



FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS

ANNUAL REPORT
2020



**"An embodiment of community
and one of the cornerstones of
the modern circus industry."**

- Arts Hub

"There is not a circus in Australia, nor a
major circus globally, that hasn't featured
a Flying Fruit Fly Circus graduate."

- *Border Mail*



OUR CIRCUS

VISION

To use circus as the creative and physical inspiration for young people to flourish and aspire to futures that embrace their many skills and abilities.

MISSION

To be the pre-eminent centre of circus training for young people in Australia and the creators of extraordinary contemporary circus works for local, national and international audiences.

MEASURING SUCCESS

THESE TEN GOALS UNDERPIN OUR SPIRIT AND ETHOS AND HELP US MAP OUR DIRECTION.

1

Use circus to develop the creative, academic, physical and social skills of young people

2

Embrace the multi-disciplinary nature of circus and innovate the art form

3

Develop young audiences for circus

4

Be a financially and environmentally sustainable business

5

Provide professional career pathways for graduates and emerging artists

6

Strengthen our connection to our Aboriginal community

7

Contribute to the cultural life of our region and support a thriving local circus community

8

Be a leader for the Australian youth circus sector

9

Use collaboration and partnership to maintain and further the aims of our organisation

10

Be a thoughtful employer, fostering a safe and creative work place

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Our organisation has a responsibility to ensure the best possible futures for our young people, in every respect.

The planet is tracking towards critical global temperature increases. The evidence of serious environmental challenges grows ever clearer, from extreme weather events to widespread extinction of species.

Our circus makes an impact.

Educational and training facilities like ours can be significant creators of waste. At the circus we create work that is inherently temporary; that makes use of raw materials, of heat, light and sound; that often asks people to travel to a particular location at a particular time. We use water and power. We heat our building during winter and cool it during summer.

We acknowledge our impact on the environment and believe it is time we became part of the solution.

We are committed to making the world our young people inherit as safe and sustainable as possible. We tell stories, share knowledge, shape culture and encourage empathy and understanding. We want to inspire, motivate and support our students and our diverse communities to help us drive change.

We have made some significant progress towards reducing the carbon impact of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus but the scale of the change required means we must scrutinise every part of the way we operate.

We understand this is a climate emergency and that it's our responsibility to set goals that enable us to reduce the environmental impact of our activities.

Our commitments are to:

- embed environmental sustainability at the heart of our practice.
- include our students in the process.
- ensure we take a positive and hopeful approach.
- set year-on-year goals.
- report on our progress annually.
- share our experience, learning from others within our community and the sector.
- work with Wodonga Federation of Government Schools to develop their own student-led environmental and sustainability policy statement

Monitoring and reporting:

Our Environmental Statement will be reviewed on an annual basis by our Board and updated as necessary, its implementation and performance will be continuously evaluated.

Our areas of focus:

• Students and staff

We believe hope is our most fundamental strategy. We want our students and staff to feel empowered and supported to examine their own practice and decision making, with ideas for change filtering throughout our organisation. We must also enable all our visitors, contractors, stakeholders and audiences to understand and minimise their pollution and carbon footprint when engaging with us.

• Our building

Our building is eleven years old and already benefits from a number of good sustainable design features. In recent years we have made further improvements by reducing energy usage and costs through the installation of 85 solar panels and will continue to 'green our space'.

• Transport

As the Flying Fruit Fly Circus tours and our schools arrange excursions around the region, Australia and overseas, we will assess the impact of our travelling and will work to minimise carbon impact; however, the truth is that radical changes to national and international transport infrastructure are needed to reach carbon neutrality.

• Our artistic program

We want to tell resonant stories, relevant to our young people and that can help to galvanise positive change. Accurate climate and ecological concerns will be reflected in our work.

• Making contemporary circus

We will consider each step of the process of creating and producing shows to better understand how we can reduce their environmental impact. We will share what we learn with our community and industry and encourage the exchange of ideas.

• Decision making

Environment will be a standing agenda item for all meetings, ensuring impact is considered at every level of our decision making process.

In 2020 we met our three environmental goals for the year, which were:

1. Water Tank

A new water tank was installed that pumps water into our system on demand, providing an independent water source for our bathrooms. We now save money, valuable resources and the planet with each flush.

2. LED Lighting System

We have reduced our energy usage by replacing the training floor lights with LED's. These were fitted at the end of September with the \$6,500 cost covered by a grant from Albury City Council.

