

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

Developing an Arts and Cultural Strategy for the Southern Midlands of Tasmania
November 2012



Hidden Valley by Mal Hamilton, 2011

A report prepared by Ms Kylie Eastley
Tasmanian Regional Arts Inc.

An immense thank you to the Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group who have committed time, resources and passion in progressing the arts in the Southern Midlands and to the broader community who have so passionately participated in the process.



This report is an initiative of the Southern Midlands Council with support from
Greater Green Ponds branch of Tasmanian Regional Arts,
the Southern Midlands community and
Tasmanian Regional Arts Inc.



*Assisting in Building Capacity & Sustainability
in the Southern Midlands*

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Foreword by the Mayor

The Southern Midlands Council recognises and acknowledges the important role that the arts have in creating a vibrant and diverse Community. This Report, titled Creative Communities, articulates a strong commitment to nurturing and developing *creative endeavour* in the Southern Midlands at both a Council, as well as a Community level. The term *creative endeavour* as referred to in the Report encapsulates *the arts* in its widest scope. The document focuses on partnerships/networks with Council as well as with local arts organisations, artists (in whatever form of creative endeavour), local Community organisations, local traders, academic institutions, State and Federal Governments and private enterprise.



In reflecting on the Community's engagement with the arts, I am drawn back before the creation of the Southern Midlands Council in 1993. The Southern Midlands Council local government area was created through the merging of the Municipalities of Oatlands and Green Ponds along with the Northern Wards of the Municipalities of Brighton and Richmond.

- ❖ In the former Oatlands municipality area I can, like many of the readers I am sure, remember the topiaries in the 1960s through the area known as St Peter's Pass on the Midland Highway. They are still maintained today as a form of public art and are a sense of pride and connection for the Community and the Council.
- ❖ In the former northern ward of the Brighton municipality Chauncy Vale is a notable public sanctuary where the writings of the renowned author, the late Nan Chauncy were created in memorable books such as *They Found a Cave*. Chauncy Vale was her home and the inspiration for her series of very popular children's books.
- ❖ In the former northern ward of Richmond is the Village of Campania, where in Flour Mill Park there is a stunning bronze sculpture by the acclaimed artist Stephen Walker AM, a resident of Campania. This was a bicentenary contribution to the Community and it engenders a sense of pride in the residents of Campania, the district and the Council.
- ❖ In the former Green Ponds (Kempton) municipal area, the Council building known as "The Blue Place", a former church was given over to the custodianship of the Green Ponds Progress Association Inc. for use by the Greater Green Ponds Branch of Tasmanian Regional Arts for arts and related activities.

I have provided this array of examples above to demonstrate an historic and valuable connection between the arts and this community of the Southern Midlands. The present day extension of

those stories is that of the “silhouettes” public art, also known as the *Shadows of the Past*, along the length of the *Heritage Highway* (Midland Highway) from Tunbridge to Kempton, created by Folko Kooper and Maureen Craig. It puts a contemporary perspective on the eighteenth century art form of the silhouette, creating poignant reminders of early colonial life on the Heritage Highway. This project came into being through joint funding by Council and the State Government, coupled with the creative inspiration of Folko & Maureen.

This Creative Communities Report seeks to provide a strong impetus to continue and indeed strengthen that sense of engagement and active participation in the arts by our diverse Community.

The Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group has worked tirelessly to ensure that our strong connection with the arts is acknowledged and nurtured not only for the present, but importantly for our future generations. I wish to thank each and every one of them for their significant contribution to date.

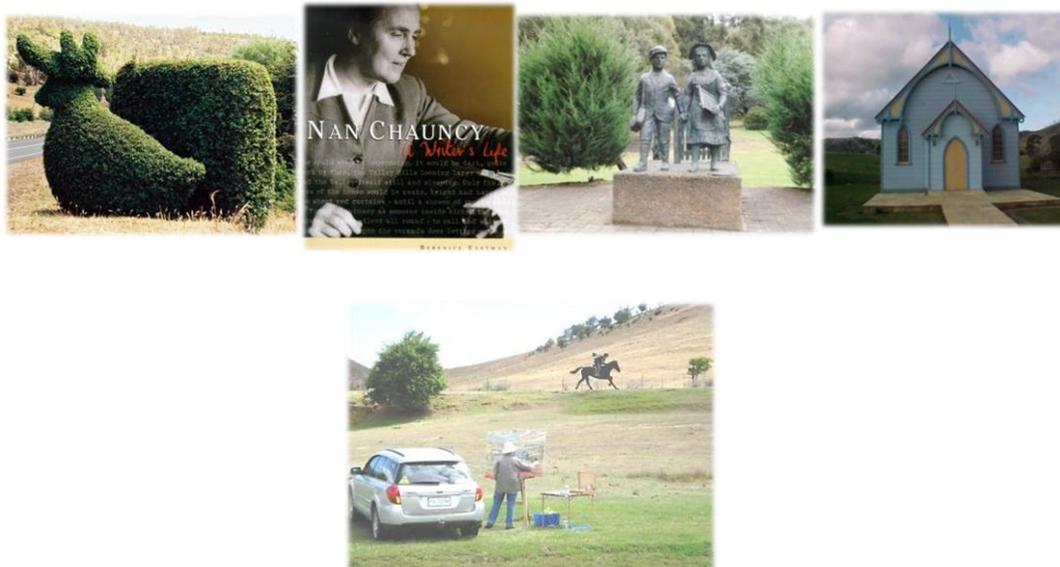
We have been most fortunate in having the talented Kylie Eastley from Tasmanian Regional Arts to facilitate the forum and write this important report. Kylie’s work provides a blue print and a strong foundation for *creative endeavour* in the Southern Midlands.

I also wish to acknowledge the Deputy General Manager of the Southern Midlands Council, Andrew Benson. Andrew has driven the process from the Council perspective and has enthusiastically participated as a keen member of the Working Group.

My appreciation also goes to the many residents of the Southern Midlands for generously providing their time and examples of their amazing talents during the research phase of this work – their input has been fundamental in producing such a benchmark document.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that through working together we can continue to build a vibrant and culturally rich Community, creating opportunities as well as enhancing the many strengths and successes in our *Creative Community*.

A.E. Bisdee OAM
Mayor



About This Report

Local Government in Tasmania has identified the benefits that the arts and the creative sector bring to their regions. It is well recognised that people are attracted to communities that embrace the arts and incorporate creativity into the planning, activities and life of a community. In response to the large number of creative individuals living and working in communities, many councils are developing art strategies that support increased arts and creative projects.

In early 2012 the Southern Midlands Council acknowledged the need to identify what was happening within their community and how to better support the arts. The Council also identified the need to engage with stakeholders within the region to work towards the development of an arts strategy.

This report has been compiled from information collected through consultation with the Southern Midlands Council, the Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group and the broader Southern Midlands community. It aims to capture some of the ideas and opportunities around supporting and promoting the arts in the Southern Midlands while providing important data that will assist in the development of an Arts Strategy for the region.

For the benefit of the consultation process and the report, the Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group defined 'the arts' as...

... includes but is not limited to music (instrumental and vocal), dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, industrial design, costume and fashion design, motion pictures, television, radio, tape and sound recording, the arts related to the presentation, performance, execution and exhibition of such major art forms, and the study and application of the arts to the human environment.

This is borrowed from the National Arts and Media Strategy (NAMS) 1994.

The Working Group also identified with the definition from the Playford Council in South Australia...

'Councils commitment to arts and cultural development empowers people and engenders a sense of pride in their identity and community and plays an important role in creating social, educational and economic opportunities.'



The Southern Midlands Municipality

The Southern Midlands Council is a rural local government authority with approximately 3400 properties and 6000 people scattered throughout 2500 square kilometres. It is home to many creative individuals, groups and organisations and has a rich and diverse history, with many examples of 19th century architecture including convict-built Georgian homesteads and small workers' cottages. Heritage landscapes abound, with many views largely as they were 150 years ago.



Some of the villages and districts included in the municipality are Mangalore, Bagdad, Broadmarsh, Elderslie, Dysart, Jericho, Kempton, Melton Mowbray, Mt Seymour, Oatlands, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Parattah, Woodsdale, Levendale, Runnymede, Colebrook, Campania and Rekuna.

