

## VAPAC Member Meeting #71 & Professional Development Conference

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> & Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts, 48 Exhibition Walk, Clayton Campus, Monash University.

### Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>

- 9.00am Coffee and tea on arrival
- 9.30am Welcome to Country – Aunty Zeta Thomson
- 9.40am Introduction to venue – Professor Paul Grabowsky AO – Executive Director, Monash University Performing Arts Centres.
- 9.50am Member meeting commences

### VAPAC Member Meeting #71 Agenda

1. Welcome, and introduction to new members.
2. Minutes of previous meeting to be tabled.
3. General business
  - Chair's Update – Tammy Ryan, Frankston Arts Centre
  - Executive Director's Update – Patrick McCarthy, VAPAC
4. Subnetwork Updates
  - Box Office and Marketing Network Update
  - Technical Managers Network Update

### End of formal member meeting.

- 10.10am Professional development conference commences.

### Leadership and Change

How do we create the change we want to see in our venues, or teams, our organisations, and our industry? Across two days we will explore how venue managers and arts sector leaders can plan and implement the transformation they want to see at an operational and strategic level, and how we can work collaboratively as a sector to create a stronger future. Throughout this conference we will hear from members and guest speakers, imparting practical steps you can take to grow as a leader.

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10.15am **Panel Discussion: Managing Change**

How can managers in performing arts centres plan and implement change in their organisation, venue, and/or team at an operational level? This panel will discuss how we can prepare for change, how to communicate change to staff, examples of good change management practice, and what can go wrong.

Panellists:

- Caitlin Dullard – Artistic Director and CEO, La Mama
- Shana Miatke – Director of Operations and Experience, Geelong Arts Centre
- Susan Strano – Coordinator, Drum Theatre Dandenong
- Sarah Hunt – CEO, National Theatre (facilitator)

11.00am **Morning Tea**

11.15am **Building Back Better - moral courage vs old habits**

Vanessa Pigrum – CEO, Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership

Do you remember, even in the dark days of 2020 and 2021 there was the flicker of ideas about the utopia we'd build when the pandemic was over? We would not just 'get back to normal' but we'd rebuild in ways that fundamentally improved the ways we live and work. In the performing arts community, conversations centred around how we'd do things differently/ address structural faults/ be better versions of ourselves as a result of the pandemic experience.

Then 2022 came along. What happened to all those noble ideas?

This session is a chance (before it's too late) to revisit and remember those big bold ideas and consider what kind of sector/venue/team you want to rebuild - all through an ethical lens.

Vanessa Pigrum is the soon-to-be outgoing CEO of Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership. Prior to diving into the world of ethics, moral courage and leadership development for the past 5 years, she carved out a 20 year career in arts leadership roles across a wide range of arts organisations, including Arts Centre Melbourne, Darebin Arts, Chunky Move, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne Fringe, and Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Vanessa is thrilled to be able to bring the two worlds of arts leadership and ethics together in this session for VAPAC members.

12.30pm **Lunch**

1.15pm **Industry Partner Presentation - Jands**

1.25pm **Cultural Policy and Planning Your Strategy.**

Tony Grybowski – Director, Tony Grybowski and Associates

In a sea of cultural policies presented by all levels of government how do organisations identify opportunities that these policy statements present? With reference to the Commonwealth government’s recent “Revive” policy and with reference to State and local government policies, Tony will present and discuss opportunities for leverage and partnership.

In 2019, Tony established a Consulting Practice with the objective to form project teams of leading national and international experts to address issues and reviews of the Australian Arts and Cultural sector. Clients across the arts sector have included Geelong Performing Arts Centre, Canberra Theatre Centre and Monash Performing Arts Centres in addition to many arts organisations including Bangarra Dance Theatre, Back to Back Theatre and Gertrude Contemporary.

Tony was Chief Executive Officer of the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government’s arts funding and advisory body from May 2013 to October 2018. He has extensive government policy and strategy experience and worked on the review and evaluation of numerous policies and frameworks including Playing Australia, the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy, the Major Performing Arts Framework, the National Cultural Policy 2014, and various reviews of the small to medium sector.

2.00pm **Panel Discussion: Long-term Planning and Capacity Building**

When we’re so busy dealing with the day-to-day of running a theatre, how do we make space for thinking long-term? This panel discussion will explore how organisations from different contexts are considering their future, and working with councils and boards to set a course.

