



# DENMARK ARTS ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Denmark Arts acknowledges the Noongar Nations of Bibbulmen (Pibbleman) and Menang (Merningar) and recognise that they have a history of thousands of years of custodianship and culture and spiritual connection to the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to their elders past and present and value their ancient belief systems.

## DENMARK ARTS

Situated on the banks of the Kwoorabup river, on the lands of the Bibbulmen (Pibbleman) and Menang (Merningar) people, Kwoorabup, Denmark, is a landmark on the song lines of First Nations people's pathways from one country to another and used for millennia as a meeting place. Denmark Arts resides on these ancient lands, on the edge of a nature reserve, with a creek flowing into the river.

Denmark Arts is the Great Southern region's peak community arts organisation and cultural anchor, proudly grounded in grassroots origins and driven by bold, evolving visions. Over 40 years, with a team of passionate professionals, artists and community advocates we are committed to creating a home for expression, connection and transformation – one creative act at a time.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Denmark Arts Council receives core funding support from the Shire of Denmark, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and through the Royalties for Regions funded Regional Arts Sector Investment Program delivered by Regional Arts WA. Successful applications to the Department of Creative Communities, Tourism and Sport enabled the 31st Brave New Works festival to run and boosted the organisations core costs to ensure our organisation could for this financial year.

In 2024/2025 Denmark Arts received project funding from;

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries WA
- The Department of Communities WA
- The North Midlands Project



Government of Western Australia

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

**REGIONAL  
ARTS  
WA**



# CHAIR'S REPORT

After 5 years on the Board, and 2 terms as Chair it is time for me to step down and join the eager group of volunteers who assist the team to make all the wonderful events and programs even better. I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 5 years and hope that I have contributed to the positive direction in which Denmark Arts is heading.

I'm so pleased to be able to report that the past 2 years have been both stable and successful for Denmark Arts. Our Director, Abbie Pedersen and the team who support her have demonstrated strong creative flair in programming and business. This has resulted in excellent event planning, good attendance and positive feedback from both artist and audience participants. I thank them for all their work.

I thank the various members of the Board who have assisted me. Each one has contributed a great deal in their unique way, with their own special talents. They have provided wisdom, knowledge and guidance throughout.

I would like to sincerely thank the Shire of Denmark and the counsellors who have been so supportive over the past 5 years – a difficult and turbulent time largely due to Covid and its devastating impact on the Arts and the community in general. We would not be able to continue without their continuing support.

Denmark Arts would not survive year after year without the ongoing positive and loving support of our community. The rich cultural environment in which we live provides important nourishment to enhance our lives. We are all so lucky to have the wealth of talent that breathes life and beauty into our programs.

Louise Cato  
Chair

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Denmark Arts is an organisation of excellence, impact and credibility. Our values are the foundations of our programming, that underpin our dedication to advocating for artists and arts workers in the Great Southern, speaking for the entire creative community at every opportunity. Denmark Arts is a community organisation that has delivered two major festivals back to back for 23 years, and can confidently say, we are one of only a few multi-disciplinary arts organisations to have achieved this milestone. These two festivals continue to pull all resources of the organisation in grant funding and staffing to deliver these recognised events annually and 2025 was no different, with three core staff and 10 extended staff, we presented a huge program for Brave New Works.

Each festival invests \$243k into the local economy paying artists, arts workers, venues, tourism and hospitality operators in the region. Excitingly, our marketing KPI's of advancing our reach for audiences was achieved during the festival in April and in turn we witnessed 1000 tickets purchased prior to the event, for the first time since the pandemic.

The ArtsHouse has expanded with in-house and public programming, opening up more availability for artist residencies, studio spaces are regularly hired, and office spaces are at capacity. Unfortunately due to the economic climate and the financial limitations, it has not been feasible to continue to provide free venue hire. However, new and long time users who have remained supportive members, continue to benefit with discounted rates, marketing and event support.

The Naidoc Week Film Festival presented its first year of programming in early July 2024 celebrating Indigenous made and created films. Now in 2025 with two film nights screened, including informal conversations with Elders, this event has woven itself into an annual program. Through collaboration and guidance from Menang Elders, supported by our Indigenous Producer, we continue to walk side by side with the Aboriginal community and are thankful for the opportunity to do so.

