

MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTRY ARTS WA ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Country Arts WA is pleased to announce three new Board Members today at their Annual General Meeting.

With skills across governance, youth, finance, business and community development, each new Board Member - Oliver Bazzani from the Peel region, Patrick Churnside from the Pilbara region, and Ken Mills from Goldfield-Esperance - brings a wealth of experience and expertise to bolster Country Arts WA. This capacity will be essential in leading the organisation in the delivery of it's recently released 5-year Strategic Plan.

Sue Middleton, Chair of Country Arts WA's Board, welcomes the newly appointed Board Members and says she's excited to have such passionate people aboard to shape the future of regional arts and culture in WA.

"We are thrilled to welcome the new Board Members to Country Arts WA. As we start to deliver our newly launched 5-year Strategic Plan, Oliver, Patrick and Ken's expertise and skills will play a pivotal role in celebrating and strengthening the regional arts sector across WA.

"As an ongoing advocate for the regions, we will make WA a better place to live by building connected and creative communities. The regional arts sector plays such a crucial role in the wellbeing and vitality of our State – providing us with the stories and sense of belonging needed to flourish and thrive."

The new Board Members will join the existing Board; Kellee Aberg Creative Consultant in the Peel region, Debbie Carmody CEO of Tjuma Pulka in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, James Jarvis CEO of The Nintirri Centre in Tom Price, David Martin Co-founder and Director of Alex Hotel and Owner of Stormflower Vineyard in Margaret River, Sue Middleton industry leader in agriculture and rural community development, Fiona Sinclair of Southern Forest Arts in the South West, and Wendy Wise former General Manager of Perth International Arts Festival.

For more information, please visit www.countryartswa.asn.au

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SUPPORTING MATERIALS**BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROFILES*****Kellee Aberg***

As a young regional person, who has been on the current Country Arts WA's board for 3 years, Kellee Aberg brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding in both regional, metro and national arts industries. Kellee has studied a Bachelor of Arts (Contemporary Performance) and Bachelor of Education, whilst running a successful theatre company in the Peel Region. She also has directorial experience with Regional Development Australia Peel, looking at strategic planning in both industry, agriculture and arts, and is an active and well respected community member within her hometown of Mandurah and second hometown of Geraldton within both the arts, youth and education scenes.

Oliver Bazzani (inducted in 2019)

Oliver is a young leader who brings to the board a diverse skill-set, built from experience across the Not-For-Profit (NFP), start-up and arts sectors. He is a Director and co-founder of a successful creative agency, and Head of Partnerships & Development at The Makers, a NFP focused on driving social innovation and impact in the arts, youth and entrepreneurship space. Previously, Oliver managed YOH Fest, one of Australia's leading youth arts festivals, where he gained insight into the arts in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Mid-West, Goldfields, South-West, Peel and Great-Southern regions. Oliver currently holds positions as Community Board Member with Communities That Care and Committee Member with UWA's Young Alumni Network and GovHack WA. He also holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance & Business Law) from the University of Western Australia, where he now hosts their Innovation podcast.

Debbie Carmody

Debbie Carmody is the CEO of Tjuma Pulka Original Nations Media Corporation in Kalgoorlie-Boulder - managing three programs, Radio 96.3FM, Gravel Road Music Studio and Karlkurla Art, Culture and Music. Debbie is the Creative Director of NAIDOC Art and Culture Festival and Sound on the Saltlake in 2018. Debbie is an artist, and film writer/director. She has A Class Honors in Communication. Debbie works within the community and all programs are community generated. Debbie will bring to the Board knowledge of Community Development and Cultural Knowledge. Debbie also has an understanding of how to develop art and culture programs within the regions and how to work with remote communities.

Patrick Lee Churnside (inducted in 2019)

James Jarvis

James Jarvis grew up in regional Western Australia. After completing a Bachelor of Arts (Hons in Psychology) he regularly returned to the regions and has worked in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Murchison and Wheatbelt. He currently resides in Tom Price employed as the CEO of The Nintirri Centre Inc which is a shift to the not-for-profit sector after 21 years working for a variety of state government agencies in WA and the NT. James is currently Chair the Pilbara for Purpose Board, which is an association of Pilbara-based NGO's, he is Secretary of the Tom Price Men's Shed committee and the Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Board Member at Linkwest. James is excited about the organising role The Nintirri Centre holds in delivering the annual Karijini Experience in Karijini National Park.

