



**Ulumbarra**  
Foundation

**2017 Annual Report**





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**The Ulumbarra Foundation has been established to attract philanthropic support for Central Victoria's performing arts.**

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Named to recognise Bendigo's new world-class performance theatre, The Ulumbarra Foundation is the only charity in Central Victoria devoted to performing arts.

A strong performing arts sector with the ability to contribute to its own development will benefit regional residents and businesses alike by adding to the rich tapestry of cultural experiences in Central Victoria.

The Foundation's purpose is to benefit the development of performing arts at Bendigo's unique arts venues, notably Ulumbarra Theatre, The Capital, Bendigo Town Hall and Old Fire Station. The Foundation's activities will also support performing arts organisations, artists and the wider regional community through inspirational programs and funding initiatives.

### Objectives

- To raise the profile and awareness of Central Victorian arts programs and venues.
- To attract philanthropic support.
- To draw patrons of the arts from outside Central Victoria to our local performing arts precinct.
- To provide a framework that will enable new funding sources to flow to Bendigo's performing arts programs.

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**[www.ulumbarrafoundation.org.au](http://www.ulumbarrafoundation.org.au)**

### Corporate Partners



Community Enterprise Foundation™

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## The Founding 50 Benefactors

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Gordon McKern OAM

Vicki and Michael Pearce

Jim Culbertson and Geoffrey True

Robert and Dawn Colbourne OAM

Carolyn Stanford

Kath Bolitho and Samuel Goddard

Jennifer Digby

Cr Rod Fyffe OAM and Victoria Fyffe

Gill and Michaël Rosier

Judi and Rex Fisher

Helen and Alan Gobbé

Ralph Moran

Neil Clark and Family

Jenny and Ruth Warren

Margaret and Garth Keech

Dr Travis and Hiranthi Perera

Andrew and Margaret Jenkin

Monsignor Frank Marriott

David and Pat Andrew

Jenny and David Mitchell

Barbara Billings

Dale and Peter Little

Wendy and Arthur Roberts

Cr James Williams and Ann Williams

Dr Elaine Murphy AM and Briony Barker

Martin and Catherine Leach

Rod and Sally Thomson

John and Susanne Cullen

Dr Herbert G J and Mrs Margaret A Hermens

John Gault and Ann Parris

Margot and Alan Spalding

Richard Guy OAM

Claire Guy

Camilla Guy

Charlotte Guy

The O'Rourke Family

Cheryl Fitzgerald

Robin and Gail Bragg

Neville and Rebecca John

Geoffrey Bowyer

Stan Liacos and Ewa Piejko

Janice and Norman West

Dennis and Pip Johanson

Howard Nathan and Ned Upton

Stuart and Alison McKenzie

Beth Penington and On Sin

Dale Pearce

Anonymous

Michael and Shelley McKern

John and Ros Bradbury



# Chairman's Report



It is with genuine pleasure that I present a report on the first full year's activities of the Ulumbarra Foundation, during which so much has been achieved, that there is no doubt the future is assured. Bendigo is recognised as the leading regional centre for arts and culture in Victoria, perhaps Australia, and we see our wonderful Ulumbarra Foundation is a key factor in that continued success.

Highlights of our first full 12 months include:

- The successful launch of our Founding 50 initiative, which raised \$100,000 to kick start the Foundation's gift fund. The 50 names are shown on a recognition board at the entry to the Theatre.
- The Isaiah Firebrace concert, for which the Foundation provided free tickets for members of his family, friends, and others who otherwise could not have attended.
- Support from the Rotary Club of Bendigo South with proceeds from the Silvie Paladino/ Victorian Welsh Male Choir concert.
- The Grug & the Rainbow Concert, for which we provided free tickets to kinder and prep children from schools in surrounding rural areas.
- Marketing our Ulumbarra wine, produced by Mandurang Valley Wines.

This year we developed three initial programmes to focus our giving:

- A programme to support and engage new arts audiences - newstART.
- A programme to support performing arts students and professional practitioners - Pathways.
- Provisioning of new items and support for our theatre venues.

We extend our grateful thanks to our many supporters and benefactors who have made a contribution in our first year as a fledgling foundation.



Thank you to the City of Greater Bendigo, for allowing us full use of the resources of the Capital Venues & Events division, at a significantly reduced cost.

We appreciate the support of local firms Beck Legal, Strategem Financial Services and Stanford Marketing, for their pro-bono management of essential matters such as Trust Deed, Incorporation, setting up all financial requirements, ACNC registration, our logo and website, etc.

Also thank you to Bendigo Bank for providing the facilities of the Community Foundation for funds to be held, with tax receipts issued, pending the receipt of our own Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status (conferred on 9 October 2017).

Our major benefactors and donors form a crucial part of the fabric of the Foundation, headed by the Hon Howard Nathan QC, and supported by our Founding 50.