Southern Midlands Council

Like many other local government areas in Tasmania, the Southern Midlands Council has supported a range of creative endeavours throughout the region and has identified the benefit in encouraging a vibrant arts community to attract visitors, new residents and innovation to the municipality.

The Southern Midlands covers 2500+ square kilometres

In mid-2011 Council began initial discussions with members of the Southern Midlands community. Subsequently the Southern Midlands Council sought expressions of interest for the formation of a working group and committed to the development of an Arts Strategy. While there are no specific budgets allocated to the arts at this time, the Council believes it has a role to play in supporting, promoting, facilitating and providing resources, as is feasible, to the growth of creativity in the region.

‘The definitions of arts, culture and fine art often overlap as all three are concerned with human expression. For example, paintings and sculptures are products of art, culture and fine art. All three are fields of study, research and debate in the humanities facilities of tertiary education, and determining their distinctive differences can be difficult.’ John Smith, *The Difference Between Arts, Culture & Fine Arts* a writer and online contributor

In discussing an arts strategy it is unavoidable that the term 'culture' is discussed as well, as the two are inextricably linked. While the Working Group acknowledged this connection the term that is predominantly used in this report is *art* and *creativity*.

'Culture may even be described simply as that which makes life worth living.' T.S. Elliot 1948

Scratching the Surface - Art in the Southern Midlands

The Southern Midlands is already home to many creative individuals with writers, painters, performers, singers and dancers calling it home. Greater Green Ponds, a branch of Tasmanian Regional Arts, has been operating within the community for many years and provides classes, exhibitions and manages the Collecting Together, art hiring scheme.

Rachael Treasure is an accomplished internationally published author who has written a number of books depicting life on the land. She began as a journalist for the ABC in early 1990 and went on to combine her love of writing with her passion for farming, working dogs and horses to write her first novel *Jillaroo*. She later moved to Tasmania, settling at Levendale where she continues to write, train dogs and breed stock horses. Rachael is not only committed to her art but to her community, and has been integral in a range of initiatives that have put the Southern Midlands on the map.



Shadows of the Past is a project initiated by local artists, Folko Kooper and Maureen Craig. It puts a contemporary slant on the eighteenth century art form of the silhouette; creating poignant reminders of early colonial life on the Heritage Highway.



Sixteen silhouettes are installed between Tunbridge and Kempton and have become a fascination for travelers on the Midlands Highway.

Folko and Maureen have been creating sculptures in a range of medium for many years. Following a successful career in NSW, they moved to Oatlands and later settled at Oakwood, an historic 1830's Georgian home set amongst the



The Bushranger

oak trees on 32 acres at Mangalore. Here they have created a beautiful sculpture garden and studio where they design and produce sculptures for local, national and international markets.

The role that art and creativity have played in the region

A visit to the

Southern Midlands highlights the array of heritage buildings and projects. This has provided a rich environment for creativity and arts with many choosing the region as a film location and venue for festival and arts events. Some of these have included the filming of *The First Fagin*, based on the character of Ikey Solomon. Brought to life by the late, Bryce Courtenay OAM, in his book *The Potato Factory*, the film tells the story of English born Solomon, a criminal who supposedly inspired the character *Fagin* from Charles Dickens' much loved classic *Oliver*. Solomon followed his wife when she was found guilty of receiving stolen goods and transported to Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land). Himself a serial offender, he died in 1850 after many years of crime.



The First Fagin was released in November 2012



Mayor, Tony Bisdee leading the street march at the Oatlands Spring Festival 2011

While the Southern Midlands is home to many festivals it has also welcomed many community art projects such as *Open Your Eyes*, a Tasmanian Regional Arts Project. In September 2011 the cultural landscape of Southern Tasmania was put under the spotlight, with three art trails over one weekend. Each trail combined a variety of art forms from music and films to visual arts, exhibitions and crafts markets.

Plus there were workshops from Oatlands to Woodbridge and New Norfolk to Nubeena.

In 2012 Kempton Primary School worked with community volunteers to produce a 4 panel mural. Each panel showed Kempton as it might have been millions of years ago—from a shallow sea, a swampy plain, dinosaurs in a dense forest to the Age of the Megafauna and the Aboriginal hunters.

2012 saw the release of *The Southern Midlands, A History*; a comprehensive record of the life and times of the Southern Midlands. Written by Alison Alexander, this book tracks the many facets of the region from 1803 to present day.

Creativity and the arts are integral to the life of the midlands; whether it's Steven Walker's much loved sculptures or the iconic topiary that delight visitors traveling the Midlands Highway.



Steven Walker Sculptures in Flour Mill Park, Campania

The Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group

In mid-2011 the Southern Midlands Council extended an invitation to the community inviting individuals to join a Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group. The aim of this was to develop an arts strategy for the region, establish an Arts Advisory Committee as a special committee of council and encourage a creative network throughout the municipality.

The first meeting held on the 2nd May, 2012 attracted interest from a broad range of individuals who were keen to see greater opportunities for the arts to prosper in the region. Many of these individuals had links to organisations and groups who were already involved in creative activities including the:

- Bagdad Singers
- Greater Green Ponds branch of Tasmanian Regional Arts
- Painting groups
- Rural Primary Health Services
- Southern Midlands Council
- Artists and performers
- Tasmanian Regional Arts

The group was well supported by Council with representation at meetings from the Mayor, Mr Tony Bisdee OAM, the General Manager, Mr Tim Kirkwood and the Deputy General Manager, Mr Andrew Benson. Council indicated its support and commitment to the group, but reinforced the need for the community to drive the Working Group. The members of the Working Group included Dot and Mike Evans, Chris and Kay Harman, Malcolm and Barbara Hamilton, Edwin Batt, Lisa Rudd, Carolyn Bassett (Chairperson), Andrew Benson, Kristina Szymanski, Ian and Jennifer Johnston, Clr. Tony Bisdee OAM and Kylie Eastley. **See Appendix 1**

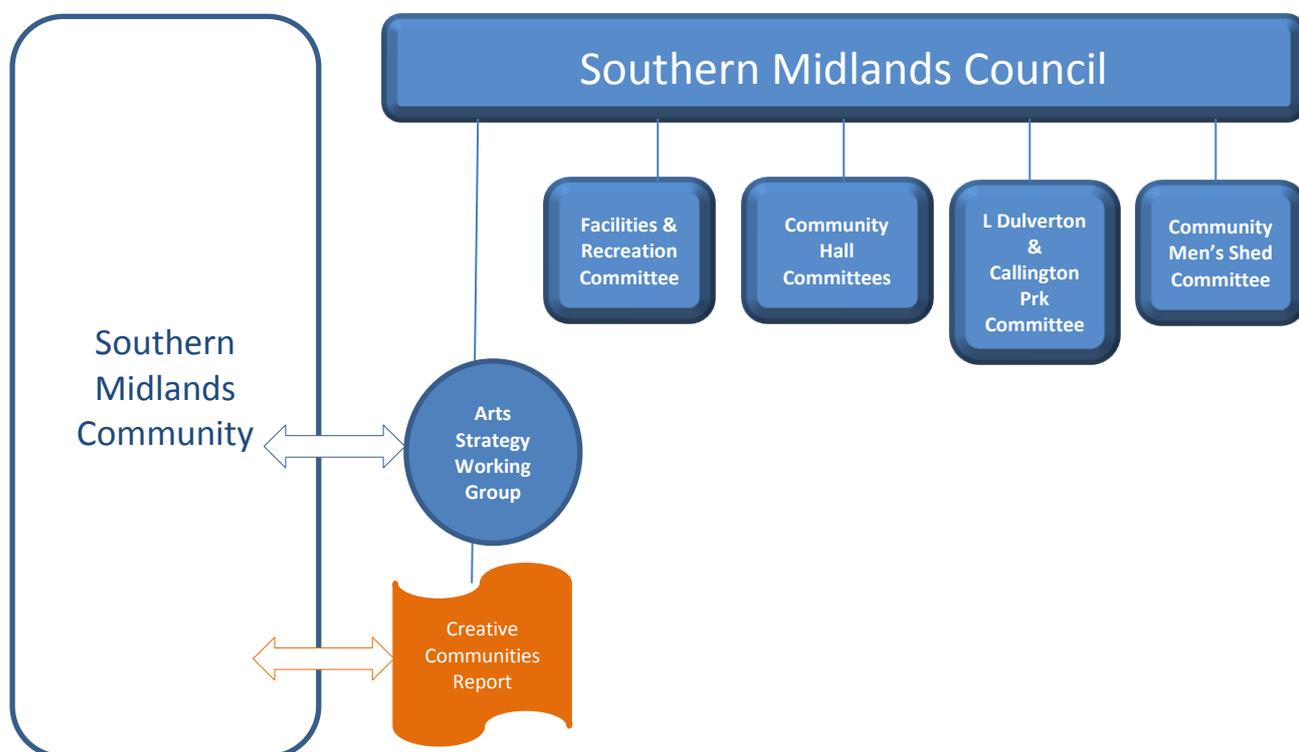
In addition to identifying the need to develop an Arts Strategy, the Council also identified the value in forming an Arts Advisory Committee that could operate as a resource to Council. While this group is yet to be formed officially, it will become a special committee of council under the Local Government Act 1993. It provides a central point for accessing advice and expertise from individuals within the arts community when dealing with creative and arts issues.

