our Land)

Central to Banthunguru-bura was finding ways to support young people build confidence and leadership.

Whilst many found public speaking a new challenge, through integrating photography, film, audio and digital drawing into the on country trips, young people engaged in learning moments and the project provided alternative ways for them to share their voices.

Participants decided to present an exhibition of their work to the community, titled 'Our Ngurra' ('Our Land' or 'Our Country'). In addition to selecting images, young people were involved in all aspects of the event – from planning and organising to catering, installation, invitations and speeches on the night for friends and family. The exhibition, opened by senior Ngarluma Elder Mr Tim Douglas, attracted a number of family and community members.

Over 70 people attended the opening, with photographic work from 13 young people displayed. Two of the young artists have received further professional development opportunities. Chenise, a young Wongkatha woman from Ieramugadu (Roebourne) had her work selected for the prestigious Revealed Exhibition hosted by Fremantle Arts Centre and published on the NAVA website, and 15 year old Yindjibarndi student Tre Wally had a photograph published on Westpac's social media platforms for NAIDOC Week.



'YURNURNGGA' BY ELLA TOGO, NEW ROEBOURNE PARTICIPANT

“Yurnungga means beautiful in Yindjibarndi. Beautiful wildflowers like these purple fluffy mulla mulla appear during winter in the Pilbara. I am very proud of this photo. I like to take pictures because of the happy feelings it gives me when I look back on them. Taking pictures of nature is important. I want to keep taking pictures of country including plants and animals to share how beautiful and special these things are. I hope that sharing pictures of country will encourage people to respect these places.”



Warramurrungkas: The Story of the Flying Fox



Image: Jordan East

In June 2020, Big hART was approached by the Museum of Western Australia / Bola Bardip and Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) to create an animation on Warramurrungkas, the story of the Flying Fox.

The animation was part of a body of new content being created for Bola Bardip and the new Museum build that featured important landscapes in Western Australia, such as Murujuga.

As part of this process, Big hART worked with MAC and the Museum to develop the animation. Drawing on Big hART's strong relationships within the community and using Big hART's Digital Lab in Ieramugadu (Roebourne)

as a focal point to explore different content ideas, the narrative of the story was further developed in consultation with important elders.

Digital artist Jordan East was engaged to support the visual content for the animation, employing particle based animation approaches to explore the story. This featured the dramatic movement of the Warramurrungkas coming up out of the sea, the angular rock surfaces of Murujuga, the mystery of the spirit being, the movement of the time 'when the world was soft' and the traversing of the vast landscape from the sea to Millstream in the air. Working alongside Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi leader and performer Patrick Churnside as narrator, the animation incorporated culturally safe archival audio footage of the story.

With the Circle of Elders providing final sign off on the animation, Warramurrungkas, The Story of the Flying Fox is now part of the permanent "Origins" exhibition at Bola Bardip.



“Everyone knows that to feel better when they’re hurting is to talk about it. We need to write our emotions down and express it...The song I wrote for John Pat, it’s written in the wind forever. That’s what songs are about, they carry on our culture.”

ANGUS SMITH
SENIOR BANJIMA MAN

Songs for Peace

Songs for Peace is an intergenerational, intercultural program focusing on building social harmony, peace, pride and resilience in Ieramugadu (Roebourne).

Held around the International Day of Peace, this mini festival begins with a program of workshops with young people, local artists, community members, prison inmates and leading Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists. Music and songwriting workshops are conducted in town, on country and in the prison, and these culminate in a sublime concert under the stars celebrating the music, songs and stories of Ieramugadu.

With COVID-19 and border restrictions in place, Big hART decided to shine a light on Western Australia’s vast artistic talent, and also offer the concert as an in-person and live streamed event, which was possible through the support of local partner Ngaarda Media.





“I came back because my experience last year with Songs for Peace was incredible. They are incredible writers, the stories and the use of language is so beautiful. I was really taken by the generosity and the strength of the people here.”

NAOMI PIGRAM
ARTIST
SONGS FOR PEACE

Highlights of the evening included Ngarluma jazz artist and Stolen Generation survivor Lois Olney in her first performance on her mother's country; Vikki Thorn (The Waifs) presenting a new song about wildflowers penned with senior women of the community; a moving song written and performed by Pat family member Rose Pat; and a special video appearance from Paul Kelly who performed a song penned by Yindjibarndi Elder Tootsie Daniel.

Overall, 185 participants were involved, including 82 young people with 143 workshops taking place. 19 new songs were written by the community and there were 9 guest musicians and 11 local artists performing. Elders from different language groups came together through music, song and stories at the Ngurin Cultural Centre and the John Pat Peace Place. The concert attracted an in-person audience of 575 and a digital audience of 102,000.

Songs for Peace also has a strong focus on intercultural

learning. All participants are engaged in a learning exchange, which is integral to Big hART's approach. Non-Indigenous artists such as Lucky Oceans, Vikki Thorn and David Hyams facilitated music and songwriting workshops, but they left with a profound experience of exchange, having learnt from Elders and community members in Ieramugadu.

The music and songwriting program in the Roebourne Regional Prison continues its 10 year legacy, with 70 inmates participating in this year's program.

Songs for Peace is an annual peacemaking program and event. Big hART would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Blacket Family who have backed Songs for Peace since its inception.



"Songs for Freedom is more than just music, it's stories from our people, it's respect."

TYSON MOWARIN
NGARLUMA ARTIST
SONGS FOR FREEDOM

Songs for Freedom

Flowing on from the success of Songs for Peace in September, the Roebourne community and Big hART were invited to partner with the City of Melville on Whadjuk Boodja in Perth to produce the first 'Songs for Freedom' concert in March 2021.

With musical direction by Lucky Oceans, Songs for Freedom featured an ensemble of Ieramugadu (Roebourne) artists alongside high profile musicians performing songs written by Roebourne community members that celebrate country, freedom and peace.

At the core of the project is a desire to present new and positive narratives of Ieramugadu, particularly to a Perth audience. Through consultation with the community and key Elders involved in the delivery of Songs for Peace, Songs for Freedom emerged as a significant and professionally presented concert to an audience of 3,000 people, with positive media stories about the event reaching an audience of 146,000.

Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi Elders including Jeannie Churnside, Allery Sandy and Tootsie Daniel guided the cultural safety of the concert, which also featured audio-visual content made in Ieramugadu's Digital Lab,

showcasing the skills and creativity of young people.

Songs for Freedom was an important advocacy moment for the community. Ieramugadu artists and Elders took on direct leadership and advocacy roles, building new networks and partnerships amongst industry professionals and community leaders based in Perth. Big hART facilitated an opportunity for three young women to travel with the group to help document the concert, and most importantly, to witness their Elders and family members stand proudly onstage in front of a large audience.

In addition to the performance, Big hART arranged for a number of complimentary activities such as prison workshops and performances, and a NEO-Learning workshop for young Noongar students at the Willagee Library, where the work of Ieramugadu young people and the community was shared. Songs for Freedom provided a number of important cultural exchange opportunities between Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi, Banjima and Noongar communities.

Songs for Freedom was a 10 day tour which involved 4 live performances beginning at Roebourne Regional Prison then Nannup Music Festival, Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre and culminated at Point Walter Reserve on the Swan River in Perth. The event has been welcomed back by the City of Melville to feature again in 2022.

"Songs for Freedom is helping the Roebourne community heal."

ABC RADIO



“NEO-Learning will drive positive attitudes and change back towards Roebourne. We're highlighting a new narrative of engagement with education, digital literacy skills. Roebourne is changing patterns of behaviour and addressing disadvantage through the creative arts space. It's a non-welfare approach which has been an absolute revelation for Roebourne. It's a chance to write a new narrative, to influence the mainstream and we're contributing to the narration of the country.”

MICHELLE ADAMS
CULTURAL ADVISOR & COMMUNITY LEADER

NEO-Learning and the Digital Lab

NEO-Learning is a new learning platform developed by Big hART, that celebrates the continuous living culture of Ieramugadu (Roebourne) and drives understanding of First Nations' perspectives in primary schools.

Supported by the Telstra Foundation under the Tech4Good initiative, NEO-Learning champions the bright young future of Ieramugadu (Roebourne) as a model for learning and exchange. Inspired by Big hART's internationally acclaimed futuristic comic NEOMAD, which was made by over 40 young people from Ieramugadu, NEO-Learning's content is co-created with the young people of the community.

This year NEO-Learning has continued to develop, piloting at schools all around the country and skilling up Ieramugadu young people in the Digital Lab, led by Mark Leahy and April Phillips.





"It's golden curriculum stuff."

TEACHER, WA

NEO-Learning was piloted at primary schools in WA, NSW, VIC, ACT, NT, SA and TAS in this period, engaging with 1030 school children and 46 teachers. This has allowed the team to focus on market testing, user research and experience, design and standardising the digital tech solution. The virtual classroom was built on Adobe Connect, and professional development for teachers became part of the model. NEO-Learning also worked to ensure the platform was inclusive, working to meet the objectives of schools who specialise in students with special needs such as health, trauma, mental illness or language. The Canberra Hospital School came on board as a vital partner, allowing NEO-Learning to trial new content with their teachers and staff in weekly sessions.

In the first six months of 2021 NEO-Learning shifted focus to develop the learning platform ready for the August launch. The team worked to ensure the platform fulfilled cross-curriculum objectives across all states, developing smartboard-ready resources, live virtual experiences, on-demand content, brain breaks, polls, original films and digital content including a new podcast series. The aim was to create a platform which had a fresh youthful

energy, a future focus and one which supported inquiry-based learning - giving primary school teachers and students access to high quality First Nations digital arts content and lessons with creativity at its heart.

At the Digital Lab in Ieramugadu (Roebourne) young people created high quality digital content across all New Roebourne's initiatives. 203 digital workshops were delivered, building capabilities in film, animation, audio, augmented reality (AR), photography, visual art and music. Workshops were delivered in person, on country and virtually resulting in 164 artworks and 118 songs sequenced.

Peer to peer teaching became a regular occurrence and fostered a level of pride, commitment and collaboration. By creating digital content, young people develop new literacies and skills for employment in cultural tourism, events, management and emerging industries. The Lab provides an essential service allowing young people and Elders to grow in digital literacy, and encouraging new Aboriginal mentors to step up in the community.