A personal note of thanks to those members of the community who have volunteered their time and expertise to serve on our Board since its inception: Jim Culbertson, Howard Nathan\*, Stan Liacos, Jennifer Digby, Carolyn Stanford\*, Dale Pearce\*, David Chisholm, Vicki Pearce\*, Margaret O'Rourke, Margaret Keech\*, Dawn Colbourne OAM\*, Robin Bragg\*. Those marked \* comprise our current Board at the time of this report.

In addition, it can be safely said that, if we had not been privileged to have the services of our ex-officio Board member, David Lloyd and Executive Officer, David Stretch, we could not have possibly achieved so much in a short space of time.

Planning for 2018 with our DGR status in hand, we will shortly launch an Annual Giving programme; publish our Bequest Policy; hold a function for our benefactors, supporters, and donors in conjunction with the launch of Capital Venues & Events' 2018 Season Launch; and continue to implement our newstART and Pathways initiatives.

**Gordon McKern, OAM**  
Chair





## Key Achievements

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The Foundation was launched on 1 December 2016.

Our first two subcommittees were formed around two of our program - newstART and Pathways.

newstART aims to engage new arts audiences by providing access for the young, elderly or disadvantaged to free, premium seating at selected performances. This program will broaden access to theatres and bring inspiration and joy to members of the Bendigo and regional community.

In 2017 newstART had two significant initiatives.

To celebrate his X Factor and Eurovision journey, young indigenous singer Isaiah Firebrace performed with his band at Ulumbarra Theatre on 6 August.

Selected members of regional indigenous communities, including his home town of Moama, otherwise unable to attend this performance, were provided with transport and tickets to attend by the Ulumbarra Foundation.

Later in the year, over 200 primary school students from Axedale, Heathcote, Elmore and surrounds were provided with free tickets to see the show Grug and the Rainbow produced by Windmill Theatre Co. at the Capital Theatre on 10 October 2017.

Our second program, Pathways, is concerned with supporting and developing our performing artists, through professional development and masterclasses delivered by performing arts industry professionals across various disciplines. The Program also provides opportunities for performing arts students to connect with national companies staging performances locally.

This year we have commenced planning to resource a part time position dedicated to liaising with visiting performing arts touring companies and coordinating professional development for local performing artists and students.

### Fundraising

A rewarding partnership has been developed with the Rotary Club of Bendigo South. Funds raised from their second biennial concert fundraiser on 10 September 2017 were donated to the Ulumbarra Foundation.

The concert brought together the talents of well-known performer Silvie Paladino and the Victoria Male Welsh Choir. The event successfully raised \$12,500 that will go directly to the Foundation, and benefit our regional performing arts community and audiences.

\$100,000 was raised by the group of 50 people who contributed the first seed funds to our foundation.

This Founding 50 group are important supporters whose generosity will continue to impact in the years to come.

### Wine Sales

A limited edition 2012 Shiraz from Mandurang Valley Winery was bottled to commemorate the opening of the Ulumbarra Theatre. Now, funds from the sale of this wine are being directed to the Ulumbarra Foundation. Wine sales have been made at the Foundation's launch and it is also be marketed through Rotary Clubs and via the website.

### Bequests

The Foundation has received substantial funding from a bequest made by the late Peter Ryall in the amount of \$50,000 in support of the performing arts.

We have also been notified of a respected local resident leaving a bequest to the Ulumbarra Foundation. Bequests can be tied to a particular project or activity and can be acknowledged immediately, in later years, or remain anonymous.



# Board Members - current

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**Gordon McKern**  
OAM, Chair



**Dale Pearce,**  
Deputy Chair



**Carolyn Stanford,**  
Secretary



**Vicki Pearce,**  
Treasurer



**The Hon. Howard Nathan QC**



**M. Dawn Colbourne,**  
OAM



**Robin Bragg**



**Margaret Keech**

# Board Members - past

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**Jennifer Digby**  
(to Mar 2017)



**David Chisholm**  
(to Dec 2016)



**Stan Liacos**  
(to Feb 2016)



**Margaret O'Rourke**  
(to Nov 2016)



# Accreditation

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In our first year, the Ulumbarra Foundation has received the following accreditations:

Registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission - 12.4.16

Incorporation constituted as a trust  
ABN: 42 205 343 902

Australian Taxation Office

- Endorsed for charity tax concessions - 12.4.16
- Endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) - 9.10.16

State Revenue Office

- Registered as a Trust - 9.5.16







## Future Priorities

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Having received Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) accreditation in October 2017, the Ulumbarra Foundation is now able to connect with other charitable organisations, trusts and foundations to deliver funds and support to the Bendigo and regional performing arts industries.

An annual giving program will also be launched, to facilitate regular giving for individuals keen to connect with and support the work of the Ulumbarra Foundation.

Further opportunities for fundraising will be implemented, including electronic “tap and go” terminals, and an annual fundraising event planned for the 2018 calendar year.

Over the coming year we will continue to work on developing our newstART and Pathways programs and seeking opportunities in these areas.

Our third area of interest, venue support, will be activated with development of an equipment fund, where venues and community arts organisations will be invited to apply for funds for theatre technical equipment.



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