Panellists:

- Tamara Jungwirth – Director & CEO, Gasworks Arts Park
- Tammy Ryan – Manager of Arts and Culture, Frankston Arts Centre

- Simon Wellington – CEO, Theatre Royal
- Dylan Cole (facilitator) – Head of Venue Planning, Arts Centre Melbourne

2.50pm **Industry Partner Presentation – Theatre Safe Australia**

3.00pm **Afternoon tea**

3.15pm **Regional Arts Victoria Update**

Jo Porter – CEO, RAV

An update from the new CEO of Regional Arts Victoria, Jo Porter. Jo comes to Regional Arts Victoria from the Queen Victoria Women’s Centre where she held the role of CEO since early 2019. Jo has held a number of leadership roles in the arts in Australia, UK and USA, including as the Executive Producer of Malthouse Theatre, General Manager of a range of commercial theatre productions and head of creative development at Richard Frankel Productions in New York, and Head of Business Development at Really Useful Group in London. She was the Co-Producer of Victoria’s inaugural Regional Centre for Culture (2018), she taught Governance and Leadership in NIDA’s MFA in Cultural Leadership program from 2015 to 2020, and currently Chairs the Board of Chamber Made.

3.45pm **Multicultural Arts Victoria Update**

Zii Nzira and Andy Miller – Co-CEOs, MAV

In 2022, MAV appointed new co-CEOs to guide the organisation moving forward. In this session we’ll hear from Zii and Andy about their plans for the future, and the important work of MAV across our state.

4.15pm **Radical Access**

Arts Access Victoria CEO Caroline Bowditch and Melbourne Fringe CEO & Creative Director Simon Abrahams join us to discuss their collaborative project Radical Access, pushing the boundaries of what access looks like. The project seeks to embed access in the arts from the very beginning, where access becomes a part of the artwork itself, not an add on. They are also commissioning d/Deaf and disabled

artists to make ambitious work, setting up an advisory panel, and providing funding for artists at all stages of their careers to create accessible work.

4.45pm **Demonstration of the Constellation sound system**

The team from Monash University Performing Arts Centres demonstrate their Meyer Sound Constellation acoustic system in the David Li Sound Gallery.

5.00pm **Venue tour (optional)**

6.00pm **Drinks, dinner, and live music at The Count's.**

Guests will be treated to a live performance by Melbourne sextet Cannonball during the dinner in The Count's. Fronted by acclaimed vocalist Fem Belling, their music is infused with jazz, blues & soul, and cemented in a deep, infectious groove.

**Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

09.30am **Welcome back, coffee and tea on arrival**

09.35am **Panel Discussion: Programming in a Regional Context**

This discussion will unpack the complex matter of programming in a regional context, how you might meet the needs of community and build audiences over time, and navigating the challenges of introducing different types of work.

Panellists:

- Julie Amos – Manager, Bendigo Venues and Events
- Ken Cameron – Manager, Riverlinks Venues
- Simon Myers – Performing Arts and Venue Manager, Swan Hill Rural City Council
- Patrick McCarthy- Executive Director, VAPAC (facilitator)

10.20am **Morning Tea**

10.35am

**The Future of Bangarra**

Frances Rings – Artistic Director, Bangarra

Frances Rings is the new Artistic Director of Bangarra, commencing in 2023 after Stephen Page stepped down from the role after 33 years. Rings had been the Associate Artistic Director of Bangarra since 2019, and has a long history as a choreographer with the company.

Frances joins us via zoom to discuss the future of Bangarra, and their vision for the organisation at this important moment.

11am

**Demystifying the Business Case Process**

Greg Randall – Randall Arts Management

Expert arts consultant Greg Randall joins us to explore good practice when embarking on a new build, redevelopment, or refurbishment. How do we navigate the many moving parts of such a project, and give ourselves the best chance of seeing the project to fruition?

Greg has worked in regional, national and international settings at a senior management level with some of Australia and New Zealand's key arts and cultural organisations for more than thirty years. He was Director of Programming for Arts Centre Melbourne (2000 to 2011), Director of Sydney's Glen St Theatre (1997-2000), Regional Arts Manager- South East for Country Arts SA (1994-1997) and the founding General Manager of Arts on Tour (1990-1994).

12.00pm

**FRAME: A biennial of dance.**

A number of VAPAC member venues and dance sector organisations have joined forces to create FRAME, a new biennial dance festival occurring for the first time in March 2023. To explore the unique model and programming approach employed by the partner organisations, we are joined by Darebin Arts Senior Arts Programmer Mark Pritchard and Arts House Co-Artistic Director Emily Sexton.

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12.30pm **Building Capacity in Circus**

Melenie Stevenson – Creative Producer, National Institute of Circus Arts

Recently joined VAPAC member NICA will provide an overview of their work with industry and artists to create more opportunities for circus work and independent companies to flourish.

1pm **Lunch, final discussions, and meeting closed.**

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