Digital Lab Highlights

- Digital Jam - 25 young people participating in a Digital Jam with digital drawing, song construction, AR and roving photo and video workshops
- Red Dirt Riders – 20 young people, mainly boys, developed beatmaking, programming and music composition skills through their work on a soundtrack for ABC TV's Red Dirt Riders, in partnership with Weerianna Street Media.
- The publishing of a book of photographic work by young people in partnership with Roebourne District High School
- Participation in virtual workshops with the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra

NEO-Learning also collaborated with a number of institutions and organisations over the year. As leaders in First Nations virtual education, NEO-Learning was invited to present at the Women in Technology conference, Career Tracker Virtual Conference and the Telstra Foundation Women in Technology. Team members were also part of the consultation process for the Australian curriculum review and participated in a panel on digital arts inclusion for NAAVA (National Australian Association for Visual Arts) to a combined audience of 920 professionals.

"I love learning about Murujuga."

YEAR 4 STUDENT, SA

PROJECT O

“Congratulations to the incredible Big hART team for this vital work they do for the youth of this region.”

RUTH FORREST MLC

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MURCHISON

Project O has created positive influence in the lives of close to 1000 young women* nationally since 2015.

This family violence prevention initiative, which began in the north west of lutruwita/Tasmania in 2015, has now run in 5 states and territories around Australia and captured over 317 positive media stories. Over 5 million people have been reached through traditional and social media.

Focused on primary prevention, Project O helps young women be changemakers in communities affected by family violence. With the support of mentors, these young people from rural and disadvantaged communities develop new confidence and skills, and learn to advocate for change around community issues. Through workshops, new opportunities and the running of events, Project O works to increase

social and economic participation, seeking to remove the barriers arising from family violence and delivering generational change in communities.

Project O also encourages stronger digital inclusion and pathways into the digital economy through encouragement of new digital skills and abilities, and positive attitudinal change towards the capabilities of young people.

In the 2020-2021 year, Project O operated in Wynyard and Smithton in TAS, Frankston VIC, and the program is incorporated into Roebourne’s new Punkaliyarra initiative.

* While this document uses the term ‘young women’, Project O is an inclusive program which includes all cis and trans women, as well as non-binary people who are comfortable in a space that centres the experiences of women.

“It’s given me opportunities to learn heaps of new things and I’m very thankful for that.”

RUBY
PROJECT O WYNYARD



Radio Diaries

Project O's national Radio Diaries project was completed this year, in partnership with podcasting agency Audiocraft, with the creation of a three part series broadcast on ABC for International Women's Day. Each episode featured one young woman's story from each Project O community – North West TAS, Frankston VIC and Roebourne WA. In the process young women developed audio storytelling and sound production skills, and learnt how to tell their story through the podcast medium - sharing their lives, their communities, their challenges and aspirations, and their strength.

ALIEKA – aired on Awaye, ABC Radio National on 6/3/21. Alieka shares her thoughts on family, country and culture.

TRINITY – aired on Life Matters, ABC Radio National on 8/3/21. Ty invites us into their world, and the challenges of growing up in foster care.

CAITLAN – aired on ABC Radio Melbourne on 8/3/21. Caitlan takes us on a journey through the lives of teenage girls growing up in Frankston.

A short animated video of Alieka's story with artwork by Maeve Baker was also published on ABC Indigenous' Instagram page, to an audience of 143,000, receiving 11,500 views.

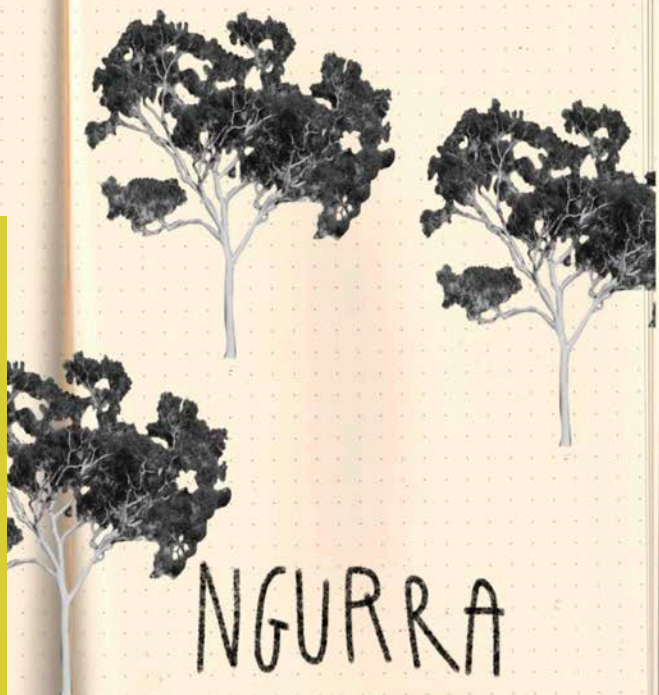


WANTHIWA

“Before Project O I didn’t know how to speak about the things I cared about, and now I feel like I know how to advocate for the things I’m passionate about in my community.”

JADE
PROJECT O SMITHTON

NGURRA



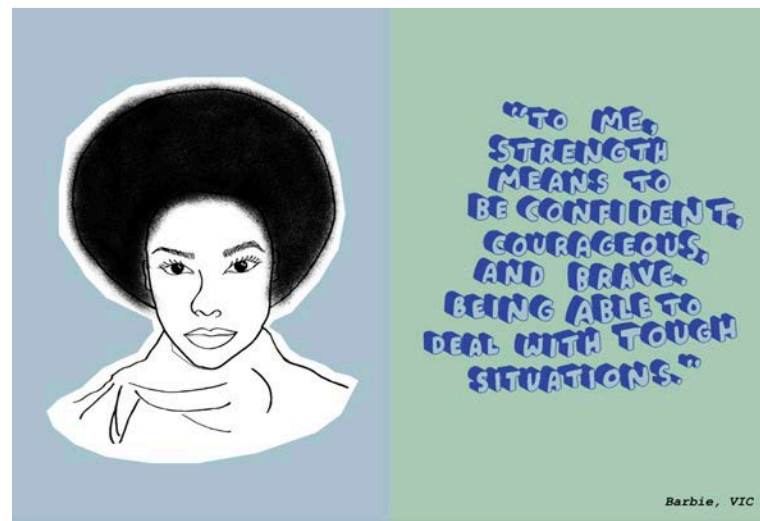


'This is Us' Zine

On International Women's Day, Project O young women from TAS, VIC and WA launched a new digital zine celebrating strength, equality, community and identity.

This is Us is a new digital zine created by young women of Project O aged 11-16 years from Frankston (VIC), Wynyard and Smithton (TAS) and Roebourne (WA). It is rare to hear teenage girls speak out on what's important for them, and rarer still to hear the voices of teenagers from diverse, regional and high needs communities, This is Us aims to readdress the balance.

The young women's digital zine is inspired by traditional zines, characterised by the self-published, analogue style. This is Us extends into the digital era and the result is vibrant, thoughtful, sassy and brave. Pages brim with digital art, film, podcasts, photography, typography, interviews and creative writing expressing just what it is to be a teenage girl growing up in Australia in 2021.



Young women share stories of strength, hope, community and courage. They talk about the women and Elders who are role models in their lives, speak out on body image, racism and safety, and talk intimately about self-confidence, identity and walking in two worlds. Young women also interviewed female role models including Domestic Violence Campaigner Rosie Batty and First Nations hip hop MC and soul vocalist MissGenius.

This is Us is an energetic and thoughtful snapshot of their unique place in the world, and the voices of our future.

"I just want to help people that don't have a voice and who struggle to talk about the things they really feel."

NINA, WA



All of Us

“Project O is about lifting our expectations of ourselves, and not letting our environment hold us back, it’s challenging our stereotypes and encouraging young women to be bold and to explore their potential.”

ROSIE BATTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAMPAIGNER

In October 2020 Big hART announced a new film project - All of Us - a documentary with Rosie Batty and Project O.

All of Us will be a profound story of hope, drawing on the strength of Rosie’s story and the impact of Big hART’s Project O unique primary prevention strategy. On rare occasions, one person’s courage to stand up in the midst of impossible circumstances and tell their story can motivate all of us to speak up. Rosie Batty is one such person.

All of Us captures the urgency of the issues of gender equality and family violence prevention, and aims to inspire positive change.

What is remarkable about All of Us is its deep and authentic dive into community, as it draws on real life experiences of both Rosie’s story and the stories of young women. It builds on Big hART’s long term work in communities around the country through its innovative primary prevention initiative Project O.

At the heart of All of Us are the moments of vulnerability and change, as communities across the country rise to the challenge that ‘it takes all of us’ to create safer futures for women and children.

The All of Us documentary is in early stage development and funded through the support of Screen Tasmania.



“Big hART gave us a platform. We got opportunities to speak up about stuff nobody wanted to speak about. Issues that we only usually discussed behind closed doors.”

KAYTLYN JOHNSON
PROJECT O ALUMNI
THE MERCURY



Iutruwita/Tasmania

TOMMEGINNER AND TAKAYNA COUNTRY

“We didn’t realise other girls in different communities were facing the same issues or challenges, and now that we’re all working on it together we feel like we can actually make a change.”

SHANYSSA, CHLOE AND LEAH
PROJECT O WYNYARD



In the North West of Iutruwita/Tasmania, Project O delivered 227 workshops to 47 young people aged 14 -16, from Wynyard and Smithton, including 11 young Indigenous people.

Across 383 contact hours, young women were mentored by 26 mentors in areas of public speaking, media training, digital marketing and design, event production, performance, filmmaking, photography, podcasting, lighting and sound, animation, and digital art. The skills young people developed in these workshops were put into practice at 16 events attended by over 3,317 people.

Project O saw outcomes in advocacy, with an increase in digital abilities and digital literacies, agency, confidence and aptitude in public speaking. Young people developed their community networks and engaged with decision makers, and there was positive public perception and awareness of young women’s capabilities and skills in the community.



Project O produced and presented Sounds Around Town in Smithton, the 2020 Tunes in the Tulips at Table Cape Tulip Farm and the Summer Seasonal Dinner at Blue Hills Honey Farm. They met the Minister for Women, managed front of house for the CCYP Ambassadors conference and presented at an International Women's Day Breakfast for Ignite Women Tasmania.

Kelp Pollen Rain Soil - Big hART's umbrella initiative in lutruwita/Tasmania was also integrated into the program. At Wynyard High School young men joined young women to learn about kelp. They photographed and filmed it at the beach, discovered its scientific and environmental properties, and then learnt how to cook with it in the industrial kitchen at school with talented artist and chef Yyan Ng.

Landscape based workshops using film and sound helped develop content for the Taslaska project, participants filmed artist Emily Sheppard creating an amplifier out of bull kelp whilst other participants worked on a mural with talented young Marrawah artist Zoe Grey.

