

## MEDIA RELEASE

6 May 2020

### REGIONAL ARTS WA WELCOMES NEW CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS

*The state leader for regional arts and community development in Western Australia, Regional Arts WA, is pleased to announce its new Board of Directors with its new Chair, Ted Snell.*

The new board members along with newly appointed Regional Arts WA Chair Ted Snell will bring a wealth of expertise across leadership, strategy, advocacy, innovation and governance. These skills will be vital as the organisation continues to celebrate and strengthen the regional arts sector during these unprecedented times.

The Board unanimously selected Ted Snell as the new Chair. Professor Snell brings exceptional experience across arts and culture, leadership, governance and the media. He is the current Director of Lawrence Wilson Arts Gallery at the University of Western Australia, current Chair of the Fremantle Biennale Advisory Committee and on the board of the UQ Art Museum and Australian Network Art & Technology (ANAT). He is a regular commentator on the arts for ABC radio and television and writes regularly for magazines and online journals such as The Conversation.

The newly appointed Chair has a deep commitment to the arts and culture sector and looks forward to working with Regional Arts WA to create creative and connected communities across the state.

“I am very honoured to be appointed Chair of Regional Arts WA at this pivotal time in our industry. I know the regional arts sector plays a crucial role in the wellbeing and vitality of our State so it is more important than ever that we work with the arts sector and key stakeholders to ensure what makes regional communities great will continue for generations to come.

“I would also like to acknowledge the outgoing Chair Sue Middleton and outgoing Treasurer David Martin for their huge contribution to the organisation. We appreciate your passion, commitment and leadership to the regional arts sector over the last couple of years.

“Regional Arts WA is a dynamic not-for-profit organisation with a passion to see the regional arts sector be recognised as world leaders. I believe this is now a unique opportunity to achieve this and more in the coming years. I look forward to working with its committed Board and staff to continue its strong and innovative work in the regions.” Professor Snell said.

New Board Members Jim Morrison - Goreng Minang Noongar Elder, Soula Veyradier - Cultural Sector Leader, and Lesley Wilkinson - Local Government Professional will join the existing Board;

Fiona Sinclair (new Vice Chair) of Southern Forest Arts in the South West, Oliver Bazzani (new Treasurer) Director and Co-Founder of a creative agency, James Jarvis (new Secretary) Manager Community Development for Shire of Donnybrook, Kellee Aberg from the Peel region, and Ken Mills Community Leader from Goldfield Esperance.

For more information visit [www.regionalartswa.org.au/about/board-of-directors/](http://www.regionalartswa.org.au/about/board-of-directors/)

End.

### **Media Contact**

Weng-Si Cheang – Program Manager, Regional Arts WA

P: 08 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall: 1800 811 883 | E: [wcheang@regionalartswa.org.au](mailto:wcheang@regionalartswa.org.au)

## SUPPORT MATERIAL

### New Board Member Biographies

#### ***Ted Snell (new Chair)***

Professor Ted Snell, AM CitWA, is Chief Cultural Officer and Director of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at the University of Western Australia. Over the past two decades he has contributed to the national arts agenda through his role as Chair of the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council, Chair of Artbank, Chair of the Asialink Visual Arts Advisory Committee, Board member of the National Association for the Visual Arts, Chair of the Australian Experimental Art Foundation and Chair of University Art Museums Australia.

He is currently Chair of the Fremantle Biennale and on the board of the UQ Art Museum, ANAT (Australian Network for Art & Technology), and Balcatta Independent Public School. He has published several books and has curated numerous exhibitions, many of which document the visual culture of Western Australia. Ted Snell is a regular commentator on the arts for ABC radio and television and writes regularly for The Conversation.

#### ***Jim Morrison***

Is a Goreng Minang Noongar Elder, a Traditional Custodian of WA's southern coast who has proudly passed his strong Aboriginal values to following generations of his extended family. He has been a prominent activist, advocate and leader in pivotal Aboriginal advancement roles for over four decades, working passionately to address the rights of the Stolen Generations and their families; Aboriginal child protection; the tragic mental health and suicide issues in his community; equity in access to culturally safe services in State and Commonwealth Governments; overdue prison reforms; Aboriginal employment, education and training; Aboriginal equity in universities; the protection of young street people and the formation and management of non-government agencies providing services to Aboriginal families and their broader communities.

For the past three years he has recently taken up leadership of YOKAI! Healing our Spirit, the operational umbrella of the WA Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation and Bringing Them Home (WA).

Jim is also well known in the community for the hundreds of fundraising events and funeral benefits he has managed for Aboriginal families, most particularly for Noongaroke, our version of karaoke.

#### ***Soula Veyradier***

Soula has worked across the visual arts and museum areas, managing programs and sites, developing exhibitions, collections and special projects for organisations in Australia and overseas. She has undertaken many roles within the NFP sector, state and local government relating to the strategic planning and implementation of arts and cultural policies and programmes. Her experience and knowledge of the cultural sector of Western Australia gives her a rare depth of insight into opportunities around cultural planning and programming relevant to regional communities.

She has undertaken leadership roles within the cultural sector, is a former president of Museums & Galleries Australia WA and National Councillor, and currently Director of Programs for the International Arts Space (formerly IASKA).

Her work includes managing artist residencies across WA communities and beyond, site interpretation and activation for the National Trust WA, Historic Heart of Perth and Subiaco East Development, managing the Perth site of the Western Australian Museum, City of Melville Arts and Museums portfolio, Pierre Beres rare books and art and Pulsart Artists Cooperative, amongst others.

Industry activity includes consultative and committee involvement on a number of boards, including Community Arts Board (previously CANWA), Australian Museums and Galleries Association National Council and WA Branch President, the Cultural Development Forum WA, Collections Sector Advisory Committee, Department of Culture and the Arts, Cultural Chairs group, Chamber of Arts and Culture and assessment panels including Museums and Galleries (MAGNA) Awards judge, Catalyst Community Art Grants, Collections Sector and Arts Development Grants, DCA.

Soula acknowledges the important role regional communities play in the fabric Western Australia and would bring her skills and experience to Regional Arts WA to support a vision for a dynamic regional arts ecology.

### ***Lesley Wilkinson***

A leader with strong business acumen and a core strength around innovation and organisational change that balances better outcomes for the community, as well as individuals, and profitability for the organisation. Key experiences in driving innovation and improvement that make an impact for the community. Building a culture of innovation where people can grow and enjoy coming to work.

Key areas of impact include:

- Ability to lead, transform, build and engage teams providing vision, clarity, direction and staff engagement through regular conversations and contact up to 280 staff and over 100 volunteers.
- Built organisations from scratch building the strategy, governance, developing networks and alliances, creating policies and employing all staff
- Created lasting networks and relationships to assist in realising the vision for several organisations.
- Developed new innovative models to reengineer services to be more efficient and deliver for the service user
- An engaging, stimulating leader and communicator, poised and capable of projecting enthusiasm and warmth, and of motivating other people.

### **About Regional Arts WA**

Established in 1994, Regional Arts WA (formerly Country Arts WA) is the State's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. As an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities. More at: [www.regionalartswa.org.au](http://www.regionalartswa.org.au)