Such issues could include, but are not limited to:

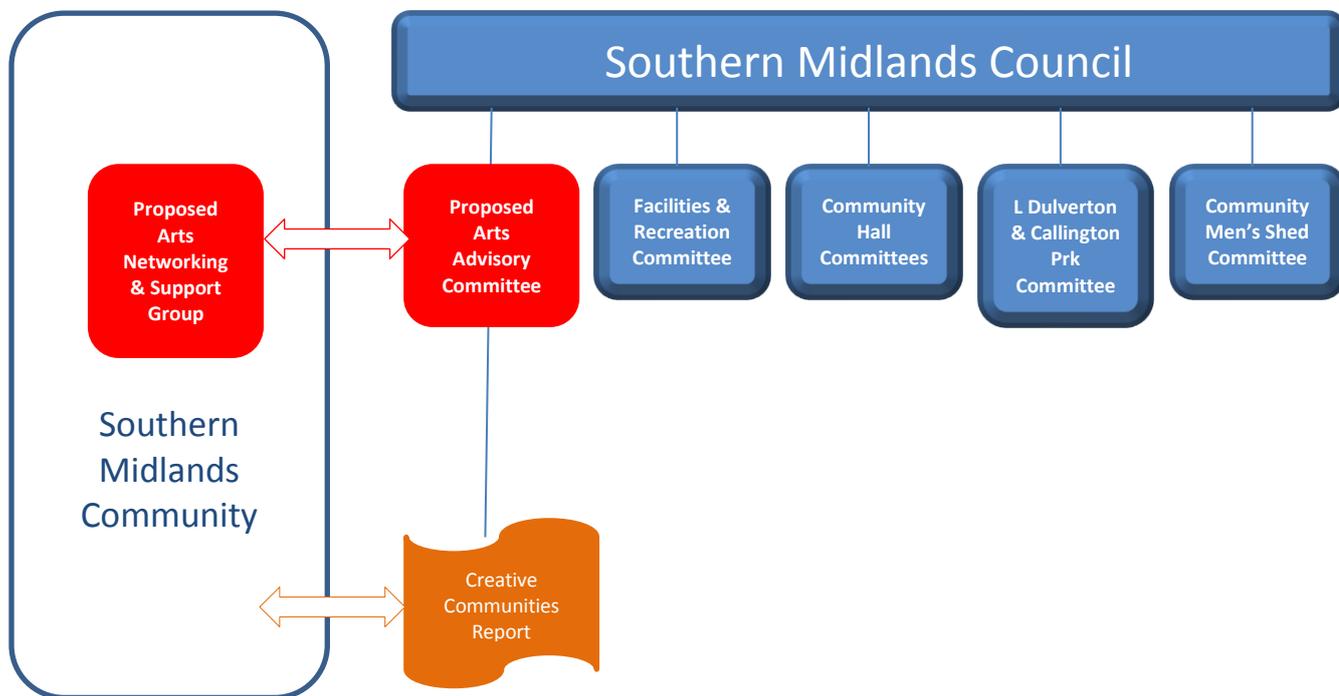
- Managing approaches from artists wishing to undertake public art in the region
- Encouraging greater involvement and coordination in major state-wide or national arts initiatives such as *Ten Days on the Island*
- Providing advice on changes to existing Council policies to better support the development and promotion of arts in the region and
- Consulting with the community; an avenue for individuals, groups and organisations to present ideas, issues or opportunities

The following diagram illustrates the existing and proposed structure that will support the establishment of an Arts Strategy and Arts Advisory Committee for the Southern Midlands.

Existing Structure



Proposed Structure



The formation of the working group was seen as a starting point to identify strategies to further engage with the community and progress the development of an Arts Strategy. From May 2012 regular meetings were held in Oatlands and Kempton to develop a plan and start to think about what was needed to develop a strategy and an arts advisory committee.

The group identified the key aims of the strategy during initial discussions:

The aim of the Southern Midlands Art Strategy is to enable groups, organisations and individuals involved in the arts to work effectively and creatively with each other in developing diverse opportunities for involving the community in quality arts activities and creative expression. This strategy recognises the important role the arts play in enabling people to celebrate their cultures and share them with the wider community.

The purpose of the Working Group

The purpose of the Working Group was to develop an arts strategy for the Southern Midlands, which included:

- Building appreciation and expression of the arts
- Identifying and building the capacity of the arts
- Improving advocacy, informing policy and



identifying strategic priorities

- Providing a forum to support the arts
- Identifying and responding to emerging issues in the arts
- Facilitating partnerships with social and private opportunities and
- Recognising, celebrating and promoting the uniqueness of the Southern Midlands

The Working Group agreed that it would focus on the arts and creativity as opposed to a broader mandate of arts, culture and heritage. They acknowledged the obvious cross over between the arts, culture and heritage, but given the resources, capacity and timeframe, the focus would initially be on the arts with scope to build on this and incorporate additional objectives over time. This didn't mean that culture and heritage would be excluded, but that at this stage it would sit within the arts focus.



It was also acknowledged that the existing group needed to engage and include greater involvement from the Southern Midlands community to develop a meaningful and sustainable strategy.

The priority that came out of this was to plan and deliver a Creative Community Forum that would engage with the broader community and present an opportunity for a more in-depth

process of engagement. It would also provide an opportunity to present the Working Group and discuss its role. To support this initiative the committee applied for a grant through the Southern Midlands Council Community Small Grants Program and received \$2 277 to resource the forum and the development of this report. In addition to this funding, Greater Green Ponds Regional Arts contributed \$200 from the branch to support the project. ***The Creative Communities Forum Flyer is provided as Appendix 2.***

Individuals from the group provided examples of other arts strategies that had been developed in local, national and international communities and agreed to take what was relevant from these while identifying specific objectives and actions relevant to the Southern Midlands community.

The Tasmanian Regional Arts (TRA) Development Officer, Kylie Eastley was invited into the process to be a representative on the Working Group and produce this report. TRA has a long history of working with local government and arts communities; supporting artists, identifying creative opportunities and developing partnerships. The role in the Southern Midlands included facilitating the Creative Communities Forum. This connection, along with the existing interest from members of the community to form an art group, has led to the formation of the Southern Midlands Art Gallery Group, a new branch of TRA based in Oatlands that was formed in November 2012. ***For more information about Tasmanian Regional Arts see Appendix 3.***

Creative Communities Forum



Rachael Treasure with Lily-Joan Rudd and Shannon Oakley

‘Wonderful, informative evening. Well organized, everybody’s ideas...much will be achieved. Thank you.’

