

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



WHO WE ARE

In 2011 Echuca Moama Arts Initiative (EMAI) was founded by a group of likeminded community members as a not-for-profit organisation whose purpose was to actively support the arts and artists in the region and to encourage community and visitor interest and engagement.

Initially the Old Customs House building was provided to the group by the Shire of Campaspe where considerable time and effort was donated to set the building up as a gallery presenting regular exhibitions and events.

In 2015, EMAI moved to the old Freemans Foundry building which had been renovated to become The Foundry Arts Space gallery. Since then The Foundry Arts Space has been managed and run by volunteers delivering regular exhibitions, art classes and workshops throughout the year.

The EMAI project for the next 10 years will continue to support and foster the arts and artists in the region through actively participating with all programs and developments, both community and commercial, to ensure that the Echuca Moama Murray River region is recognised as an exciting place for the arts experience.

Echuca Moama Arts Initiative and The Foundry Arts Space acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we are on, The Yorta Yorta Nation.

We pay respects to their Tribal Elders; we celebrate their continuing culture and acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.



Councillor Paul Jarman and Chris Lee at the opening of the Rich River Quilters Exhibition

EMAI'S PURPOSE

EMAI's purpose is to promote the arts and enable and encourage community and visitor interest and engagement in the arts through all communication channels -



Assist with the production and promotion of the arts in all forms throughout the Echuca Moama region



Promote artistic and cultural endeavours in the region



Foster interaction between various artistic and cultural organisations and individuals and the wider community

THE FOUNDRY ARTS SPACE

The Foundry Arts Space, located in the Old Freemans Foundry building in the Echuca Port area, supports artists and fosters the arts in the community and cultural organisations through exhibitions, events, workshops and classes throughout the year.

The Foundry Arts Space is recognised for presenting regular 2D, 3D and audio/visual art exhibitions and arts events by local and emerging artists and community organisations, as well as providing the opportunity to experience work by nationally recognised artists.

Left to right - 'Altered States' Exhibiton - Artist Kerry Williams sculpture. Judges Caroline Esbenshade and Lucila Zentner with Art Prize Committee member Ava Ward. Vivid Exhibition opening night hugs.

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Chairperson	Judi Lawler
Deputy Chairperson	Chris Stephens
Secretary	Maggie Ellis
Treasurer	Peter Caton
Exhibitions	Tim Smallwood
Events & Exhibitions	Kristen Dyer
Shop Management & Grants	Jenny Turner
Newsletters	Tarli Bird
Social Media	Liz Dellar
Catering	Julie Spiers

SUB COMMITTEES

EXHIBITION	Kerry Williams Penny Silver Kristen Dyer Jenny Turner Judi Lawler Tim Smallwood	ART PRIZE	Sue Harrison Jill Kenley Carolyn Rolls Kerry Williams Ava Ward Sue Badham
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**Committee of Management
Chairperson - Judi Lawler**



**Art Prize Committee
Chairperson - Dr Suzanne
Harrison OAM**



**Exhibition Committee
Member - Penny Silver**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Annual Report for Echuca Moama Arts Initiative Inc. This year we have decided to go all digital with the report. We hope you find it interesting and accessible.

We have been very pleased with the diversity and quality of our exhibition program during '23 and '24. Artwork sales have been excellent, which supports both the artists and our organisation. Penny Silver and Kerry Williams and their team are to be commended on their ability to showcase the art works in interesting and clever ways. Designating two separate galleries within the Foundry, has allowed us to have some joint or small exhibitions.

Leanne Cuffe, our super-efficient treasurer announced her move to Melbourne in January. We are very sorry to lose her expertise and thank her for her 3 years' service. Peter Caton has graciously accepted the role as treasurer and will, I'm sure, keep our finances in good order. Our very efficient administration assistant, Andrea Velt, has enabled us to regularly communicate with our members and supporters. Andrea performs the vital administration required to ensure the exhibitions run smoothly and to plan

Campaspe Shire has completed stage 1 of the garden project, next to the gallery. This green, well-lit space and the kiosk will enable the

community to utilise this space and connect with the gallery.

During the year, we met with councillors and shire staff to investigate the renovation and future use of the existing tin shed adjacent to the gallery. Our vision is a dual workshop space accessible from the Foundry, with room for classes and storage.