Young women also assisted on Design Eye Creative 'paper on skin', an international art competition in Burnie which challenges artists to create wearable fashion made out of 80% paper. Young women worked behind the scenes



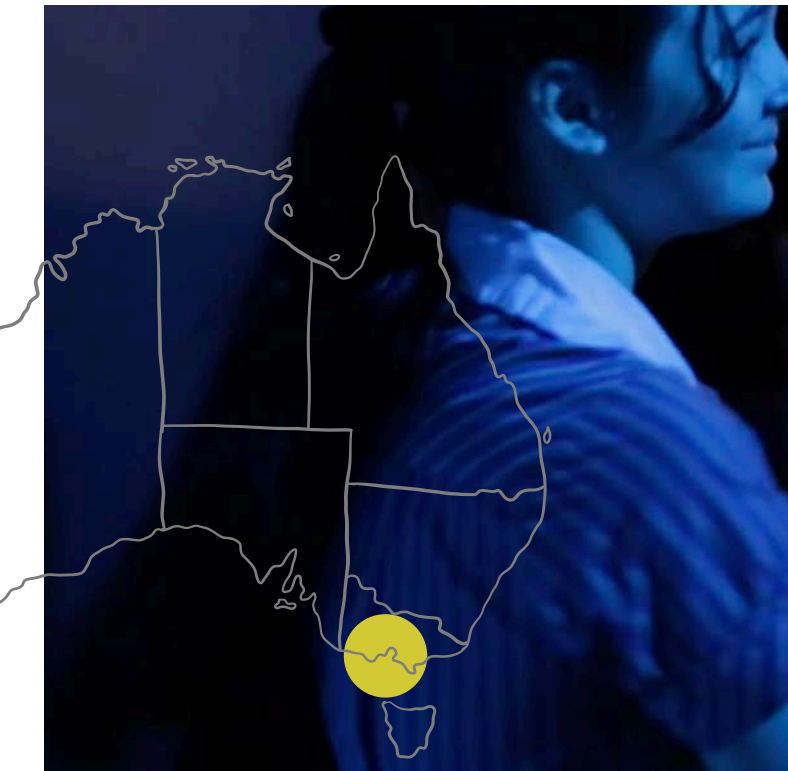
“The biggest thing I learnt was how to manage my time and how to stay calm. If I was to do it again I’d be more confident, I wouldn’t be as scared. It was a really fun experience.”

CHLOE
PROJECT O WYNYARD

to assist the organisers, the modelling agency, and the filmmaker to create a film showcasing the event.

In 2021 one of the highlights for young women was attending a roundtable discussion with Rosie Batty. They shared with Rosie their experiences of issues around gender stereotypes in the north west of lutruwita/Tasmania, youth mental health and positive changes they would like to see in the future. Rosie spoke about her own journey of advocacy on gender equality and domestic violence and gave the young women suggestions on how they could make change in their community. Rosie and the Project O young women also met with Wynyard High School to share their learnings and an action plan moving forward. The Honourable Ruth Forrest MLC, Independent Member of the Legislative Council also attended the meeting at Wynyard High School.

Project O young people also worked on Zinc and When Water Falls (see Pollen Kelp Rain chapter for more information).



Frankston VIC

**BUNURONG COUNTRY,
KULIN NATION**

Project O has been running on the land of the Bunurong People in Frankston North for 3 years now, in Monterey Secondary School and Mahogany Rise Primary School, working with over 150 young people and their community.

Focused on prevention and building local equality the program is going from strength to strength with 169 workshops in the community this year.

Frankston Project O addresses gender inequality as a driver of family violence, and works to empower young women and gender non-conforming young people to build the skills and confidence to become changemakers within their community.

Young people of Project O Frankston are aged from 11-18 years and come from a range of diverse backgrounds and abilities. 11% of participants are from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, 4% identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, 4% as refugees or new arrivals, and 13% identify as young people with a disability.



Project O in Frankston is a space to explore identity. Producers recognise the importance of offering a safe, inclusive space given that 8% of participants do not identify as either male or female, and there is a limited number of equivalent prevention programs currently available to LGBTQIA+ young people. Project O has changed the language around the program to ensure it caters to these participants.

Whilst it's been a challenging year for VIC dealing with COVID-19 and multiple lockdowns, young people have thrived in the program and there has been a groundswell of interest, with over 75 people signing up at the beginning of 2021.

*"I'm grateful for Project O,
they've made me be braver."*

PARTICIPANT
PROJECT O FRANKSTON



“The whole event and the contribution of every young person was incredible. So much passion and courage and wisdom and power! Well done to them and your team for supporting them to do so.”

LIANA BUCHANAN
VICTORIAN COMMISSIONER FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Participants expressed how Project O was a safe space during lockdown, where they could be themselves and connect with their friends, participating in activities they really enjoyed.

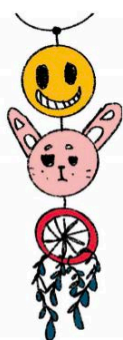
Project O Frankston participated in online and in-person creative mentoring workshops covering graphic scoring, event production, spoken word, career pathways, public speaking, filmmaking and VCAL leadership. Working with community producers Maggie Abraham, Fallon Te Paa, Bella Waru and filmmaker Nicky Akehurst who are all talented artists in their own right, they produced four short films, a series of illustrated mindfulness cards, a collection of written works in both hard copy and electronic form and created work for 'This is Us', the major online zine which was launched on International Women's Day.

Other highlights included participating as MCs in the Louise Dunkley Oration where they met former Prime Minister Julia Gillard AM, who was the Keynote Speaker. Project O was also invited to present and provide a submission for the Federal Inquiry into sexual, family and domestic violence, sharing data and outcomes from Project O Frankston.





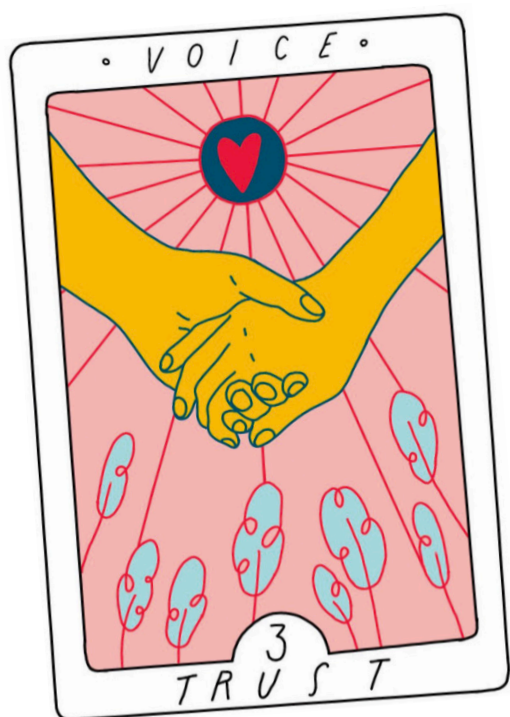
WHAT DO YOU DO
TO FEEL CALM
AND HEALTHY IN
YOUR BODY?



A WARM SHOWER, BATH,
SLEEP, LIE DOWN AND
DO NOTHING, FOOD,
MUSIC, WATER, BED,
BEACH, GOING FOR A
WALK AT THE BEACH,
GO ON A BIKE RIDE
WITH MY DOG, EAT

*"Project O has helped me to
have a voice, and that
your voice is valid, and
it does count."*

PAIGE
PROJECT O FRANKSTON PARTICIPANT
SPEAKING ON ABC RADIO MELBOURNE



*"You can be who you want
because it's a safe space."*

PARTICIPANT
PROJECT O FRANKSTON

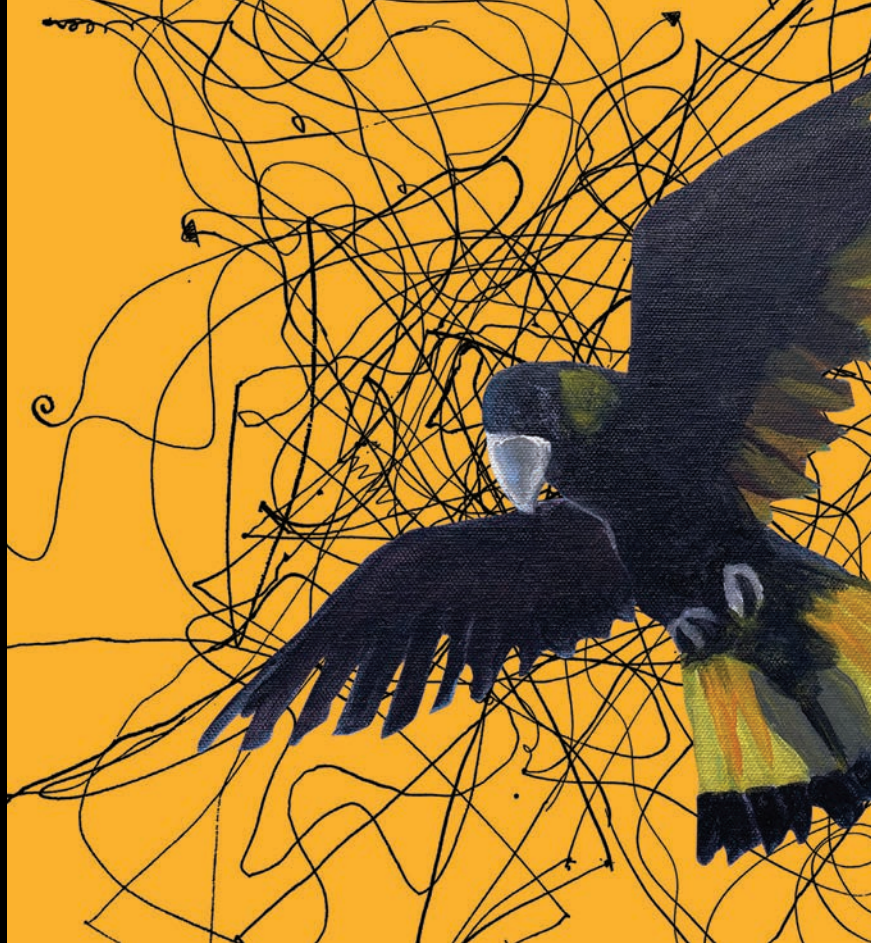
At Monterey Secondary College, Project O began in Years 9-10 and is now being offered for Years 7-8, supporting a strong transition between primary school and high school. The senior years are now viewed as an alumni program, with participants building on their learnings in a mentor capacity. This is already having a positive contribution, embedding program legacy within the school culture.