‘More of the same. Thanks very much. Great evening.’

feedback from participants on the night

Overview

The forum was organised by the Working Group and opened by Deputy Mayor, Mark Jones OAM. It included information, a workshop component and opportunities to experience some of what was happening in the arts in the Southern Midlands. It was promoted through the community newspapers, social media, Council website, existing organisations and networks as well as word of mouth.

The forum was held on Friday 12th October 2012 at the Oatlands Community Hall and attracted 72 enthusiastic community members who came from a range of backgrounds right across the Southern Midlands. They worked in small groups to identify, share and discuss their ideas.

Appendix 4 gives an outline of the forum.



The focus was on 4 key questions and considerations:

1. **What is art and creativity anyway?** An opportunity to encourage discussion around the diversity of the arts
2. **How do individuals currently engage with the arts in their community?** As participants, makers, producers, supporters or audience members

3. **What is already happening in the region?** An opportunity to share information about what the participants already knew
4. **Opportunities and Ideas – Dare to dream!**

Responses to the questions:

What is art and creativity anyway?

Whilst there was a comprehensive listing of art activities that included the visual and performing arts, writing, restoration, textiles, music and others, it was pleasing to hear such a diverse understanding of what art and creativity is about in the broader sense and how art crosses over into all aspects of life and culture.



The Bagdad Singers



Folko Cooper with one of his sculptures

‘Enjoying the freedom of expression, and the social aspect of art and creativity.’

‘Art can challenge oneself and one’s environment.’

‘We need to learn to embrace our own creativity and no longer fear the word ART.’

‘Art can be very empowering and requires risk taking.’

‘Art is creative expression unique to each and every individual and is unlimited.’

Complete response to this question is included in Appendix 5.

How do individuals currently engage with the arts in their community?

There was a diverse group of individuals involved in the forum and feedback from the groups indicated their involvement and commitment to a range of activities including:

Choir, volunteer for hospital, scrabble, walking group, Men’s shed, painting group, dry stone walling, gardening, topiary, mah-jong, community group, networking and coordinating...

‘I garden, build and I sing- singing is a truly spiritual experience shared with a good group’

Writing, performance, photography, community heritage archive project, walking, tai chi, yoga and community arts...



“(I am a) Textile artist and I have a business selling raw materials for spinners, weavers and textilers. I am also an outlet for artists to sell their goods. Being able to share the makers work is extremely important to me”.

Archaeology, social networking, secretary of arts group, printing, printmaking, writing, teaching, arts forums and Art Gallery board...

Complete response to this question is included in Appendix 6.

What is happening in the Southern Midlands-What do you know?

There was a comprehensive list of art and creative activities identified by the participants. It demonstrated what was already happening in the Southern Midlands and what was in the pipeline.

“I am not a resident of the Southern Midlands, but there is a multitude of happenings here compared with close municipalities.”

Resident of Brighton, Tasmania

Some of those activities identified included:

- **Painting classes in Oatlands**, the walk from Oatlands to Parattah, **Leather artist**, wood turning, **dry stone walling**, glass makers, **knitting shop**, original tapestries, **yoga**, tai chi, **singing/choir**, history book publications, **basketmaking**, dramatic performance, **regional arts activities**, exhibitions, pageant, **Kempton Festival**, garden tours, **archaeological digs**, sculpture, **topiary**, artist in residence, **community radio**, heritage wallpaper reproduction, **cooking**, local newspapers, **writing**, quilting groups, equestrian, **lace making**, weaving, sewing, **blacksmithing**, book club, **Scottish country dancing**, the Bagdad Singers, Greater Green Ponds Regional Arts branch, **Chauncy Vale-writers studio facilitators**, Bagdad musical, Art leasing project,



Taxidermy, Levendale CWA, **bush furniture**, photography, dancing, piano, **silk painting**, pottery, **Rodeo at Melton Mowbray** etc

Complete responses to this question is included in Appendix 7.

‘I know not enough of what is happening!’

Identifying activities that were happening in the region prompted broader discussion about how people access information about such activities and how these are promoted. It was acknowledged that some of the activities that were identified may have changed, relocated or stopped completely. This supported the need for an audit to gather details on what art and creative initiatives were already happening in the region.



It was agreed that most people find out about art and creative activities in the Southern Midlands municipality through the local community newspaper the Southern Midlands News (a monthly publication), online via Council and other community organisations or through person-to-person conversations.

It was also evident, like in many regional communities, that many individuals were involved in a number of broad ranging activities, groups and committees.

Opportunities and Ideas – Dare to Dream

This part of the workshop invited the participants to share their ideas about what was possible and needed in the Southern Midlands. It was a brainstorming of ideas with each participant invited to allocate 5 votes towards those ideas that they felt were a priority.

Some of the ideas included:

Greater access to money for arts projects, **youth art projects** including circus, **murals**, music, dance and visual arts, a **handmade market** and demonstration by artists, **art industry breakfasts**, more road art sculptures, **sculpture competitions** and a full time arts officer within Council.

There were suggestions that clearly attracted the most support from participants. These included:

- A Regional Gallery – a facility that could accommodate a range of art events and initiatives
- Greater promotion of the arts
- An accessible community diary of events and activities

- A register of everyone in the Municipality who is engaged in art making
- Restarting the railway*

A complete listing of suggestions with votes is included in Appendix 8

*It was identified that the majority of the suggestions sat within the mandate of the Working Group, however, it was agreed that those suggestions that sat outside the scope of the Committee would be referred to other departments of Council and associated working groups.

Condensing the responses from participants, the suggestions and ideas contributed by respondents sat within 5 key areas:

1. Information and promotion of arts/creative groups, organisations, activities, events and makers
2. Creative events and activities throughout the region
3. Inclusion of young people-through specific art programs tailored towards them
4. Learning opportunities with workshops, classes and training
5. Continued support for the arts from Southern Midlands Council

While there was a strong desire for Council to play a key role in responding to these, there was also a need to include and engage with other groups and individuals within the community to respond.

Outcomes

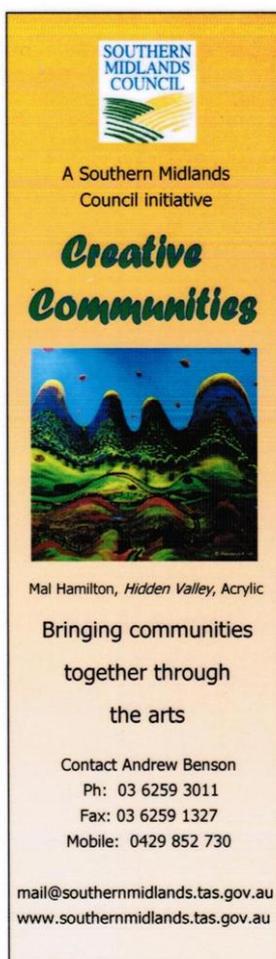
General feedback from the forum

The fact that the Creative Communities Forum attracted such a large number of participants gives testament to the interest in creative and cultural activities. The response from contributors was very positive with most indicating an appreciation for being involved and a general sense of wanting more discussion and engagement around the arts in the Southern Midlands.

Participants identified the need to have more involvement from Southern Midlands Councillors and greater communication and promotion of art and creative activities with a central point at which people could access. There was a positive response to the displays and short film produced by Lisa Rudd which can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/50725504>

Ongoing consultation

The Working Group identified the need to encourage continued discussion and feedback from individuals and groups who wished to be part of a broad creative network and/or the Arts Advisory Committee. As part of the Community Forum, the Working Group produced a bookmark with Council contact details that was available at this event, but could also



be distributed to the broader community as an ongoing mechanism to engage and invite comment and support.