In June, we were very excited to learn that the shire will fund the design and planning for this creative workshop space. This is stage one of a 2 or 3 year project, as further funding will be required to complete the renovation. The committee of management have set aside \$20,000 towards the fit out. Our thanks to Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Rob Amos, Cr Paul Jarman and the councillors for their support in gaining this funding.

As part of our promotion of community arts, we have been able to support artist Krystal Lee, the Bridge Art Project and the Bella A' Capella singers in their grant applications. I have appreciated the support of our members, artists and the committee in this first year of my chairmanship. I think we have an exciting year ahead.

Judi Lawler

Chairperson
Echuca Moama Arts Initiative Inc.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It has been another very busy year in the Foundry Art Space with a full calendar of diverse exhibitions and events. The end of year financial figures again demonstrated a positive result.

This past year has shown a significant increase to our memberships with \$3745 being attributed to 23/24 and \$1471 being prepayment for memberships to the 24/25 financial year.

“ ***This is a positive increase to our membership base which is slowly recovering from the pandemic years*** ”

Supporting our committees and volunteers is our administrative assistant Andrea who has done an excellent job since commencing with us. Due to additional responsibilities and tasks being added to the role, there has been a notable increase in the cost of administration during the financial period.

The yearly sponsorship figure is zero as the Moama Bowling Club's sponsorship was not received till after year-end, we thank the MBC for their continued financial support. Included in our figures are the prepayments of sponsorships for the bi-annual Arts Prize (held in July 2024),

with many generous sponsorships from local businesses received to support the event.

Thanks, must also be given to Anne Maree Crosby from Lockwood Partners for donating her time and expertise again in preparing our Financial Statement for 2024.

This being my first AGM and Treasurer's Report since taking over from Leanne I look forward to continuing to support Volunteers and Committee. I would also like to thank Leanne for her significant contribution to EMAI in the role of Treasurer over the years and her help to me in transitioning to the Treasurers role.

*Peter Caton and
Leanne Cuffe*
Joint Treasurers
Echuca Moama Arts Initiative Inc.



'Destination Unknown' Exhibition - Artist Maree Santilla Ceramics

INCOME EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Memberships	5,216.55	2,540.00
Interest	5.21	5.30
Donations	1,038.05	674.80
Grants	4,470.00	4,390.00
Commission on Sales	11,949.21	12,233.62
Sponsorship - MBC		7,500.00
Venue Hire	426.00	170.00
Workshops		-
Exhibition Fees	3,860.00	3,340.00
Arts prize income		10,445.00
Miscellaneous Income	589.25	54.47
	27,554.27	41,353.19
Expenditure		
RAV Membership	305.00	250.00
Insurance - RAV Public Liability	990.00	900.00
Consumer Affairs Victoria	-	61.20
Administration	15,382.77	10,095.00
Bank Fees (inc. Merchant Fees)	1,196.24	1,188.42
Postage, Printing and Stationery	568.60	
Utilities	1,933.61	1,661.95
Office expenses	303.75	1,074.94
Rates / Rent	1,331.10	1,326.80
Entertainment	400.00	460.98
Exhibition general expenses	1,010.15	734.75
General Expenses	122.48	1,200.84
Memberships		139.50
Subscriptions		76.66
Technology	1,063.15	1,014.97
Telephone costs	931.00	-
Artists costs	40.00	15.00
Arts Prize costs		6,910.95
Workshop costs	77.75	1,598.97
Foundry Expenses - Repairs & Maintenance	112.70	609.07
	25,768.30	29,320.00
Surplus (Deficit) for Year	1,785.97	12,033.19

ASSETS LIABILITIES STATEMENT

As at 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash at Bank General account	24,798.86	45,669.58
Cash at Bank Arts Prize sub committee	15,445.37	4,306.04
Term deposit	20,000.00	-
Cash on hand	100.00	-
Accounts receivable	500.00	400.00
Fittings	6,225.77	5,571.27
Total Assets	67,070.00	55,946.89
Liabilities		
Grants in advance Auspiced	-	4,670.00
Amounts payable to Artists	4,549.00	1,118.00
Arts Prize income in advance	10,375.00	-
Accounts payable	1,526.27	1,325.13
Total Liabilities	16,450.27	7,113.13
Net Assets	50,619.73	48,833.76
Members Funds		
Retained surplus at start of year	48,833.76	36,800.57
Surplus (Deficit) for Year	1,785.97	12,033.19
Total Members Funds	50,619.73	48,833.76