Denmark Arts represented the region in cross-sector engagement, international partnerships and state-wide events, attending arts conferences for the first time, initiating new touring partnerships, networking with regional arts organisations.

I am particularly proud of our disability programming running throughout 3 festivals now. Bringing art to all, especially those with mobility limitations. Presenting a Tiny Concert in local care facilities has enriched the lives of those who once attended arts and cultural events.

2024 began with a small team and I am thankful to the staff and volunteers at Denmark Arts, for their passion and dedication to the business and those who have brought experience and expertise, the year would not have been the same without them and our team has only become stronger for it.

Looking forward, we imagine new ventures, new partnerships and sponsorship. Denmark Arts is at the very beginning of expanding and we invite you, creative or not, to be part of the journey, everyone should be able to enjoy arts and culture and we intend to deliver, one creative act at a time.

Abbie Pedersen  
Director

# ACHIEVEMENTS



**12.5K** SITE SESSIONS



**2490**  
MONTHLY SUBSCRIBERS



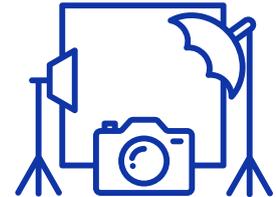
**6.2K** SOCIAL MEDIA  
FOLLOWERS



**\$124K**  
GRANTS FUNDING



**\$12K**  
TO TECHNICIANS



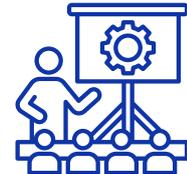
**\$8K**  
TO PROJECT LABOUR



**\$43.5K**  
TICKET SALES



**\$38.3K**  
TO ARTISTS



**\$12.8K**  
FACILITATOR FEES



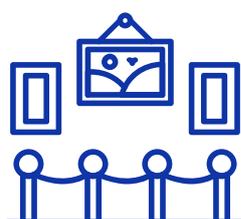
**1040** RESPONSES TO  
PUBLIC ENQUIRIES



**106** MEMBERS



**27** LOCAL ORG  
COLLABORATIONS



**10** ART EXHIBITIONS



**120** LEAD ARTISTS PAID



**77** VOLUNTEERS

# COMMUNITY & SECTOR SUPPORT



Denmark Arts would like to acknowledge the following organisations, small businesses artists and arts workers who provided in-kind or financial support for programs and services, or who partnered with us on the delivery of program.

## FUNDERS

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Shire of Denmark  
Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport  
Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development  
Regional Arts WA  
North Midland Project

## ELDERS

Eliza Woods  
Lindsey Dean  
Avril Dean

## PROGRAM PARTNERS

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Red Gum Pass  
Green Skills  
Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company  
Albany Town Hall  
RMIT University  
Denmark Hotel  
Golden Hill Steiner School  
Denmark Dance Company

Denmark Senior High School  
Denmark Primary School  
Denmark Grass Fed Meats  
Kwoorabup Nature School  
Enneagon Movement  
Albany Drop in Centre  
Life Drawing  
Story Animals

## EVENT SUPPORT

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Forrest Hill Winery  
Raintree Estate  
Rockcliffe Winery  
Artisan Brewery  
Express Wine Makers

## ORGANISATION SUPPORTERS

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Denmark Community Resource Centre  
Storybook Stage Company  
Westbound Productions  
Southern Edge Arts  
Circuitwest  
Blue Wren Lodge

Indian Ocean Craft Triennial  
Denmark Chamber of Commerce  
Hyperstage  
Denmark FM  
Green Skills Tip Shop

## ARTISTS

---

James Gentle  
Dave Nile  
Nic Duncan  
Ann & Tom  
Madoda Fani  
Serena Kirby  
Stephen Taberner  
Dellar Rae Morrison  
Kobi Rae Morrison  
Rhian Thomas  
Michelle Frantom  
Liz Jack