Recommendations

Based on the consultation with the Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group and the community forum there are a range of approaches that could be taken. The key issues arising that require attention include the following:

1. Communication and Promotion about the Arts in the Southern Midlands

- the Southern Midlands Council play a key role in promoting and supporting the arts
 - through upgrading existing website facilities to include listings of arts activities and events
 - a directory of artists, makers and other creative individuals wishing to be promoted to the broader community
 - connecting to social media platforms outside of Council to inform the broader community about what is happening in the Southern Midlands, for example, promoting events through the Tasmanian Regional Arts Facebook page or at TasArtsLive, a statewide central hub of creative activities. www.tasartslive.com
- connecting to other online portals to promote art activities
- develop mechanisms to provide stories from the region to local, regional, state-wide and national media outlets including online, print, radio and television

2. Greater support for the arts in the Southern Midlands Municipality:

- Council to allocate funds within its budget to develop and support an Arts Advisory Committee
- Council to support and facilitate the development of an Arts Strategy for the Southern Midlands local government area
- A connection to other existing Council departments and programs to facilitate



greater consultation and involvement of the arts. For example; considering aesthetic outcomes in urban design when developing new and upgrading existing structures and municipal facilities

- To continue to provide representation and administration to the Working Group and future Arts Advisory Committee as they evolve.
- Encourage increased networking and partnerships between existing art and creative organisations, individuals and businesses through administering and, in partnership with the Working Group, encouraging the development of a broad Creative Network

3. A central creative hub that could accommodate a range of artistic endeavours

- The Working Group and/or Arts Advisory Committee explore opportunities for exhibiting art and creative activities in existing and new venues.

4. An audit be undertaken to identify what creative and artistic activities are currently available in the municipality. This could be separated into:

- Events
- Classes
- Groups
- Projects
- Creative individuals (encompassing teachers, makers, producers, coordinators etc.)

5. Engagement with young people

There has been ongoing discussion around how to successfully engage young people in both the consultation process around developing an Arts Strategy as well as ongoing involvement in creative and artistic activities. The Working Group highlighted the need to connect with young people. Some mechanisms to do this could include:

- Building relationships through schools
- Youth specific groups
- Including activities that attract young people in events such as the many Festivals
- Conducting workshops that interest young people
- Partnering with organisations that are both within and outside of the municipality that already attract young people such as Kickstart Arts, Youth Arc, PCYC Bridgewater and others

CONCLUSION -A Creative Future

The ongoing commitment from individuals involved in the Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group and the recent community forum demonstrates the interest and desire to build a vibrant arts community in the Southern Midlands.



There are opportunities for the community to develop new and build on existing partnerships to extend creative activities throughout the region. Some of those who have already worked with the community include Tasmanian Regional Arts, Kickstart Arts and Ten Days on the Island. Increased coordination through the development of a broad creative network and an Arts Advisory Committee could enhance these opportunities and identify new initiatives. Partnering with arts and non-arts organisations, businesses and government departments also provides scope to share resources and present collaborative projects for funding. In the current climate, where art funding is becoming more difficult to access, this is extremely beneficial. There are also opportunities for incorporating income generating components to future projects, enabling the community to be less reliant on external one-off government funding.

There is further opportunity to invite and include the Aboriginal community and artists through community based projects and public art. It is important to recognise the traditional owners who inhabited the region prior to colonial settlement as there is a rich history of Aboriginal connections across the Southern Midlands.

There are already a number of events that draw patrons and audiences to the Southern Midlands, including the Melton Mowbray Rodeo, Kempton, Oatlands and the Bullock Festivals and Woodsdale Picnic and Fair Day. Attracting audiences and visitors to travel distances to new events is a challenge, however linking with existing events and activities and exploring how to incorporate the arts could benefit both the arts community and the existing event as it builds new patronage and involvement from the local and broader community.

Resourcing creative activities is an ongoing issue for most regional communities and the commitment and involvement from local council is a key factor in developing a robust and sustainable arts program. This is relevant at a practical level as well as in sourcing funding to support projects and initiatives. As important is the engagement, inclusion and commitment from creative individuals and groups that already operate throughout the region. Their involvement in working groups, committees and the expansion of programs aids in ensuring the broader community is included in planning and implementing strategies and projects.

To engage with and attract creative makers and thinkers, it is important to create a suitable environment. Initiatives such as a register of artists, greater promotion, activities and support will certainly help with this. However it is also important for Council to involve artists in the development of policy, especially in regard to public spaces and environmental and urban design in a village context. In collaboration, Councils can develop policies that both protect the wellbeing of the broader community while



removing some of the obstacles that can limit public art and activities.

The Southern Midlands community and Council has clearly indicated its desire to support existing creative activities and grow new initiatives. The community goodwill and passion that has been demonstrated to date, places the Southern Midlands in a good position to support a burgeoning community that can incorporate its rich history and creative prowess.



For more information about this report, the Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group and the Arts Advisory Committee please contact:

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Southern Midlands Council

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Southern Midlands Arts Strategy Working Group Members

Carolyn Bassett

Chairperson of SM Arts Strategy Working Group
President of Greater Green Ponds TRA
Community Member – Bagdad
Senior Vice President of the Arts Society of Tasmania Inc.
Volunteer Editor at the Bagdad Newsletter
Artist



Edwin Batt

Former Advisor to the Minister for the Arts (Vic)
Former Chairman Arts Advisory Committee at the Shire of
Baw Baw (Vic)
Chair of La Mama Theatre (Melbourne)
Community Member – Jericho / Melton Mowbray
Director, Writer and Actor
Wool Grower



Andrew Benson

Deputy General Manager
Manager Community & Corporate Development
Southern Midlands Council
Vice President of Go Highlands – Central Highlands
Photographer and Poet



Tony Bisdee OAM

Mayor of the Southern Midlands Council
Community Member – Melton Mowbray



Kylie Eastley

Arts Development Officer at Tas Regional Arts (TRA)
Creative Social Enterprise Manager at TRA
Creative Coach with Kylie Eastley Consultancy
Facilitator Creative Communities Forum
Artist and writer



Dorothy Evans

Member of Greater Green Ponds TRA
Manager of the Australasian Golf Museum – Bothwell
Community Member – Kempton / Tunbridge
Published Author



Mike Evans

Member of the Greater Green Ponds TRA
Member of the Bagdad Singers
President of Australian Garden History Society (Tas)
Community Member – Kempton / Tunbridge



Barbara Hamilton

Member of the Oatlands Arts Group
Member of the SM Art Gallery Group TRA
Member of the Midlands Senior's Group
Community Member – Oatlands



Malcolm Hamilton

Mentor and Founding Member of the Midlands Art Group
Member of the SM Art Gallery Group TRA
Volunteer with SM Rural Primary Health Service
Volunteer at Oatlands District High School (Youth Project)
Community Member – Oatlands
Artist and Sculptor



Kay Harman

Secretary of the Greater Green Ponds TRA
Member of the Bagdad Singers
Member of the Friends of Chauncy Vale
Community Member – Bagdad



Ian Johnston

President of the SM Art Gallery Group TRA
Member of the Oatlands Arts Group
Member of the Council on the Ageing – COTA,
Oatlands Rotary International,
International Police Association,
Tasmanian Draught Horse Association and
Tasmanian Bullock Festival Committee Member
Community Member – Oatlands



Jennifer Johnston

Secretary SM Art Gallery Group TRA
Member of the Oatlands Arts Group
Member of the Council on the Ageing – COTA and
Midlands Senior's Group
Community Member – Oatlands



Lisa Rudd

Leader of Community Development with Brighton Council,
Jordan River Learning Federation and Colony Partnership
Brokers
Member of the Greater Green Ponds TRA
Community Member – Bagdad
Local Artist



Kristina Szymanski

Health Promotion Officer with Rural Primary Health
Service
Member of the Oatlands Arts Group
Member of the SM Art Gallery Group TRA



Appendix 2



A group of like-minded people from the community are working together with the Southern Midlands Council to form an Arts Strategy Plan. The reason for such a plan is firstly to know what art* makers are out there and what their art is, and secondly to enable organisations, groups, and individuals involved in the arts to work effectively and creatively with each other in developing diverse opportunities for involving local people in quality arts* activities and creative expression.

The Strategy recognises the important role the arts* play in enabling people to celebrate their cultures and share them with the wider Community.

What do we mean by **Arts**
*Arts refers to the full range of creative expression, such as, but not limited to, visual arts, performance, puppetry, dance, circus, film, music, video, fabric art, literature, photography, craft & digital technology.