This year in Project O Frankston, young people increased their personal agency, confidence, wellbeing and resilience with increased school retention and engagement. School staff have noted the direct correlation between participant engagement in Project O and personal growth and confidence with improved attitudes and results to school.

Project O producers worked to build strong relationships with federal, state and local government members. This critical work recognises the importance of reaching key decision makers and people of influence to hear from young women at risk, who are often assessed through statistics but rarely included in approaches for change. Peta Murphy, the Federal Member for Dunkley continues to be a very active supporter of Project O alongside State Member for Frankston Paul Edbrooke, with Rosie Batty continuing to be a passionate project advocate.

“It’s been an absolutely wonderful project. What I’ve learned is how truly deep and thoughtful they (the young people) are. The writing they’ve done have been absolutely beautiful. Really thoughtful and responsive.”

GILLIAN
SENIOR PARTICIPANT
CONNECTING LINES



Connecting Lines

Connecting Lines is a new initiative bringing together young people from Project O Frankston with senior members of the Frankston North community to build connection, belonging and stronger intergenerational bonds.

One of the project highlights was a whole community workshop for International Women’s Day called ‘Choose to Challenge’. In these workshops young participants, supported by senior members, led and facilitated conversations with the wider community around a variety of social issues.

The project has engaged 50 senior members of the community and built genuine and long term connections, with participants building their confidence and self-worth to feel and acknowledge their value which is then reinforced by recognition from their community.

Connecting Lines deepened intergenerational community relationships and culminated in two events:

A community in-person sharing was held in accordance with Victorian Government COVID-19 guidelines, and offered a chance for Project O participants to present their spoken word pieces to family and community members and share the creative content they had developed through the term.

A curated online event attended by leaders, stakeholders and advocates. This event showcased the Connecting Lines work with Project O participants hosting and leading attendees through a series of reflections. As part of the event Victorian Commissioner for Children and Young people, Liana Buchanan, Federal member for Dunkley, Peta Murphy and State member for Frankston, Paul Edbrooke all reflected on participants creative contributions to enable an empowering exchange between Project O participants and key decision makers.

Connecting Lines has supported a reciprocal exchange of learning, sharing, empathy and importantly a breaking down of misconceptions between youth and the elderly which can often prove the barrier to their connection.

Big hART has learnt so much in the three years collaborating with the Frankston North community. The resilience and leadership the community shows in rising above challenges and defying expectations makes for a rich collaboration, working together to improve the visibility and capacity of young people, and facilitate connections across different community groups.



LUTRUWITA/ TASMANIA

Big hART was founded in lutruwita/ Tasmania in 1992 on the land of the tommeginner people, and has been working across the lands and waters of the palawa people for close to 30 years. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the Traditional Owners and continuing custodians of the land in which we work and live.



KELP, POLLEN RAIN, SOIL

Tasmanian project Kelp, Pollen, Rain and Soil represents the canary in the coalmine for climate change and the future of the environment in lutruwita/Tasmania. These themes underpin all Big hART's work in lutruwita.

First Nations creatives are the lead artists and drivers on the project. Four large scale ecological performance works focusing on Kelp, Pollen, Rain and Soil will be the outcome of this initiative, produced by Big hART in collaboration with Tasmanian artists and young people of lutruwita. When Water Falls, presented on the 26th June 2021, is the first work produced in the series. Each work acknowledges the stewardship of Traditional Owners and the importance of palawa kani (the language of Tasmanian Aboriginal people) to our futures. First Nations people protect 80% of the world's biodiversity.

Young people are key to the future of the planet. Big hART's youth program in lutruwita supports young people to explore the environment in their unique part of the world and be mentored in the creative industries, STEM, renewables and environment. This program enables young people to thrive, build connection and connectivity and develop new pathways into the renewable, environment, digital tech and cultural industries learning from scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs working across the areas of rain, kelp, pollen and soil.

The work in lutruwita/Tasmania is managed by Angela Prior, Holly Rankin-Smith, Rachel Small, Paul Whitelaw, Clare Spillman, Alison Wilkes, Joe Pickett and Leith Alexander.



“The work of Tasmanian scientists and musicians married in splendour.”

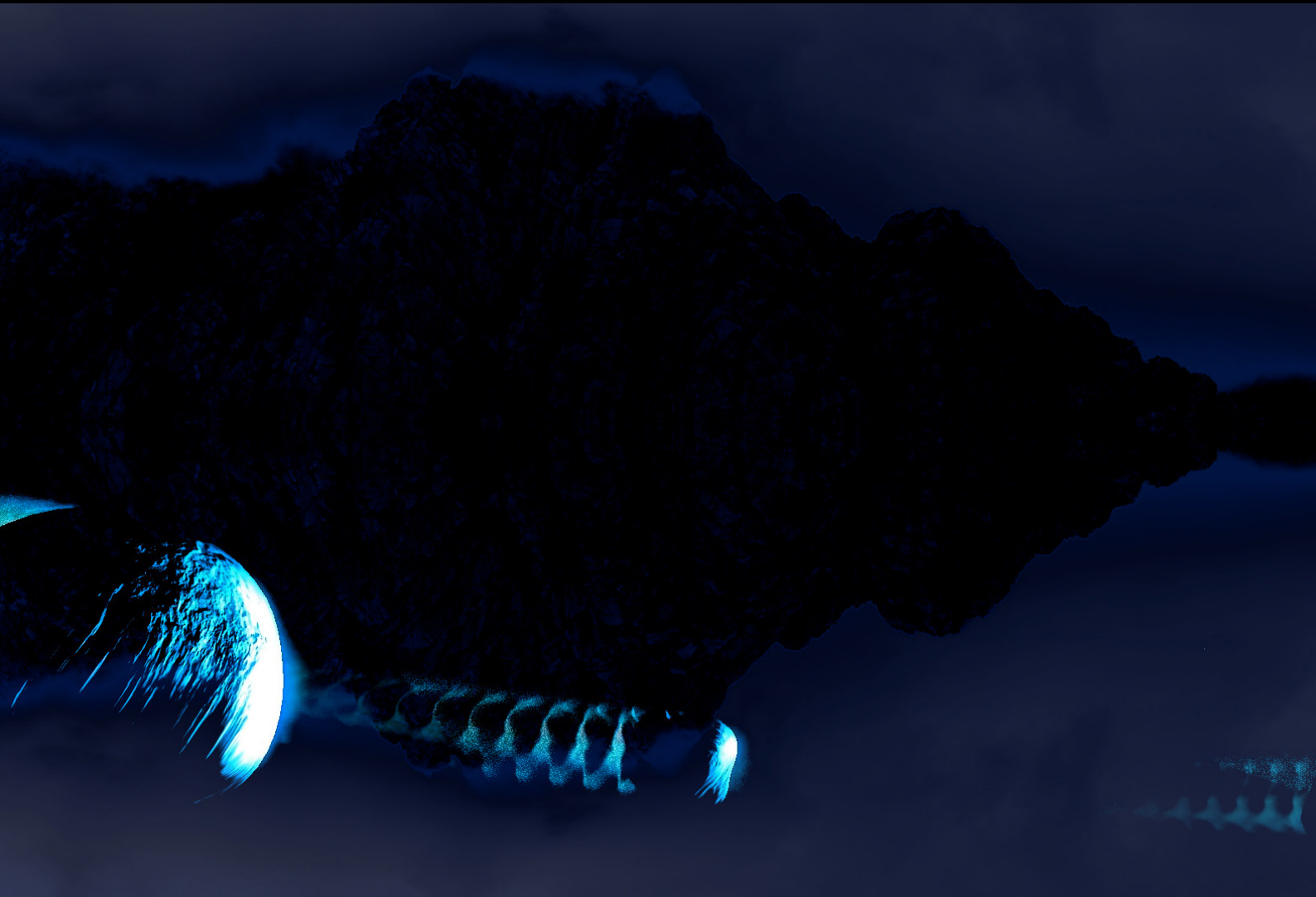
BURNIE ADVOCATE

RAINFALL – the land and waters of the tommeginner and takayna peoples is said to house the purest water in the world and recorded to have the cleanest air on the planet. Rain is the lifeblood of rivers, forests, farms, all life on this planet.

KELP – stores carbon and is a barometer of climate change. 95% of the giant kelp forests of eastern lutruwita/Tasmania have been lost due to ocean warming. Kelp has a lead role to play in mitigating climate change.

POLLEN - without bees and honey there is no life. Leatherwood is the single most important nectar plant in lutruwita, accounting for about 70% of all honey produced. The ancient leatherwood trees are found in tarkina, home of the tarkanya peoples.

SOIL - rich volcanic soil is a phenomenon in the North West of lutruwita/Tasmania and has ensured its role as a massive food bowl for the nation. Sustainable agriculture, soil health and food sovereignty (how we grow and consume our food) have an essential role to play in the stewardship of the earth.



POSITIVE FUTURES

“Big hART has had such a huge impact on my life. I have always struggled fitting in to groups and finding friends, and in these workshops I feel so included.”

POSITIVE FUTURES PARTICIPANT



Positive Futures builds on the award-winning work of Big hART’s Project O initiative and the organisation’s acclaimed youth programs which have been part of its DNA for almost 30 years, accruing Institute of Criminology Awards, a World Health Award and producing acclaimed works.

‘You can’t be what you can’t see’. Positive Futures uses mentors from the STEM and creative industries to work with young people and support them to thrive. Young people discover new pathways in the renewables, environment, STEM and creative industries, developing resilience, habits of hope and digital skills.

In partnership with Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks, Positive Futures began in January 2021, engaging 101 young people from Sheffield, Smithton and Wynyard, providing opportunities not normally available in regional communities. In an inclusive program which brought together young women, young men and gender diverse young people, Positive Futures commenced with a series of place-based workshops with leading mentors and talented Tasmanian artists, musicians, digital makers and filmmakers. Young people learnt entrepreneurship and digital technology skills, increased their engagement in 21st century economies and developed new ways of learning and thinking in the creative industries and STEM.



“The feedback from the community has been universally amazing. The quality of the performance and the involvement of local youth has been a talking point, with the community eager for more.”

LEIGH GRACIE
KENTISH COUNCIL

The STEM pathway of Positive Futures saw over 10 new pieces of content created in collaboration between artists and participants, incorporating art, science and technology. Young people learnt about software programming, animation, digital drawing, podcasts and projection mapping, participated in a mechanics workshop, and through their mentors discovered hydrography, communication technologies and pathways in the renewables industry.