Alyssa Curtayne  
Silvia Lehmann  
Janine McCrum  
Basil Schur  
David Gillet  
Kylie Bolton  
Leah Vlatko  
Kimberly-Rose Jones  
Great Southern Storytellers  
Jeremy Staude  
Duncan Wallace  
Mark Henderson

Primordial Notes  
Arthur Stewart  
Packhorse  
Oceanique  
Tracey Barnett  
Sienna Raii  
Emily Barker  
Kill Devil Hills  
Simon London  
The Gray Brothers  
Isobel Rumble

# FESTIVALS



Brave New Works (BNW) is a longstanding regional arts festival, providing participation in and access to WA made arts and culture. Established in 1994, BNW is WA's only experimental community art festival, embracing all forms of creative expression from theatre, song, film, visual arts, comedy, poetry, written works and dance. BNW invites submissions of "works in progress to polished pieces, big or small, across all artistic mediums, as long as they are brave and new".

2025 BNW supported artists in their development phase of a new work with multiple skill development workshops in Language, Visual Presence, Sound and Lighting and Stage Activation.

Denmark Arts provides the bridge between audience and performer, for feedback exchange, a professional festival platform with skilled artworkers supporting artists, and an inclusive program taking performances to limited mobility audiences.

The program featured over 49 activities in 6 venues during a multi-day program in April, in the tourist off season. The fringe style platform supported 900+ artists in their exploration and performance practice in a supported environment, strengthening community connections, mentorship and growth of regional audiences. The inclusive line up of activities encouraged participation and engagement from local schools, nursing homes, disability groups and youth.



Ann and Tom Photography: Cultural Closing Ceremony | Ann Sorenson | David Gillett | Denmark Hotel performance

# FESTIVALS



## Denmark Festival of Voice (DFOV)

During the May/June long weekend Denmark Arts delivered a festival program that offered professional development, facilitating skill building and local performances from schools, during a three day event. Every second year DFOV will be specifically targeted to creatives seeking to hone skills and learn with professional choir masters and leading singer/songwriters, in preparation and training for the biannual, traditional large 5 festival. This training element is in response to a survey of 2024's DFOV participating artists.

Annually the festival will present a Friday performance of all the schools musicians followed by Noongar-led and run Opening Ceremony, Welcome to Country.



*Kwoorabup Music Teacher Lou McKenna*

The Festival of Voice 2025 kicked off with the traditional schools concert at the Denmark Civic Centre on Friday 30 May. The performers included students from the Kwoorabup Nature School, led by Louise McKenna, and Golden Hill Steiner School Led by Ashley Schipp and local high school and home schooled students Magpie and The Jig is Up.



*Denmark Arts Image: Choir Camp*

The main component of the festival consisted of a choir program delivered over two days, facilitated by Australian Choir Master Stephen Taberner (QLD), festival favourite Della Rae Morrison, her son Kobi Rae Morrison (Margaret River) and local choir leader Rhian Thomas.

Stephen, Della, Kobi and Rhian worked in collaboration over the weekend at the Civic Centre, sharing techniques, beautiful songs and their skills around building awareness of the varied ways singers can work together in a choir. The camp had a focus on making voices sound beautiful together and learning through singing. It was also a part masterclass on choir leading. The positive feedback indicated that it was an absolutely beneficial event. Everyone revelled in the opportunity to learn how to sing better together, how to increase singing confidence and hold space as a choir leader.



# AWARDS

## REVIVE SUSTAINABLE SCULPTURE AWARD

The inaugural Revive exhibition was small but mighty. A total of twelve entries were received from as far as Perth and Walpole, including four small pieces that were displayed inside in the Andre Steyl Gallery. A large piece by Roy Mercer featuring a huge decommissioned wind turbine blade was displayed outside the Denmark Men’s Shed near the Kwoorabup Nature School and the remaining large works were installed around the pedestrian path in front of the Denmark ArtsHouse. Sustainability is the theme with creatives asked to use up to 50% found objects.