If you are interested in the arts* you are invited to participate in the forum

"Creative Communities"

Friday 12th October 6:00pm to 9.00pm
Gay Street Hall, Oatlands

Refreshments *Entertainment *Exhibitions

Professionals, amateurs, or anyone not involved in art making but wishing to contribute ideas or interested in being involved in forming an Art Strategy Plan **we want your input!**

***Do you do pottery, paint, draw, sculpt,
weave, take photographs, felt, act,
quilt, metalwork, write, etc***

These are all art forms

If you do any of these or any others that we may not have thought of, come along to the forum and share your story & your passion.

Numbers will be limited, **so send your RSVP now** to be the draw to win one of our early bird prizes

Reply to Dorothy Evans ph : (03) 62591272
Mobile: 0428 360 790
Email: wilmotarms@bigpond.com

Web: www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au.



Appendix 3

TASMANIAN REGIONAL ARTS

For more than 60 years Tasmanian Regional Arts (TRA) has excited, inspired and engaged Tasmanian communities to express their passion and culture through the arts. It is Tasmania's peak community arts organisation; a not for profit incorporated association comprising a network of branches whose volunteer members engage with their communities. The organisation receives program funding from the Australian Government through the Office for the Arts (OFTA) and program and project support from the Tasmanian Government through Arts Tasmania and a range of other non-government and philanthropic funding sources.

TRA has had an ongoing relationship with local Tasmanian councils. In 2011 TRA was funded by Events Tasmania to develop an inclusive arts initiative that worked with Southern Councils. This culminated in **Open Your Eyes**, a cultural tourism showcase event that consisted of self-guided arts experiential tours from Nubeena to Kempton and beyond.

For the past 3 years TRA has been leading the way in its work in social enterprise, particularly focusing on creative initiatives. Funded through the Westpac Foundation, **Branching Out** worked with the Kentish and Launceston communities with the aim of equipping regional Tasmania's community arts organisations with skills and expertise to generate their own resources, placing less emphasis on grants and more on economic self - sustainability.

This project saw collaboration between business, government, the arts and community to look at the opportunities of social enterprise to increase sustainability and capacity of nonprofit and volunteer arts organisations. The Institute for Regional Development (UTAS) worked with TRA to implement an action learning process that provided the opportunity to record, reflect and respond to the needs of the pilots. Based on this work UTAS then sourced Kylie Eastley as research assistant in the UTAS baseline study into social enterprise in Tasmania in an extension of the initial two-year funded project which concluded in 2011 and in 2012 Ms Eastley compiled the publication *Tasmanian Social Enterprises; Capturing their Stories*, a document that tells the story of 13 social enterprises, 3 of which are arts based.

This project has led to other opportunities including the first Trinity of Management training by the Sirolli Institute in Tasmania and the formation of the Tasmanian Social Enterprise Network. TRA has played an active role in TSEN, developing a web presence and being part of a core working group. The organisation is seeking support for continued work in supporting and developing Creative Social Enterprises in Tasmania.

The organisation delivers a range of services and initiatives that enrich the Tasmanian cultural landscape. It provides opportunities for touring visual and performing arts, skills development, networking and funding. TRA also develops and delivers cultural projects and community events with a focus on wellbeing and young people, often in collaboration with other arts organisations, community groups, government agencies and local businesses.

Regional Arts Development Officers (RADO's) are based in Latrobe and Hobart. The RADO understands the challenges and opportunities facing regional artists and audiences and assist with practical advice to support the development of creative and cultural projects. TRA manages the Regional Arts Fund, an Australian Government initiative that provides funding for arts and artists. TRA also provides advice to regional Tasmanian artists on other funding sources. TRA advocates at a local, state and national level through Regional Arts Australia for the rights of Tasmanians to access and participate in quality arts experiences. TRA has tax deductible status and is eligible to receive tax deductible donations.

Appendix 4

SESSION	ACTIVITIES	PERSON	TIMING
Start of evening 6.00 onwards...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participants welcomed at door with coloured cards that correlate with tables in the hall. Each person also received a ticket for the lucky door prize and 5 dots for voting later. Young people all sitting at the one table ○ Student film playing as people enter and if need be some background music – CD player ○ Representatives from the working group to separate across the tables and act as prompters for the group ○ Refreshments on arrival 	<p>Lisa and Dot (Lisa to bring CD player) Lisa & Dot to organise coloured badges/cards</p> <p>Mike</p>	30
6.30pm Call to order	Welcome and introduction to Deputy Mayor	Andrew Benson	2
WELCOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including the aim of tonight? What we are hoping to get out of tonight-developing an arts strategy for the Southern Midlands and establishment of an arts advisory or reference group. <p>Introduce Kylie to the forum</p>	Deputy Mayor (Andrew to supply notes to D/Mayor)	5 min
AN OVERVIEW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you to Deputy Mayor ○ What the evening is about-the Southern Midlands as a creative community-housekeeping-how the evening will run <p>Introduction to Andrew</p>	Kylie	5 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What has been happening with the Arts Reference Group and Council & what got us here? <p>Introduction to Lisa</p>	Andrew Benson	5 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The inclusiveness of the arts-business, government, Community, individuals includes 2.5min film 	Lisa Rudd	5 min
	Introduction to Rachel Treasure	Lisa Rudd	
SCRATCHING THE SURFACE	<i>Stories from your Community - Rachael's Story including a brief reading from a novel</i>	<i>Rachael Treasure</i>	8 min
GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Listen and respect others opinions ○ Wait your turn ○ There are no wrong answers ○ Enjoy the ride! ○ Explanation of what's about to happen. 	Kylie	2 min
What is art and creativity anyway?	Small discussion on what they see as arts and how they are involved in it -someone to write down thoughts	Kylie to set the scene then the Group work	20 min
	Spokesperson from each table to	Group rep	inclusive

	volunteer their thoughts		
How do you currently engage with the arts in your community & what's important to you?	Are you a maker, supporter, audience member, teacher, learner or other? -discussion amongst group – no reporting back to large group	Kylie & group	5 min
What is happening in the Southern Midlands-what do you know?	Small group work with info on paper and group reporting back -Collate and put on wall -prompts to assist with putting paper on walls	Kylie & group	15 min
break	Tea/coffee		10 min
Call to order	Welcome back Introduction to Folko & Maureen	Andrew Benson	
SCRATCHING THE SURFACE	Stories from your Community - Shadows of the Past Story <i>Andrew to organise MS PowerPoint of associated images</i>	Folko Kooper & Maureen Craig	8 min
Opportunities & Ideas! (Dare to Dream)	What would you like to see in your community? Small group discussion. BUTCHERS PAPER: each of these tables to work together to identify existing opportunities for the arts and gaps that need to be met. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Linking to existing events: Ten Days on the Island etc...Other? ○ Arts Market etc... ○ Audit of what and who is out there ○ Better promotion-how to promote ○ Setting up a blog or other social media to promote what's happening 	Kylie	20 min
	Feedback to larger group -pages put on walls for all to see Group invited to talk about during the break while details are collated	-participant from each group -Kylie	20 min
break- Kylie to collate or group with Dot/Andrew assisting and including Edwin to prepare for wrap up... Once these are listed the whole group are invited to put 5 dots each on those ideas that they feel are most important-prioritising to enable the group to have a tangible outcome from the session. Choosing 1-5 key things to target.			During the break 10-15 min
Call to order	Welcome back Introduction to Malcolm and Ian	Andrew Benson	2 mins
SCRATCHING THE SURFACE	Stories from your Community - Malcolm's Art Studio	Malcolm Hamilton interviewed by Ian	8 mins
Where to next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of what has been identified as priorities from previous activity & identify key things to target • How would you like to be involved? 	Kylie with Andrew assisting	10 mins

	<p>Reminder about the key requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forming an Arts Reference Group-special committee of council to develop an arts strategy • Becoming part of a larger creative network • Undertaking an audit of what creative activities are happening in the Southern Midlands <p>-A4 tables with people able to include their names on lists for arts reference group or larger network. One for each table to be collected by the working group reps.</p>		
	Introduce Edwin	Andrew	
What next?	Reflections on the workshop-what has been discussed, identified and decided	Edwin	5-8 mins
Thank you and close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People invited to peruse any static displays, put ideas into the ideas box and stay to eat and chat. ○ Ensure all participants details including email and contact number are collected ○ Participants invited to vote in the suggestion box ○ Commitment from Council to send information out to participants and encourage them to connect to others in the community who would like to be involved. 	Deputy Mayor Andrew Kylie	5 mins
Entertainment	The fantastic choir the Bagdad Singers perform	Kay to organise	5 mins
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DRAW THE LUCKY DOOR PRIZE! Book from Rachael Meat tray – Carolyn Wine - Mike ○ Bookmarks with contact details and an image handed to everyone as they leave-working group reps on door to thank people as they leave 	Drawn by young people, Rachel, Folko/Maureen etc depending on how many prizes available	5 mins
	5.30-9pm	TOTAL	180+

Appendix 5

Participants worked in groups, with each table represented by a different colour.

