

Calendar Year: January to December 2025

Good morning

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for the Millmerran Arts Council for the 2025 calendar year.

2025 has been a vibrant and rewarding year for the arts in Millmerran. Through the dedication of our committee, volunteers, funding partners and community supporters, we have delivered a diverse range of events — all of them free — ensuring that arts and culture remain accessible in our small regional community.

With the generous support of a grant from the Millmerran Power Station, we held two free Morning Melodies events for the community, complete with morning tea. On the 27th of March and again on the 31st of October, John and Ronnie entertained our audiences with wonderful live music. These gatherings continue to be a highlight, offering not only quality entertainment but also meaningful opportunities for social connection.

A major highlight of the year was our series of free events celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Rotunda in Anzac Park, made possible through an RADF Flying Arts Alliance Grant. This milestone gave us the opportunity to activate and honour one of Millmerran's most treasured community spaces. On the 8th of June, Aussie and the Menace performed at the Rotunda, drawing a fantastic crowd. On the 21st of June, we hosted our Winter Solstice Party, which featured lots of dancing, a performance by MAPA, a traditional maypole celebration and food trucks, creating a colourful and joyful winter event. Then on the 24th of June, performers from the Pittsworth and Millmerran School Band played at the Rotunda, showcasing young local talent and reinforcing the importance of arts participation across generations. These celebrations not only marked 100 years of history but reminded us how vital shared cultural spaces are within regional communities.

We were also very grateful to receive a Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grant, which enabled us to bring more free events to the young people of Millmerran. Through this funding, we presented Cinderella Spinderella at the Cultural Centre, enjoyed by students from Millmerran State School and St Joseph's Primary School. We were also incredibly fortunate to welcome the crew from Junkyard Beats, all the way from Melbourne, who delivered an energetic show and engaging workshops for all students at Millmerran State School. Providing high-quality arts experiences to our young people at no cost to families remains a priority for the Arts Council.

Throughout the year, we continued to engage with the wider community by supporting Under 8s Day, hosting a fun Donut on a String competition, and running donut sales at

the Mother's Day Market. These activities help keep the Arts Council visible, connected and involved in the broader life of our town.

Our exhibition program also continued at the Kenneth Macqueen Art Foyer at the Millmerran Library. Throughout the year we hosted a variety of exhibitions, including works by Jan Scudamore, the Angel Gowns display, and Lexie Antonio and Students, along with other rotating exhibitions. These displays ensure that visual arts remain accessible and present in our everyday community spaces.

As we look toward 2026, we will continue to explore funding opportunities to provide free and inclusive events for our community. We are particularly excited about developing a new and innovative program alongside our much-loved Camp Oven event, adding fresh energy and creative opportunity to our annual calendar.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank our committee members, volunteers, performers, funding bodies, schools and community partners. Bringing arts and culture to a small regional community takes persistence, collaboration and heart. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together this year, and grateful for the continued support that allows us to keep bringing the arts to Millmerran.