From May to June in 2021, young people produced and presented a series of community events which built community, interconnectedness and belonging. These events saw young people develop their strengths, overcome social anxiety, develop positivity, confidence and showcase new skills. Their participation culminated in an exhilarating new work of sound and image which premiered in Sheffield - When Water Falls.

Overall 110 workshops were delivered for Positive Futures, with nine community events and outputs, and 10 mentors engaged in the program. Working with a variety of highly skilled mentors young people were exposed to career pathways and opportunities that they may not have considered, or known existed, before. Through engagement in Positive Futures many participants have identified a new skill that they would like to continue developing as a potential career pathway.



WHEN WATER FALLS

When Water Falls is a stunning poetic and enthralling performance piece created by Big hART, exploring human's relationship with rain – the way the sky cries, how our thirst is quenched, why we kiss under umbrellas and stomp in puddles.

Premiered in June 2021 in Sheffield lutruwita/Tasmania to a standing ovation, When Water Falls wove together song, text, video, animated image and a feast of delicious Tasmanian produce across multiple spaces to articulate how rain is the life of our forests, our farms, our rivers, our dams, and the power in our homes.

When Water Falls is the first large scale work of Big hART's Kelp Pollen Rain Soil initiative and is directed by Scott Rankin, with musical direction by Pinoy/First Nations artist Jay Jarome and associate direction by Rachel Small. It's the final outcome of the Positive Futures initiative, which saw young people from the north west of lutruwita/Tasmania become co-creators with Tasmanian musicians, digital artists and filmmakers.



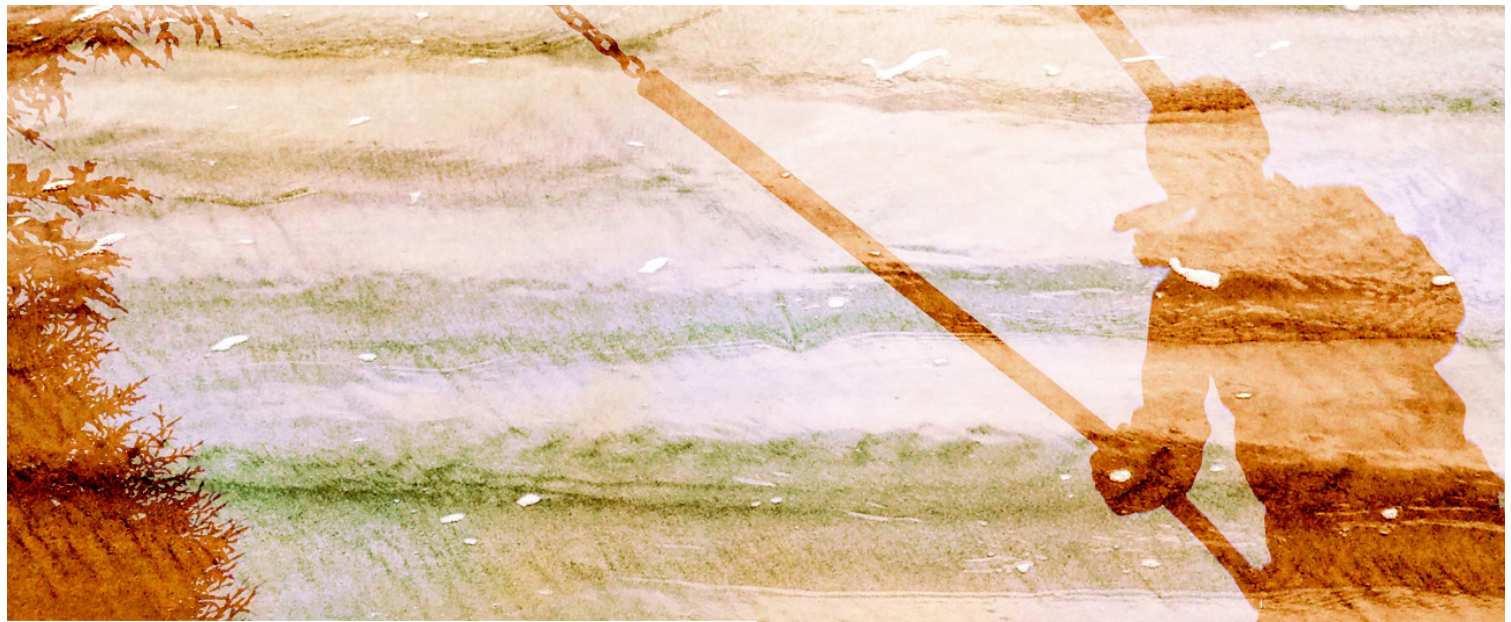
"During the course of writing the music I've really reflected on the importance of resources we have in Tasmania – we're so lucky to have such plentiful lands and so much water and food, I hope people feel a sense of pride for their land and care and custodianship."

JAY JAROME
MUSIC DIRECTOR
LAUNCESTON EXAMINER



"Water reigns in new work."

THE MERCURY



‘A beautiful story in lutruwita.’

NARELDA JACOBS
NITV

One of the stand-out moments of the evening was a first time collaboration with Big hART and the University of Tasmania’s Conservatorium of Music featuring an ensemble of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander singers and musicians from nations all over Australia, who lifted their voices to the night air in a soul and funk explosion of original music. This group of stellar young artists from the Conservatorium of Music performed together for the first time in *When Water Falls*.

Through the support and cultural safety guidance of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, *When Water Falls* was given permission to include the palawa kani language in the production.

When Water Falls also featured the work of nipaluna/ Hobart multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Sabine Bester, celebrated Tasmanian Filmmaker Anna Cadden, acclaimed North West Tasmanian artist and composer Aaron Hopper,

prolific digital artist Leith Alexander and Sydney new media artist Jordan East. Through their mentorship, young people explored the environment in their unique part of the world, developing their connection to place through digital media, music, short films, poetry and text.

When Water Falls not only interrogated the meaning, stories, energy and symbolism of water and rainfall, but also its scientific, environmental and engineering characteristics and potential, through links with Tasmania’s renewable energy industry.

The future of water will soon be in the hands of young people. When will they have a voice? When will we listen? ‘When’ is a powerful word.

It is hoped *When Water Falls* will become a touring festival work, with an album project also in the works.

ZINC

*"An industrial symphony of
intimidating beauty and power."*

THE AGE



*"We're really proud to be
working on a project that
celebrates inclusion and provides
opportunities for young people
living with autism and other needs."*

CALEY PEARCE
NYRSTAR



A celebration of innovation, creativity and inclusion, Zinc was staged at Launceston's Duck Reach Power Station and at Nyrstar Zinc Works in nipaluna/Hobart, drawing crowds of over 2,300 people as part of Mona Foma in January 2021.

A unique partnership between Nyrstar and North West Support Services, Big hART's mission was to develop a new work inspired by the industrial world of Nyrstar's Zinc Works, unearthing the hidden stories of the smelter, which has been part of the Hobart community for over 100 years. In the early days whole suburbs sprang up as a result of its establishment and its early community story included the support of struggling families through social programs that supplied firewood, meat, and oranges, and an insurance scheme funded by both the business and zinc workers.

The music was spearheaded by acclaimed guitarist/composer Aaron Hopper alongside electronica artist Paul Corfiatis, bass player Curtis Poke and visual artist Jacob Rish, who are all assisted with their artistic aspirations through North West Support Services.

The challenge was to create a score made purely from the sounds of the zinc works. The team collected over 270 sounds at the site, recording air jets, pulley systems, trucks, conveyer belts, rail belts shunting, glass beakers in the lab, spinning metal rods and metal lathe. Jacob Rish created artworks inspired by his experience whilst cinematographer Anna Cadden and Jordan East created filmic pieces.



“This has been a challenging project totally out of my comfort zone. When I was younger I was super nervous, but now I totally thrive on these opportunities.”

PAUL CORFIATIS
ARTIST
ZINC

Paul Corfiatis and Aaron Hopper then went back into the studio and created an incredible new work, a curious compelling soundtrack of the secret world of the smelter.

Zinc also opened new STEM pathways for Project O young women. Young women visited the Nyrstar Zinc Works in nipaluna/Hobart for the creative development period. They spent time onsite, supporting the musicians, photographers and producers. With their mentors they discovered the workplace of one of the world’s leading metal processing businesses, observing STEM jobs and being exposed to career pathways and trades in science, technology and metallurgy.

Zinc premiered at Mona Foma in two locations – the Duck Reach Power Station housed the mesmerising installation, and at the Nyrstar Zinc Works – where the artists performed live alongside the work to sell-out crowds. Audiences were immersed in a multi-sensory audio-visual experience of the modern zinc works in action. A kaleidoscope of animated black and white graphite drawings, machinery abstracted vision and woodcuts filled the space.

The success of Zinc was built on strong partnerships across sectors, with Big hART bringing together corporate, government, philanthropy, community and not-for-profit groups to provide new opportunities for inclusion, innovation and the promotion of STEM and trade careers to young women from the North West Coast.



ACOUSTIC LIFE OF BOATSHEDS

Instruments made out of eel skin, artists covered in mud and boatbuilders jamming to music. Welcome to Acoustic Life of Boatsheds.

Acoustic Life of Boatsheds is a reimagining of Big hART's much loved, award-winning ode to the humble farm shed – Acoustic Life of Sheds – which appeared in three Ten Days on the Island festivals and won the 2018 APRA/AMCOS Art Music Award for Best Regional Event.

In January 2021 audiences experienced the Tamar and North Esk Rivers in Launceston, lutruwita/Tasmania, in a whole new light through the untold stories of boatsheds, as part of Mona Foma. This highly anticipated production sold out within 48 hours of its announcement.

Acoustic Life of Boatsheds transformed boatsheds, a ferry, a rotunda and a bridge into otherworldly performance worlds inspired by eels, mud and the changing face of the river.