David Martin

David Martin was born in Moora and raised in the Wheatbelt town of Kalannie. He has travelled extensively in the south and north of WA and has been active in the community of Gracetown, near Margaret River, serving for 7 years as President of Gracetown Progress Association. David is a co-founder and director of the Alex Hotel in Perth, and owns Stormflower Vineyard in Margaret River. He was previously a co-founder and director of Little Creatures Brewery in Fremantle, and also held senior executive positions at international law firm Baker & McKenzie (Partner, Hong Kong and Singapore, and Head of Asian Aviation Practice) and Woodside Petroleum Ltd (General Counsel). David holds law degrees from the University of Western Australia, and a Diploma from the AICD's Company Director's Course. David has a keen interest in contemporary art, including indigenous art.

Sue Middleton (Chair)

Sue Middleton has been actively involved in many leadership roles across industry, leadership, agriculture and rural community development. Past roles include National Chair of the Landcare Advisory Committee, Board Member of Landcorp, Chair of the WA Regional Development Trust which has oversight of the Royalties for Regions program, Chair of the West Midlands Group (Grower Group), National Rural Advisory Council, COAG Reform Council, WA Agricultural Produce Commissioner, National Regional Women's Advisory Council, Farmbis State Planning Group, Australian Research Council, and Regional Solutions Board. Sue is passionate about the future of regional and rural Western Australia. For her work, Sue has been awarded the Centenary Medal for Service to Regional Australia in 2002, and was awarded the 2010 RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year for Australia and Western Australia. Sue is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is a professional and skilled Director.

Ken Mills (inducted in 2019)

Ken Mills is semi-retired following a 36-year career in the management of regional health services. He has worked across the length and breadth of WA including Albany, Bunbury, Narrogin, Kununurra,

Broome, Kalgoorlie and Esperance) and spent 7 years managing health services in NSW. Kenneth is currently the Chairperson of Esperance Community Arts (ECA) and has been since formation of the Board 2 years ago. He is also a Brass and piano musician and played with the Esperance Brass Band for the past 16 years, and been its President for the past four.

Fiona Sinclair

Fiona is a practicing professional artist, with a 20 year career specialising in public art and community engagement. Fiona has served as Secretary to arts organisations in her home-town of Northcliffe since 2000. With the support of a great team, Fiona coordinated the establishment of the Understory Art & Nature Trail in Northcliffe 11 years ago – a mighty vision that is still unfolding. She manages (volunteers) this nationally unique cultural tourism attraction and the adjacent Painted Tree Gallery. She is currently coordinating *Connect to the Creative Grid*, derived from the Regional Arts Partnership Program which is state-wide capacity-building project for the regional arts sector that puts her into direct connection with over 50 arts organisations across the state.

Wendy Wise

Wendy has many years experience in large-scale event management including 5 years as General Manager of the Perth International Arts Festival. She worked for the State Government for 10 years managing arts grants programmes finishing her time as Director of Arts WA. Prior to this, Wendy worked in the arts industry as a project manager and musician. She has served on several boards and management committees including Healthway, Community Cultural Development Board of the Australia Council, Deckchair Theatre Company, Independent Living Centre and was Chair of the Department for the Arts Touring Panel 1988-89 and Community Arts Panel 1987-88, Interim Chair for the newly formed Arts Industry Training Council 1989-90, founding President of the Ethnic Music Centre of WA 1985-88 and was the inaugural Chair of Co3, the State's premier contemporary dance company. While in Northcliffe she contributed to the Northcliffe community as Secretary/Treasurer of the Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigade, Secretary of the Northcliffe Visitor Centre Inc. and prepared business plans and funding submissions for the Karri Cup MTB Challenge. Wendy was awarded the Chancellors Medal for her contribution to The University of Western Australia.

ABOUT COUNTRY ARTS WA

Country Arts WA is the only Western Australian arts body with a purely regional focus. Established in 1994, we are an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation supported by State and Federal Government funding. Our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen WA's powerful regional arts sector to create connected and creative communities.

www.countryartswa.asn.au