Peter Caton
Treasurer
23 October 2024

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS REPORT



***Walking Through the Decades Exhibition
Njernda Aboriginal Corporation***

EMAI members displayed their creations during their annual two month exhibition, resulting in many sales. The funds raised, help support the Foundry Art Space, ensuring continued support for artists and community enrichment in 2025



In 2024, the Foundry Arts Space showcased an array of artistic expressions, including elaborate quilts, contemporary and traditional paintings, large sculptures, photographs, organic textiles and installations.

Kerry, Penny and the exhibition team showcased stunning displays of local and regional artists, creating a cultural hub that brought people together to experience the joy and inspiration of art.

One of the year's highlights was the partnership with NAIDOC to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The exhibition, featuring past and present photographs, was well attended and the opening night was magical - guests enjoyed the adjoining Campaspe Shire Councils 'brothel' gardens lit with fairy lights and a pop-up kitchen.

The year also featured two workshops, several artists talks, a morning tea and a performance by the Echuca Moama Theatre Company.

EMAI would like to thank all the artists and visitors for making 2024 a wonderful year!

Kristen Dyer
Events & Exhibitions
Echuca Moama Arts Initiative Inc.

EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

JULY 2023 - JULY 2024

Exhibitions & Events

Marco Luccio - Cities and Stories

Earthed - Clay, Charcoal, Ochre - Angie Russi and Eric Brown

Mindset/Relative Strangers - Boben Mammen

Destination Unknown - Maree Santilla

Vivid Art Exhibition - Artworks by Adult members of the Vivid community

Members Summer Salon Exhibition - Members of The Foundry Arts Space

Rich River Quilters 2024 Exhibition - Rich River Quilters

Nurturing Nature Exhibition - Tilly Keenan

Altered States Exhibition - Tuesday Junction

Same Country, Different Interpretations - Elaine Van Dyk and Judy Hutchins

Don't Fence Me In Exhibition - Australian Plein-Air Artist Group

Walking Through the Decades Exhibition - Njernda Aboriginal Corporation

Workshops & Artists Talks

Make It Craft Group - Local artists

Morning Tea - Campaspe Shire Council

Artist Talk - Angie Russi and Eric Brown

Artist Talk - Boben Mammen

Artist Talk - Marco Luccio

Workshop Marco Luccio - Sketching for happiness

Workshop Marco Luccio - Sketching Echuca and its environs

VISIT ANALYSIS

VISITOR ANALYSIS JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

MONTH	VISITOR NUMBERS	DAYS OPEN	DAYS CLOSED
July	1,275		
August	314		
September	1,104		
October	714		
November	713		
December	779		
January	960		
February	669		
March	1,129		
April	1,203		
May	725		
June	765		
Total	10,350		



'Nurturing Nature' Exhibition opening night



Artist Talk - Artist Marco Luccio chatting about his artworks

ARTS PRIZE REPORT

An Art Prize subcommittee meeting was held on the 3 August 2023. A unanimous decision to run the art prize in 2024 was made.

The committee has eight members - Sue Harrison (chair), Kerrie Williams, Jill Kenley, Liz Dellar, Ava Ward, Liz Williams, Sue Badham and Carolyn Rolls. The subcommittee met 12 times between August 2023 and 30 June 2024.

The decision was made to organize an environmental art prize. The experience gained in the 2022 Art Prize was invaluable for communicating with sponsors, artists, judges, media, web-links and designers of fliers and catalogues.

Artists had the opportunity to provide one entry on the theme 'Nature speaks'. The categories for winning entries were expanded to five areas – First Prize, Highly Commended, Local Artist within 50 km, Youth (first and two highly commended) and the Peoples' Choice.

Sponsors were approached and \$7,800 was raised. Grant applications were approved by Campaspe Shire for \$1000 (to exhibit the Youth Section in the library) and Murray River Council for \$1000 (to help with expenses to run this Art Prize at the Foundry). This budget enabled a successful and profitable Art Prize to be realized.