*"A sublime musical adventure...
A nautical serenade."*

THE AGE

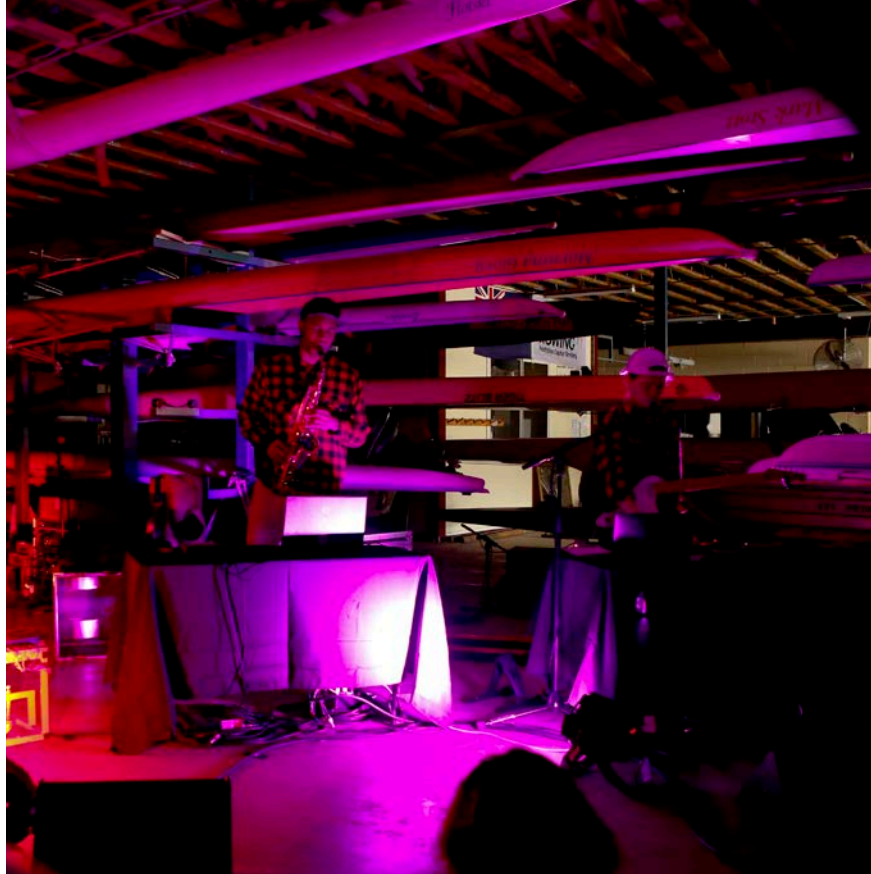


"An exceptional work."

THE GUARDIAN

“It’s a way for people to think about the river and all the issues that are existing with kelp, eels and mud which is all tied to the ecology of the river.”

YYAN NG
ARTIST
ACOUSTIC LIFE OF BOATSHEDS



FEATURED ARTISTS INCLUDED

THE KIRIBATI CHOIR – an accidental male choir comprised of 13 Kiribati farm workers working in Northern lutruwita/ Tasmania who started singing in the field to boost morale when stranded due to COVID-19. Their joyful, spirited acapella music uplifted the crowd.

FFLORA – a fluid femme ensemble devoted to improvised music. These outstanding young artists from nipaluna/Hobart and Naarm/Melbourne adorned themselves in mud and created impromptu music inspired by the Tamar River and how it has changed.

ZAC HENDERSON AND BAND – Young Tasmanian artists joined with boatbuilders to create a fascinating ambient journey invoking the textures, sounds and industrial story of the river.

YYAN AND EMILY – Aboard the Lady Launceston, lauded cinematic folk artists and instrument makers Yyan Ng and Emily Sheppard explored the secret life of eels, incorporating a world first - the first known instruments crafted from eel skin – an eel erhu, a ceramic eel drum and a kelp eel drum.

EARTH-TONES – In the bowels of the North Esk Rowing Club under rows of skiffs, this Tasmanian trio led by saxophonist Oyindra Enisuoh entertained audiences with an eclectic amalgamation of old-world jazz mashed up with electronica and hip hop.

It is hoped that Acoustic Life of Boatsheds will go on to be a touring festival work and transform other cities and waterways.

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

In 2021, Big hART worked with the University of Tasmania to design and deliver a 20 week course for 30 young people to hone their social innovation skills.

Do Something About It! was developed from the Big hART model, mentoring creative and multi-talented young people to be changemakers - utilising art, media, events, impact producing, narrative, documentary, and community engagement. The program harnesses their positive desire to 'do something about' their issue of choice. Big hART inspires and upskills these young people, to enter their careers with critical change-making skills.

Do Something About It! was designed to kick start and harness the passion and desire for positive social change, which often manifests amongst students and young people. This passion often remains dormant, unrealised because of a lack of skills, opportunities, languages, models and support.

The project used place-based scenario, gaming, speculative dramaturgy, and group work to design and build interdisciplinary projects ready for real world application. Over 13 weeks, students harnessed their potential for change by building skills in strategy, narrative, documentary, community engagement, media, producing, networking and funding.

Big hART delivered content to hothouse students and encourage them to hone social design and innovation skills. Students learnt to choose a place-based project and research a critical issue of their choice. They built small teams; collaborated for impact and created and harnessed project narrative for different audiences. They utilised media and social media channels, networked with stakeholders, planned intermediations and created intentional art - so as to harness their desire to 'Do Something About' their issue of choice.

"From the ground up approach."

THE MERCURY



Our Communities

Ngarluma

FOCUS: ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT
& DIGITAL INCLUSION

KEY CITY: IERAMUGADU (ROEBOURNE)

DEMOGRAPHIC OF PARTICIPANTS:
FIRST NATIONS ALL AGES & GENDERS,
PARTICULAR FOCUS ON YOUTH

PROJECTS: NEW ROEBOURNE
+ NEO-LEARNING

Bunurong

FOCUS: FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION,
& DIGITAL INCLUSION

KEY CITY: FRANKSTON

DEMOGRAPHIC OF PARTICIPANTS:
YOUNG WOMEN AGE 11-16,
SENIOR WOMEN & GENDER-DIVERSE
YOUNG PEOPLE


PROJECT: PROJECT O +
CONNECTING LINES

tommeggin and peerapper

FOCUS: YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILY
VIOLENCE PREVENTION,
ENVIRONMENT + DIGITAL INCLUSION.
KEY CITIES: WYNYARD, SHEFFIELD
& SMITHTON

**DEMOGRAPHIC OF
PARTICIPANTS:**

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 13-17
PROJECTS: PROJECT O,
POSITIVE FUTURES,
KELP POLLEN RAIN SOIL



'Pilbara in the Frame'
by Simara Munda, New Roebourne Trainee

“Our family could never have predicted how enriched our lives were about to become when we first chanced upon Big hART.”

THE BLACKET FAMILY

Partnerships Report

Big hART’s supporters, funders and friends are right alongside the organisation, backing Big hART to deliver:

SAFER COMMUNITIES

Less family violence, better juvenile justice, stronger mental health.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Engagement in education, mentored vocational skills, equitable opportunities, rural and remote development.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Social inclusion and digital inclusion, stronger belonging, connection to place.

Each partnership assists Big hART to grow impact in disadvantaged communities, with funding focused on grassroots delivery in projects nationwide.

Fundraising, donations and sponsorships were strong in 2020-2021, accounting for just under \$1 million, about 20% of Big hART’s revenue.

Big hART secured a Restart Investment to Sustain

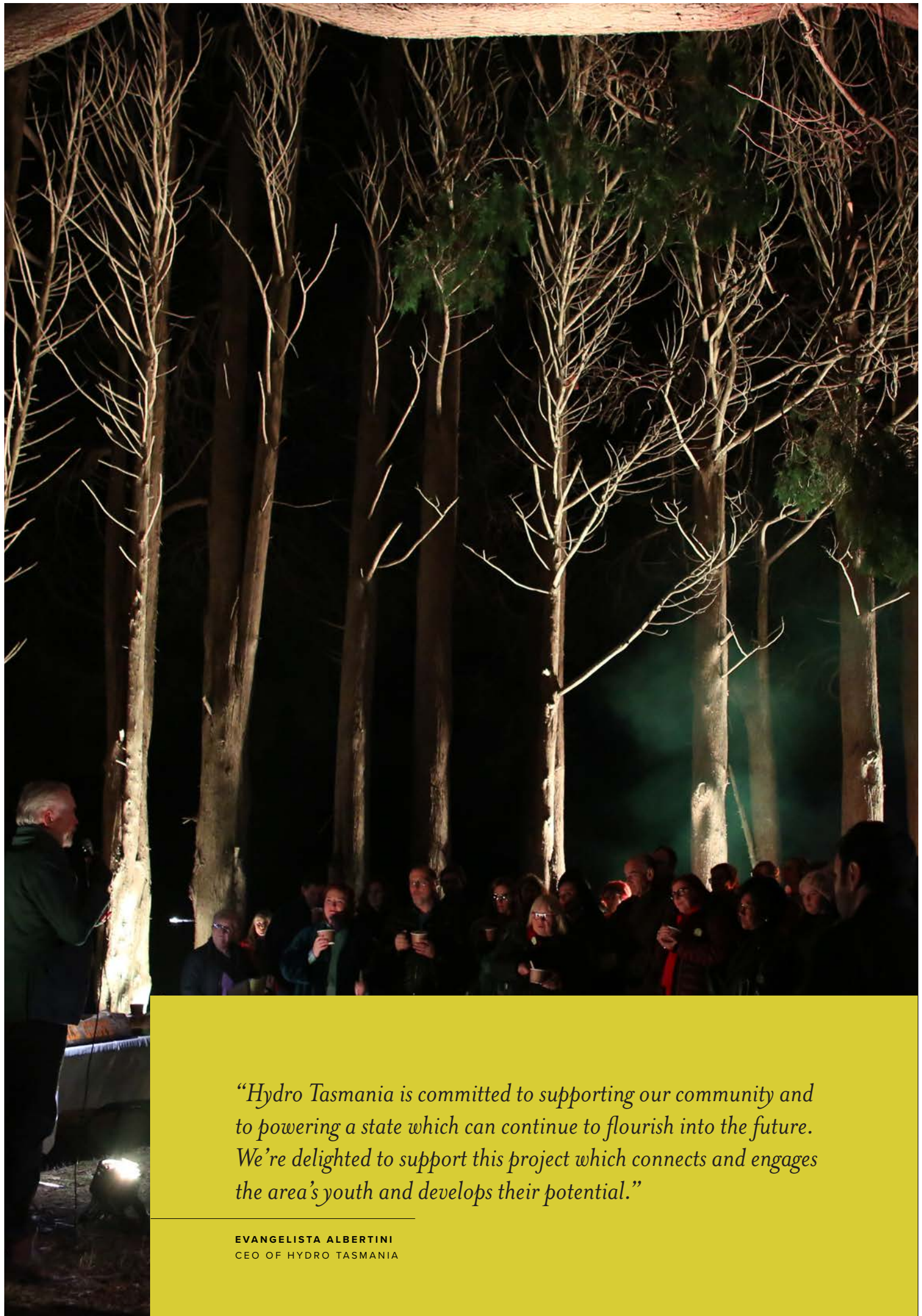
and Expand (RISE) grant from the Office for the Arts to deliver workshops and local events in 12 regional, remote and outer urban communities in TAS, VIC, WA and NSW. Commonwealth, State and Local Government grants totalled 67% of revenue.