GUIDELINES FOR WORKSHOPPING

- Listen and respect other people's opinions
- Wait your turn
- There are no wrong answers
- Enjoy the ride!

1. WHAT IS ART AND CREATIVITY ANYWAY?

GREEN

- Transferring thoughts to others-cooking the books. Anything you are passionate about. Something that communicates to you through the senses. Whatever your creative energy directs.
- being safe enough to pursue your dream
- Sculpture, garden, music, drama, literature, visual creations, film, painting, pottery-artisans work

ORANGE

- Something that makes you happy
- An expression of your other self-inner self
- We all have our own interpretation of beauty (but beauty is in the eye of the beholder)
- A glass of wine and a chocolate
- Is there anything one does which is NOT creativity??? (when it's destructive-deconstructionism)
- Enjoying the freedom of expression and the social aspect of art and creativity

WHITE

- Dry stone walling, bush furniture, dance, music, visual arts, singing, painting, street art, metalwork-creative, sculpture, sewing, knitting, photography, pottery, movie making, writing-stories, poetry, drama, tai chi, yoga, gardening, carpentry, jewellery, lapidary, computer graphics, topiary, acting, tea making, cooking, cake decorating, flower arranging, drawing, silk painting, leadlighting-stained glass, rock art, paper sculpture, leather work, scrap-booking, blacksmithing, copper-foiling, iconography, animation, cartooning, calligraphy, chinese brush painting, printing, architecture, instrument making, embroidery, crocheting, customizing-vehicle airbrushing.

RED

- Self-expression
- Seeing, making, doing, being, communicating
- Take a risk, reflecting cultural background, having fun, trying new things, experimenting, seeing differently, thinking outside the square
- Exploring new possibilities, learning new skills, being innovative, sharing experiences-integrating, reduce isolation
- Entertain, provoke, challenge, represent, dancing to another tune, value individuality, improving your environment

NAVY BLUE

- Form of self expression
- 'letting it all hang out'
- Singing, music, painting, drawing, etching, sewing, knitting, weaving, gardening/landscape, film, poetry, literature, reciting/acting, puppetry, dance, ceramics/pottery, sculpting, jewellery making, making whips, photography, dress making, fly making, woodwork, scrapbooking, cake decorating,
- 'for the artist it's a release and a way to grow
- 'an accepted way of expressing your thoughts and feelings and capabilities
- Something that inspires emotion
- Showing the everyday in a different light
- Content with one's self to express the gift of life
- Expression, ideas and feeling showing every day
- Being completely reconciled
- The arts can be a business
- Being a little bit insane
- Being spontaneous
- Life is art is life
- Expressing ones emotions and trying to inspire others
- Doing things that you enjoy and maybe others will enjoy as well
- Being happy completely in your own mind and soul. Bugger everyone else. Hoping someone will believe in your pain
- Thinking outside the circle

BROWN

- Anything that one loves to do and has pride in their work
- It can be: theatre, cooking, music, writing, artist blacksmith, dance, art, woodwork, needlework, singing, drawing, cartoonist
- Any expression, gardening, topiary, photography, cake decorating, timbercraft

PALE BLUE

- Art is a mirror of life and can be a mirror of your soul
- A form of expression
- Art is a way of showing you're not afraid of who you are
- We all have different ways to express ourselves through art
- Art makes your soul sing
- Art can challenge oneself and one's environment
- Art is the language of passion
- We need to learn to embrace our own creativity and no longer fear the word ART
- Art can be very empowering and requires risk taking
- Art is creative expression unique to each and every individual and is unlimited

YELLOW

- Pleasure to yourself and others
- Imagination
- Human expression
- Means for self-exploration
- More aesthetically surrounding
- Capturing history
- Preservation of stories and snapshots of time
- Engagement of youth
- Social cohesion and connectedness
- Crosses boundaries, education and generation
- Losing yourself from cares and worries
- Passing on skills
- Means economic gain
- Community funds generation
- Bringing all levels of community
- Social enjoyment
- Recognise your own skills

Appendix 6

2. HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY ENGAGE WITH ART IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

LIGHT BLUE

- Mentoring/educating young people, currently working on a mural, choir-singing within the community, mentoring in mind and spirit through observation painting. Working on radio-reaching new audience
- Entertainment with the aged involving (singing poetry, music and stories). Playing and creating music. Gardening-landscape design. Interior design that works closely in art and environment – recycling and making something new
- Learning new skills, instrument, movement – painting-constantly making. Model making-activity proposal
- Garden and developing pathway for future, theatre, dance, art, play-developing education programs, masters

YELLOW

Retail therapy, exploring story, assist others-an art in helping other, creative sharing of domestic food gifts, movies-film, stock market & falls – financial-plan in a creative way for future.

Sculpture, community arts place in a church Dysart, ceramic artist, author, writer-space children to create, singing group-home designer-mosaics, quilting, patchwork, teach-textiles-painter silk. Teach-my own community, Gallery visitor. Pause and ponder.

RED

- Choir, volunteer for hospital, scrabble, walking group
- Men's shed, painting group, dry stone walling, gardening, topiary, mah-jong, community group, networking and cooperating
- Writing, performance, photography, community heritage archive project
- Gardening, walking, tai chi, yoga and community arts
- Painting class, cataloguing 'old stuff', archaeology, social networking
- Sing in choir, secretary of arts group, printing
- Painting, printmaking, writing, teaching, serving arts forums Art Gallery board

DARK BLUE

- Work with disabled group sewing
- Cook/catering (auxiliary)
- Glass painting-market stall
- Quilting (sippers and sewers)
- Computer skills

- Writing family history (personal)
- Painting and drawing, photography, ceramics, knitting, poetry, invention
- Engage in the community
- Attend art class, facilitate art groups/endeavours, singing group, providing grandchildren with their family history, attending art exhibitions and attending the art strategy forum
- teaching grandchildren art and encouraging

BROWN

- Jenny- Art group-all enjoy and relax-camaraderie, immerse oneself
- Paul-Encouraging children to be expressive and take advantage artist opportunities
- Choir – enjoying creativity in song
- Shannon-music-playing guitar-country. In band at school
- Andrew – Build-making/designing (garden) – sense of achievement
- Lily-writing creative stories, fiction, poetry
- Paul-sense of craftsmanship

ORANGE

- Knitting, sewing, gardening.
- Appreciative audience member and arts collector
- Music, singing (performance)
- Sits on committee of Regional Arts Society of Tasmania-Greater Green Ponds
- In the arts group and being a practising artist (I like to be able to make social comments re the arts in the wider community)
- Painter and professional committee member (create opportunities for people to try new things-important to be able to showcase your work)
- Textile artist and I have a business selling raw materials for spinners, weavers and textile workers. I am also an outlet for artists to sell their goods. (Being able to share the makers work is extremely important to me)

BLACK

- Keeping mentally, physically and spiritually creative via self-expression in various mediums, that which is available
- I garden, build and I sing-He last, singing, is a truly spiritual experience shared with a good group
- I paint with others in the community on Monday with Malcolm. Very enjoyable.
- I just draw
- I force art onto my community without consultation
- I happily follow in my wife's wake, hoping she is happy

GREEN

- Barbara-sculpture and cooking
- Sue: painting, gardening, creative design-soil. Blanket making to inspire, Writing
- John-paint, carving-wood and stone, sculptures, furniture, writing-practical works-dogs
- Edwin-facilitator of talent, manager and administrator of art people and actor
- Prue-architecture, design, horsemanship, artist and writer-life of good person-kind and thoughtful

Appendix 7

3. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SOUTHERN MIDLANDS - WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

BLACK

- Mal's Art Classes (Oatlands)
- Power poles being painted
- 'Sheen' – Stables opening gallery
- Kamikaze knitters-Community Blitz
- Walk from Oatlands to Parattah now completed-a great walk

ORANGE

- I know not enough of what is happening

We believe there are:

Sippers and stitchers, Leather artist, wood-turning, Dry stone walling, glass makers, knitting shop, original tapestries.