The Art Prize subcommittee appreciated the support of the EMAI committee in providing admin for enquiries that came directly to the Foundry, treasury support for managing money from sales and for offering to provide wine for the gala event. The EMAI Committee also helped the Art Prize by establishing artist links for entries to be received on line.

Entries were received during May and June. By June 30, the opening night (19 July 2024) had been organised with food and wine, outside lights hired and the public space made safe. Two judges were confirmed- Lucila Zentner, established artist from Sydney and Carolyn Esbenshade, curator from Shepparton Art Museum and delivery of entries was eagerly awaited.

Dr Sue Harrison OAM

Arts Prize Chairperson
Echuca Moama Arts Initiative Inc.



Workshop 'Sketching Echuca and its environs' with Artist Marco Luccio

SPONSORSHIP & SUPPORT

The Foundry Art Space, like all organisations, has felt the increased cost of living this last year. Thankfully the support of our sponsors has enabled us to continue to operate as a viable and growing enterprise.

Morrison's Riverview Winery has generously supplied the wines for our opening celebrations. Vast Creative keep our website up to date and fresh, while Peter Walsh's office cover our printing costs.

We are able to stay in the public eye via articles in the Riverine Herald and promotion by local radio 104.7 EMFM.

The Moama Bowling Club's ongoing support enables us to employ a part time administrator.

The officers and councillors of the Shire of Campaspe, continue to support and partner with us. This year will see planning commence for the new workshop as well as seeking funding for the actual build.

Judi Lawler

Chairperson
Echuca Moama Arts Initiative Inc.



MARKETING & MEDIA REPORT

Throughout 2024, social media platforms Facebook and Instagram remained the topmost ways we have connected with followers of the arts in our region and beyond. Echuca's Riverine Herald and radio emfm104.7 help spread the word, too.

Our Facebook page reaches over 2000 people, and our Instagram page has 1440 followers. Thanks go to the many followers who click on the reactions buttons and/or leave a comment. It helps a lot when people 'share' our posts to their own accounts.

Penny Silver's superb graphic design of the exhibition posters is seen around town and online. This year Tarli Bird compiled the EMAI newsletter which has been distributed via email, online on the website and in hard copy at The Foundry Arts Space.



**'Walking Through the Decades' Exhibition
Njernda Aboriginal Corporation**

Much appreciation to Andrea, our ever approachable assistant who keeps all those informative emails flowing.

“ ***If you haven't checked the website www.emai.org.au lately, please do*** ”

Arts supporters and practicing artists can see what we offer and can respond through the links there. Vast Creative has provided invaluable website support to this member-run community gallery.

Australian Tourism Data Warehouse distribute our exhibition details to tourism operators. You can also visit us on YouTube.

Word of mouth is very effective, so thanks to those who have told others about The Foundry Arts Space, what's on, who we are and what we do. The arts scene in our Echuca Moama region is becoming more vibrant every day.

Liz Dellar
Marketing & Media
Echuca Moama Arts Initiative Inc.

VOLUNTEERS & MEMBERS REPORT

Membership of EMAI entitles you to receive information on art events and competitions from around our region via email, newsletters and social media.

Access to the annual members exhibition allows you to exhibit and sell your artwork for no fee. It also supports the ongoing costs of the Foundry. This year we have 76 financial members, which is an increase on last year.

Our volunteers do an outstanding job in keeping our doors open 6 days a week all year. Their friendly faces welcome visitors, offering insights into the current exhibition and completing art sales.

Although we have many names in our volunteer data base, there is a dedicated 20 who regularly volunteer. We are extremely grateful to these folk, who are the public face of the Foundry.

Volunteering is about sharing a love of arts and meeting new people. Some of our volunteers are artists, but many just have a love of art and wish to be involved. If this sounds interesting to you, we would love to welcome you into the Foundry family.

Contact details are on our website www.emai.org.au.

Judi Lawler
Chairperson
Echuca Moama Arts Initiative Inc.



Volunteer Gavin North, always welcoming visitors with a smile



Volunteers Anne Mawson and Jill Kenley catch up at one of the many exhibitions held at The Foundry Arts Space



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