New funding partners this year include Nyrstar, Epic Games, Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks, City of Melville, and the Jetty Foundation.

Big hART are proud of the long-standing, multi-year partnerships with Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Tasmanian Community Fund, Lotterywest, Telstra, Restore Hope Foundation, Crown Resorts and Packer Family Foundations, FMG, the Blacket Family, the Shearmans, Catriona Mordant AM and Simon Mordant AM, and The Tony Foundation.

It is encouraging to see partnerships and project collaborations reflecting an all of community response – with grassroots organisations, Elders, philanthropic, corporate and government partners working together to make an impact.

Big hART extends immense gratitude to partners for their trust, understanding, collaboration and deep commitment to social change.



“Hydro Tasmania is committed to supporting our community and to powering a state which can continue to flourish into the future. We’re delighted to support this project which connects and engages the area’s youth and develops their potential.”

EVANGELISTA ALBERTINI
CEO OF HYDRO TASMANIA

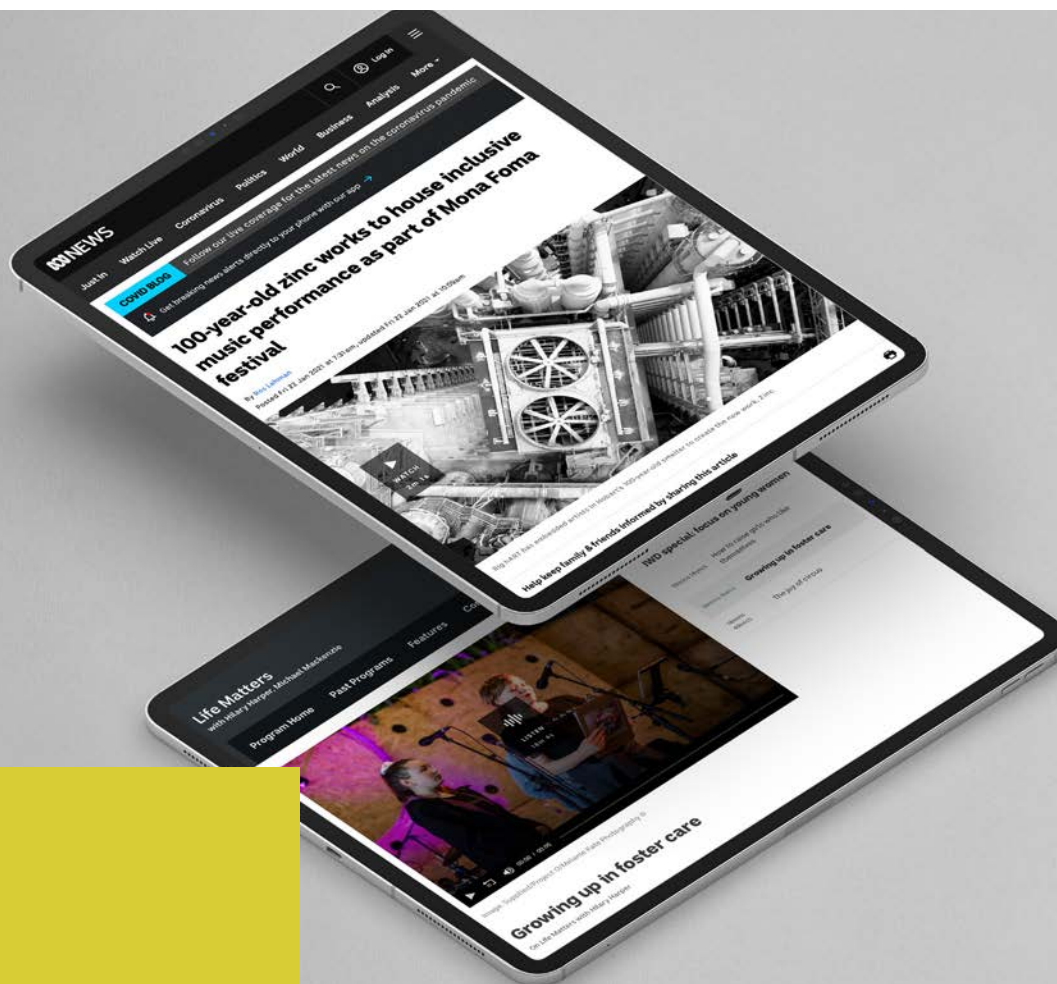


Communications & Media Report

“A groundbreaking program is empowering girls to believe in themselves, and to be catalysts for change in their disadvantaged communities.”

THE MERCURY

It has been another strong year creating social impact through media and communications, with Big hART’s work amplified, and positive stories about the communities where Big hART works shared across a variety of platforms – from media coverage to E-News, social media platforms and the Big hART Blog.



316

MEDIA STORIES BIG
hART CAPTURED IN
PRINT, ONLINE, RADIO
AND TV.

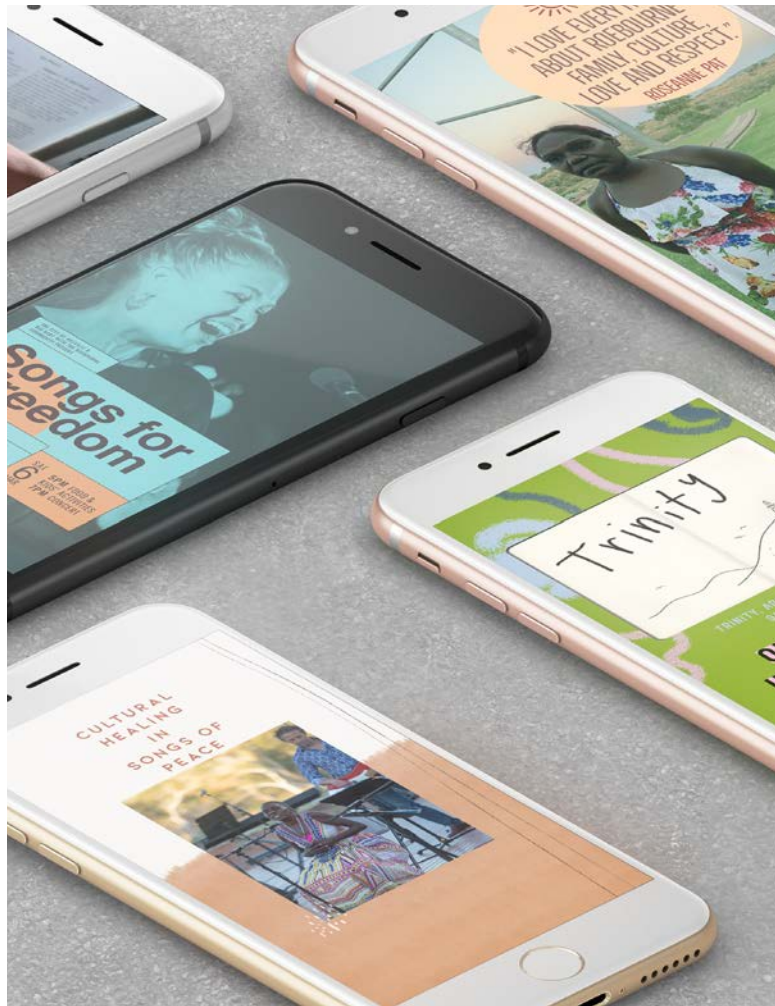
Media coverage

This year saw a high increase in media coverage with 316 media stories about Big hART captured overall, including 171 digital, 78 print, 58 radio and 10 TV stories. Major events at festivals saw prominent national coverage, highlights being glowing reviews of Zinc and Acoustic Life of Boatsheds in The Guardian, Arts Hub, The Age and ABC Online. Songs for Freedom media coverage generated new audiences with features on ABC Radio Perth Mornings, ABC Radio National's The Music and The Australian.

"Songs for Freedom an antidote to traumas of prison."

THE AUSTRALIAN





“Acoustic Life of Boatsheds is my favourite all time gig. It’s wonderfully rich in inspiration responding to the acoustics, visuals and story of a place. The best part was having time to work on something so intensively. It’s very rare you get the space to hothouse an idea intensively and as an ensemble, it was amazing.”

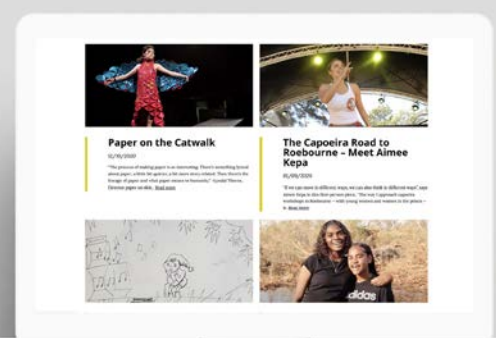
MAGGIE ABRAHAM
ARTIST & PRODUCER
BIG hART BLOG

Social Media

With a modest advertising campaign behind it and spearheaded by high profile events Big hART’s social media presence has increased substantially this year, with 23.3K followers across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Vimeo. Big hART’s Facebook page had the highest growth, with an increase in Tasmania audiences in this financial year. The Songs for Freedom video was the most popular video overall - on Big hART’s YouTube channel and also on Facebook where it amassed 21.6K views and reached 33,400 people.

Blog

Big hART’s blog continues to give a deeper insight into the company’s work and share an insight into the stories behind the work with the first person narratives of participants, community members and artists. Blog stories ranged from Yindjibarndi Elder Tootsie Daniel’s moving personal story about songwriting and the deep connections with her children; to behind-the-scenes of Zinc and Acoustic Life of Boatsheds featuring interviews with the artists; to a retrospective look at Big hART’s beginnings in Burnie with The Big Ears Club.





“Produced by Big hART and driven by First Nations Elders and creators, giving an importance voice to the young people who will be the future custodians of the environment.”

NITV

Electronic Direct Marketing (EDM)

Big hART continues to produce a regular national newsletter and quarterly specialist newsletters including Pollen (Tasmanian focus), New Roebourne, NEO-Learning and Impact (for stakeholders, funders and philanthropists). Overall, there were 20 EDMs produced and published this year, to a total audience of 12,194 subscribers.

Website

Visitation of the Big hART website also increased this year, with a 12.7% increase in users since the last financial year, with 18K users and 23K sessions. Big hART's home page remains the most popular page on the website, with New Roebourne the most popular project page, followed by Project O. The main location of Big hART's web visitors continues to be Australia. Desktop viewing of Big hART's website remains the most popular with 62.6%, and mobile users at 34.7%.