2024 Winner: Zac Launay with his work *ANEMOPHILOUS RECYCLUM: the interaction of Anabat and Katabat.*

Below: Indoor Winner: Frank Forte *OBTAINIUM II*



People’s Choice Winner: Robyn Lees for *Absurdibirdimus* - From the *Spoonbill Family*

Photos: Nic Duncan



# ARTSHOUSE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Smoking Ceremony  
Brave New Works



Wizard of Oz  
Brave New Works



Kwoorabup Nature School  
Festival of Voice



Youth Market program  
Images below

A three year partnership with 4 local schools began late 2024. Providing 3 years of engagement for youth enabled pre-programming and inclusion in future curriculum, making it easier for the schools to collaborate and youth to participate. Each school has three engagement opportunities annually and the first year has emerged positive. In previous years it has been challenging for schools to know what arts and culture was planned, and providing precise information has led to our youth engagement to be one of the leading programs we now deliver.

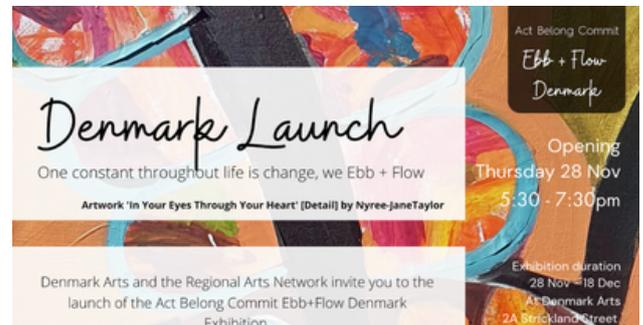
## YOUTH MARKET

The Youth Week Youth Market has now been delivered by Denmark Arts in April for two years running. Originally created by the Director in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce whilst they ran a careers day. In 2025 Denmark Arts' delivery of the market married well with Green Skills, Sustainable Wearable Art Fashion Parade, in the evening. Feedback from youth said they preferred the market to be central to town and the main focus of the event. Going forward taking on this feedback, we are partnering with the Shire of Denmark to present the Youth Market alongside the Youth Fest in April, where the event will be during daylight hours and marketed more broadly to the whole region.



Denmark Senior High School  
Brave New Works

# ARTSHOUSE ANDRE STEYL GALLERY



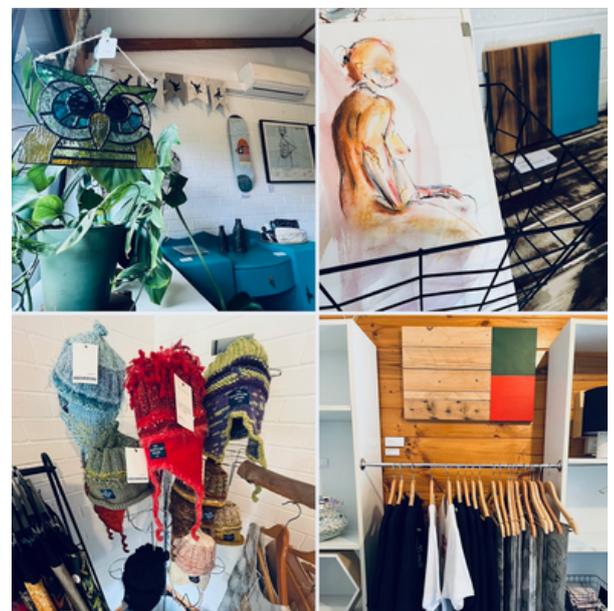
The Andre Steyl Gallery showcased a total of 9 exhibitions; 4 local exhibitions, a Denmark Arts fundraiser, the indoor Revive Sculpture Award and the incredible touring exhibition from The North Midland Project titled *Ebb and Flow*. The gallery presented the Denmark Senior High Schools art work, responding to the Aurora theme for Brave New Works and Red Gum Pass festival presented youth work.

## RARE

## Retail space

The RARE Artisan Shop stocks the work of 20+ local artists; their products are completely handmade and designed in Denmark and the region.

The little shop has had a steady flow of customers and its known whereabouts, at the **ArtsHouse, 2A Strickland Street**, is steadily increasing for local shoppers, especially since the installation of a *gallery & shop* sign clearly visible from the roundabout.