Information gleaned from:

- Southern Midlands News (Monthly)
- Person-to-person conversation
- Online dissemination of information

(I am not a resident of the Southern Midlands, but there is a multitude of happenings here compared with close municipalities. For example; Brighton)

RED

Yoga, tai chi, singing/choir, art classes, history book publications, woodworking, pyrography, basket making, dramatic performance, regional arts activities, exhibitions, pageant, Kempton festival, local expo, garden tours, archaeological digs, dry stone walling and sculpture, topiary, artist in residence, community radio, garden art, heritage wallpaper reproduction, local newspapers, community writing, scrapbooking, cooking, men's sheds, quilting groups, equestrian, youth drop in centre, lace

making, weaving, sewing, blacksmithing, book club, numeracy and literacy, Scottish country dancing, midland seniors group

GREEN

- Art classes, quilting, gardening, Greater Green Ponds Art Group
- Chauncy Vale-writers studio facilitator
- Bagdad Singers
- Bagdad musical
- Art leasing project
- Taxidermy
- Highland Scottish Dancing
- Levensdale F&C

NAVY BLUE

Midlands art group, Bagdad singers, art gallery group, community radio, sippers and sewers, mens shed, Tangled web, Levensdale CWA, 2 x history books, Greater Green Ponds, Farmers market in Campania, Lower Midlands Collection, Tash-glass making, Tony Cawthorn-Metal silhouettes, Samaritan boxes, Ian –walking sticks, Whip making-Levensdale, Blacksmiths, council topiary, John Cordwell-opening a gallery, Art gallery may be opening at Brad's

WHITE

- Gardening, painting, bush furniture, photography, landscaping, singing, scrap booking, handwork, dancing, tai chi, drawing, piano, silk painting, pottery, listening to music, wood turning, writing, communication with the divine, transported from everyday world, self-expression, relaxation, learning/refining new skills
- Self-esteem and awareness-more aware of surroundings
- Socialising
- Like-minded people
- Developing sense of community
- Creating or making things
- Team work
- Appreciating the work of others, eg; music, books, theatre

LIGHT BLUE

Quilting group, Zumba, tai chi, scrabble, limited swimming, Mahjong, Lacing, Education-performing arts program, Café Church, Men's Shed, Topiary, Walking Group, Nordic walking, Get active group, book club, lawn bowls and golf.

YELLOW

- Chapel of ease on constitution hill
- Kempton festival
- Christmas pageant
- Oatlands festival
- Levendale/Woodsdale history room
- Scrapbooking
- Oatlands Kempton market
- Levendale hall arts exhibition
- Greater green ponds regional arts
- Oatlands art group
- Scottish dancing – Oatlands
- Techno beat dance
- Makers market
- Bagdad pottery
- Winery x 3
- Rodeo Melton Mowbray
- Bullock festival
- Horse camp-children
- Blue place
- Murals at schools
- Interpretive signs
- Bagdad singers

WHITE

- Bagdad singers
- Oatlands Art Group
- Scottish Dancing
- Community radio
- Honey making at Levendale School
- Kempton Festival
- Rodeo-Melton Mowbray
- Oatlands Fair
- Greater Green Ponds Regional Arts
- Get Active program
- Regional Alive and Well
- Men’s Shed-Oatlands
- CWA
- Bagdad Golf Club
- Oatlands Golf Club

- Sewers and Snippers
- Historical Society
- Skills Centre
- Café Church
- Hospital Auxiliary
- Mah-jong Group

BROWN

- Art group Oatlands
- Scottish dance group Oatlands
- Yoga, Tai chi, choir at Bagdad, walking group, men's shed, music hall-Bagdad, history room Oatlands, art for troubled youth - Bridgewater

Appendix 8

4. OPPORTUNITIES AND IDEAS – DARING TO DREAM!

The last part of the Creative Communities Forum invited participants to contribute ideas about what they wanted and needed within the community. Ideas were diverse but there was a repetition of some that fitted into some overarching categories including increased:

6. Information and promotion of arts/creative groups, organisations, activities, events and makers
7. Creative events and activities throughout the region
8. Inclusion of young people-through specific art programs tailored towards them
9. Learning opportunities with workshops, classes and training
10. Support for the arts from Southern Midlands Council

Other suggestions included:

- Money tree or plantation – more money for arts programs
- Visiting artists
- Celebrate what we already have
- Annual round of arts bazaars
- Rotating festivals in different communities
- Paid community arts officer
- Bus trip opportunities
- Regional gallery
- Arts based employment for local people
- Opportunities for youth art projects-circus, murals, music, dance, visual arts
- Opportunities for training and development
- Music/performance venue
- Agricultural museum – working exhibitions

- Story telling-bygone era
- Seeing real life artists-blacksmith
- Handmade market-demonstrations by painters/artists
- Search new members – Bagdad singers
- Makers market – March and May income
- School involvement in community
- Young people-horses-presentation
- Filmed southern midlands – book-Rachael Treasure
- Drama classes
- Singing classes
- Area for textile
- Patchwork classes and colour
- Arts audit
- Caravan park big and low rates and facilities
- Community arts program
- Operation tree house
- Creative horsemanship
- Arts industry breakfasts
- Fill the lake
- Celebrate environment through the arts
- A diary of the Southern Midlands looking into the lives of 365 contrasting people/families
- An independent theatre company
- Art Gallery and performance venue
- Make groups for youth to learn skills such as ukulele-build self confidence
- Use the skills and talent of those around us tonight. Show case opportunities and developing skills in our interested youth and other members of the community
- Heritage coaching development in Kempton
- Quarry sculptures
- Embracing the unique that brings visitors
- Oatlands Cup to create art
- Communication
- If strategy is sponsored by Council, perhaps a Community Happenings on Council's website
- Integrate with other communities
- More councillors at these types of meetings-show more interest
- Some sort of arts festival (perhaps weekend) to get everyone involved
- Register of everyone in Municipality who is engaged in art making, to be held by council and information to be disseminated to all on register
- Regional festival of arts
- Arts hub building
- Art teachers exhibition

- Policy of council to acquire art of local artists
- A performance space
- A fulltime arts officer
- Program of events - open up your arts studios
- Data base for artists
- Summer school on a variety of arts – jewellery making etc
- Garden galleries-artwork on easels through a garden
- Kids riding performance centre
- Drama group
- Sculpture
- No cost exhibitions
- Once a month course about a range of things with speakers
- Talking books
- Art capital of Australia
- More road art – sculptures-power pole people
- Make sculptures out of dead trees
- Light up trees
- More murals, dry stone walling
- Abstract art
- Demo of traditional skills
- Re-start the railway for public
- Eisteddfod – encourage children
- Drama group/amateur theatre
- Art gallery
- International singing competition-conservatorium
- Southern midlands heritage art prize
- Photography/poetry/short story competitions
- Make a local calendar
- Gardening group – native
- More tree colour along highway
- Film industry to southern midlands
- Art exhibition at Levendale
- Makers magazine or internet sight
- Theatre/drama group
- Exhibition gallery (permanent)
- Sailing club on lake
- Horse riding trails & equestrian facilities – equine and tourism
- Great art pieces for high end trophy awards etc – people will keep them
- Town signage
- Southern midlands council entrance features

- Drama workshops
- Blacksmithing
- Directory of art/events craft contacts – everything that was mentioned today

Appendix 9

Community Corporate Hierarchy Model