Spikes in website traffic are still directly linked to high profile national media coverage and the publication dates of Big hART's E-News. The largest visitation to the website this year occurred on 1-2 Feb with 1.7K visitations and a high increase in international traffic, which was when a piece written by Scott Rankin on NEO-Learning was published in international digital publication The Ensemble News.

“Creative project transforms Sheffield overnight.”

LAUNCESTON EXAMINER

Staff 2020-21



SCOTT RANKIN
CEO & CREATIVE DIRECTOR



GENEVIEVE DUGARD
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR &
NATIONAL DIRECTOR
PROJECT O



SAM HAWKER
NATIONAL PRODUCER



ANDREW VINEY
NATIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER
& PRODUCER ACOUSTIC
LIFE OF SHEDS



BETTINA RICHTER
MEDIA AND
COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER



JOHN CULLEY
CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER



LUCY HARRISON
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT &
PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER



ANGELA PRIOR
CREATIVE PRODUCER
TAS



RACHEL SMALL
PROGRAM PRODUCER TAS
POSITIVE FUTURES



HOLLY RANKIN-SMITH
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER TAS



PAUL WHITELAW
OPERATIONS MANAGER
TAS



JOE PICKETT
CREATIVE PROGRAMS
PRODUCTION MANAGER
TAS



CLARE SPILLMAN
PRODUCER
PROJECT O SMITHTON TAS



ALISON WILKES
PRODUCER
PRODUCER TAS



LAURA JOHNSON
PROJECT O ALUMNI
CO-ORDINATOR TAS



APRIL PHILLIPS
CREATIVE LEARNING
PRODUCER
NEO-LEARNING



MARK LEAHY
CREATIVE LEARNING PRODUCER
& ASSOCIATE ARTIST
NEO-LEARNING



NATALIE O'DONNELL
CREATIVE PRODUCER VIC



FALLON TE PAA
COMMUNITY PRODUCER
PROJECT O FRANKSTON



BELLA WARU
COMMUNITY PRODUCER
PROJECT O FRANKSTON



MAGGIE ABRAHAM
COMMUNITY PRODUCER
PROJECT O FRANKSTON



AIMEE KEPA
CREATIVE PRODUCER WA



PATRICK WUNDKE
COMMUNITY PRODUCER
NEW ROEBOURNE



LEITH ALEXANDER
ASSOCIATE ARTIST



ALLERY SANDY
CULTURAL ADVISOR



MICHELLE ADAMS
CULTURAL ADVISOR



PATRICK CHURNSIDE
CULTURAL ADVISOR



ANDY CLARK
PROGRAMS PRODUCER
NEW ROEBOURNE



MONICA HIGGINS
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



NICKY AKEHURST
ASSOCIATE ARTIST



SOPHIA MARINOS
PRODUCER ALL OF US



LINCOLN SMITH
COMMUNITY PRODUCER NSW

Big hART Board

Barbara Baikie

CHAIR

Justice & Gender: Barbara has held 20+ years of senior positions in juvenile justice, disability, child protection, and policy. She is former President of the National Council of Women of Australia. Her key experience includes strategic planning and consulting.

Andrew Viney

PUBLIC OFFICER & TREASURER

Creative Industries: Andrew has 20+ years in the private sector, and the music and entertainment industry. He is experienced in logistics, financial planning, and HR management.

Scott Rankin

MEMBER

Community Development & Arts: Scott is Big hART's Co-founder, CEO, and Creative Director, with additional roles as Writer, Director, Executive Producer, essayist and public speaker. He is a leader in CCD project design, consulting to government and the corporate sector.

Allery Sandy

MEMBER

Community Development & Arts: A Yindjibarndi leader and artist, Allery has been working with Big hART in Roebourne for 6 years, as a key Elder and cultural consultant. Allery's background includes community welfare, Yindjibarndi language education, work for the Aboriginal Church and she is also a Director on a number of boards.

Wendy Page

MEMBER

Media: Wendy has 25+ years experience as a television journalist with ABC TV, including nearly 20 years with Australian Story where she was one of the founding producers.

Neal Rodwell

MEMBER

Disability: Neal is the Manager of North West Residential Support Services Inc., with 30+ years experience in disability and the not-for-profit sector. He is highly skilled in the areas of financial management and policy development.

Carla Wall

MEMBER

Technology: Carla is the Chief Operating Officer for Results Legal. She has 20+ years' experience driving the vision, business strategy and growth across a range of sectors including finance, construction and technology.

Patrick Churnside

MEMBER

Community Development & Arts: Patrick is a Traditional Owner from the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi Language Groups and a gifted performer and has worked with Big hART leading intercultural workshops for many years. Patrick is also a board member of the State Government Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee and City of Karratha Arts & Cultural Advisory Group.

Financial Report

REVENUE	\$000s
Commonwealth Grants	1791
Corporate	315
Donations	417
Local Council Grants	689
Other Revenue	420
Philanthropic	173
Presentation fees	27
State Grants	418
COVID-19	391
TOTAL REVENUE	4,641

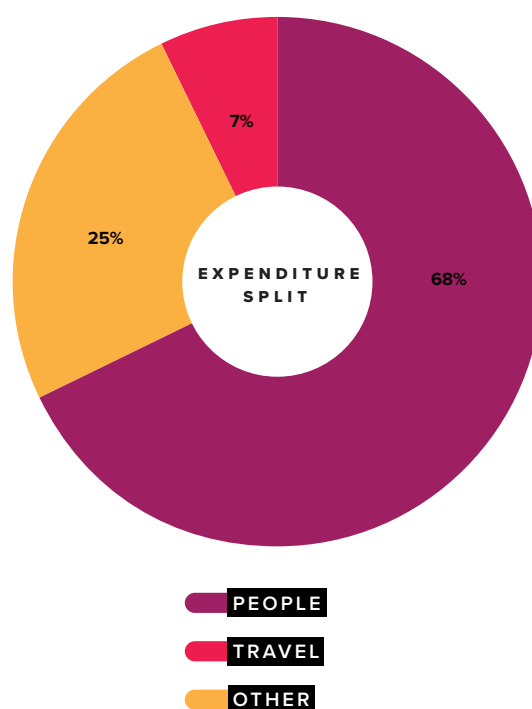
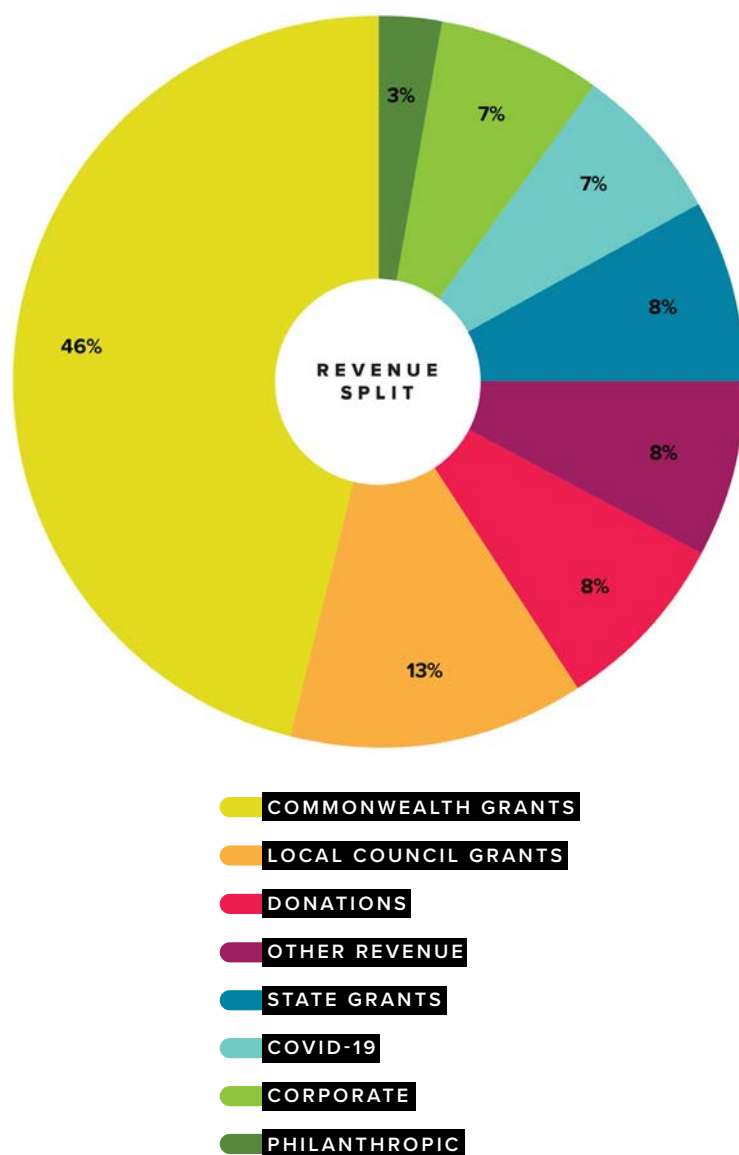
EXPENSES	\$000s
People	2077
Travel	221
All Other	766
TOTAL EXPENSES	3064

SURPLUS FOR YEAR 1577

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	\$000s
Bank	2112
Trade and Grant Debtors	151
Other Assets	148
TOTAL ASSETS	2411

LIABILITIES	\$000s
Current Liabilities	255
NET ASSETS	2156



Sponsors & Funders

WE THANK OUR PARTNERS, SPONSORS AND FUNDERS:



BIG hART WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE BLACKET FAMILY, CATRIONA MORDANT AM AND SIMON MORDANT AM, MR PAUL BARNETT, THE RUSSELL MILLS FOUNDATION, THE ROBERTS-THOMSON FAMILY AND OUR MANY PRIVATE DONORS AND ONGOING SUPPORTERS.

BIG *h* ART

PHOTOGRAPHER CREDITS:

Nicky Akehurst, Anna Cadden, Claire Leach, Linda Dunjey, Courtney McFarland, Amy Brown, Leith Alexander, Patrick Wundke, Aimee Kepa, Frances Andrijich, Rachel Small, Angela Prior, Simara Munda, Sho-ella Smith and New Roebourne participants Chenise Cameron, Tre Wally, Artwork by Artist Maeve Baker (P35), Jordan East (P20) and Monica Higgins (various).

Annual Report created by Bettina Richter with the Big hART team, with graphic design by Monica Higgins.

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