**Madoda Fani**

Ceramics



**Ann-Marie Blanchard**

Poetry



**Alyssa Curtayne**

Storytelling



**Leah Vlatko**

Textiles



**Kylie Bolton**

Filmmaking



DAIR continues to operate as a full program, inviting artists from across WA and Internationally through a partnership with the Indian Ocean Craft Triennial (IOTA). The program has supported 5 subsidised residencies, providing workshops, open studios and artists talks, with artists requesting a second residency in 2025/26. Periods of residency vary from two through to six and sometimes eight weeks.

Each artist applied to be considered for the residency and is discussed with internal and external community members. Successful artists delivered a community engagement element, offering workshops, open studios, one on one skill development and artist talks. In this financial year we expanded the intake and have enjoyed a full calendar of residents coming and going in the ArtsHouse. We will continue to offer this program and expand our marketing to ensure all artists have the potential to enjoy the inspirational Kwoorabup, Denmark.

# DENMARK ARTS BOARD



Louise Cato - Chair

Mary-Ellen Cliff - Vice Chair

Barbra Helsby - Secretary

Duncan Monroe - Treasurer

Iain Marshall - Member

Carly Le Cerf - Member

Seirah Woodward - Member

Denmark Shire Council representatives:

Councillor Clare Campbell



*The team*

Board farewells: Louise Cato - Chair

# DENMARK ARTS TEAM

Abbie Pedersen - Director

Saira Spencer - Programs and Marketing Coordinator

Ruth Maddren - Indigenous Producer

Justine Gamblin - Administration & Venue Manager

Staff farewells: Saira Spencer - Jan 2025

# DENMARK ARTS MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP 2024/2025 FY Members – 106

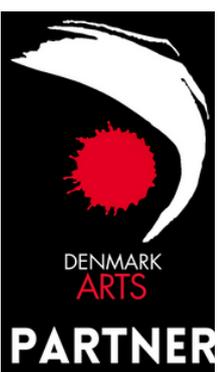
## LIFE MEMBER AWARD

*Avril Steyl*

Life membership award goes to....

A deserving recipient, Avril was instrumental in the creation of Denmark Arts with a group of creative individuals back in the early 80's. Witnessing the creative potential in the residents in Denmark, the arts organisation was formed and has thrived with the community's support.

Avril continues to this day to advocate for the arts and Denmark Arts, attending most events and initiating discussions around a new arts facility.





# ANNUAL FINANCE STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2025	2024
<b>INCOME</b>		
Earned income	\$108,603	\$90,662
Grant income	\$124,009	\$97,703
Operational income	\$105,000	\$133,272
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Salaries/Tech Team/Super	\$168,153	\$143,737
Artist & Elder Fees	\$38,351	\$45,992
Project Expenses	\$44,545	\$49,669
Marketing & Promotion	\$8,775	\$7,348
Operational Costs	\$32,260	\$45,740
Insurance	\$12,182	\$11,279
Operating Result Surplus/ (Loss)	\$33,346	\$17,872

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2025	2024
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank	\$174,204	\$138,531
Accounts Receivable	\$2,691	\$3,054
Prepayments	\$8,328	\$9,130
	\$185,223	\$150,715
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Plant & Equipment	\$5,945	\$6,991
Furniture & Equipment	\$11,377	\$13,954
	\$17,331	\$20,945
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$202,554	\$171,660

## CURRENT LIABILITIES

Trade Creditors	\$12,651	\$12,719
Other Accounts Payable	\$17,767	\$32,615
Provision for Employee Entitlements	\$16,334	\$9,164
	\$46,752	\$54,498

## NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Provision for Employee Entitlements	-	-
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	\$46,752	\$54,498
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<b>NET ASSETS</b>	\$161,215	\$117,162
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Represented by:

## EQUITY

Accumulated Surplus	\$155,802	\$117,162
Assest Revelation Reserve	-	-

<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	\$155,802	\$117,162
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## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	2025	2024
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated Surplus Balance at beginning of period	\$117,162	\$103,849
Prior Period Adjustment	\$5,294	(\$4,559)
Net result for the period	\$33,346	\$17,872
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	\$155,802	\$117,162