3. Single Use Plastic Ban

A ban on bringing single use plastics into the building was initiated at the start of the year, with clear signage installed at the front entrance to the building. This goal requires cultural change from students, staff and visitors. Early indicators are encouraging and our landfill waste is reducing, but we recognise it takes time to embed new behaviours in our community.

2020 Environmental Accomplishments



Water Storage Tank



LED Lighting System



Single Use Plastic Ban



"If you've ever watched acrobats at the Sydney Opera House, been to Adelaide Fringe or bought tickets to Circus Oz in Melbourne, chances are you've seen a "Fruity".

Sydney Morning Herald 2019

A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO OUR ONE-OF-A- KIND CIRCUS

Founded in 1979 as a holiday project for local youth in Albury-Wodonga, the reputation and influence of the company has grown over the years.

With many landmark projects to our name and an ever-increasing roll call of alumni working in leading companies around the world, we are perhaps Australia's most successful cultural community development project, continuing to enrich the lives of many young Australians in North East Victoria, Southern NSW and from around the country.

Our company is dedicated to advancing and innovating the artform of circus, creating exciting emerging artists for the entire industry and acting as a leader for the youth circus sector and our regional community. Our unique circus program for young people aged between 8-18 has gained a worldwide reputation for innovation and excellence. It develops artists

by being one of Australia's most celebrated producers of dynamic contemporary circus works for young people and families, touring nationally and internationally, and as an educator in circus and interdisciplinary artforms.

A busy schedule of circus training and performance is supported by our academic program, which is provided by our two partner schools, the select entry Flying Fruit Fly Circus School, and Wodonga Senior Secondary College.

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus is a member of the Arts8 group of organisations recognised by the Australian government

as centres of national arts training excellence, and the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (FEDEC).

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus is crucial to the Australian circus eco-system, creating performance ready artists and socially conscious new circus educators, developing new audiences for the artform, nurturing a strong community of arts workers through our training and touring programs, and increasing circus-literacy in our regional centre and throughout Australia.

COMPANY STATEMENT

A philosopher wisely said that "a good half of the art of living is resilience." Looking back, our Sydney Festival season of *Time Flies* in January seems almost like it was in a different year, given that so much happened between then and *Borderville* in December.

While a crisis can expose weaknesses it can also bring out the best in us. Through lockdowns, school closures, border closures, restrictions and recoveries, our community rallied magnificently to keep things going.

During this year of COVID we focussed on some key priorities. We maintained an oasis of normalcy for our students, when so much else was feeling strange and unfamiliar. We kept the doors open apart from Term 2, which was delivered online, and rebuilt the in-person training program as quickly and safely as we could. We came together and made things work. When our school in Victoria had to close for a second time, we hosted classes in Albury for some of our out-of-towners and ensured everyone could be ferried across the border one way or another. Our staff and students embraced new ways of working, and we learned to deliver projects together and apart.

We supported our staff to continue their employment on full salaries, a Board level decision taken before the government announced JobKeeper.

We launched quick response initiatives to provide funds to emerging and established artists to help keep them hopeful, creative and making work. Many of these artists had lost all their year's income overnight. We supported nine projects featuring 35 artists.

Despite the uncertainties, we managed to create a number of fabulous performance opportunities for our students. Led by Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews, our 3/4/5 students wrote their own songs (with Sarah zooming in from strict Melbourne lockdown) and then performed them in a special performance at The Cube Wodonga. This was facilitated by a partnership with the Flying Fruit Fly Circus School in a joint venture that we hope will be the start of many such collaborations.

We continued to plan our end of year festival *Borderville* and Anni's inspired vision to create a wild children's sanctuary at Wonga Wetlands was both a response to COVID limitations, but also a great big hit. The inclusion in the program of three projects we had supported throughout the year was a fitting close to 2020.

We were sad to farewell our Training Director Loic Marques after five brilliant years, but equally excited to see our trainers Ben Lewis and Bec Neill step up to support Anni Davey for 2021.

As a company with productive government partnerships, we accessed COVID rescue packages from NSW, Victoria and the federal government, as well as receiving JobKeeper and tax relief assistance. We focussed efforts on resuming our public classes as soon as practicable, instigating extensive hygiene measures in line with government advice. This both reconnected us with our broader community and injected some crucial independent revenue to the budget. Our financial result reflects this extraordinary year. It will provide valuable contingency for the uncertainties ahead and offer us a rare chance to resource more opportunities for our young artists and our circus sector.

We are an adaptable and ambitious company and have planned an exciting 2021. We acknowledge the future challenges but have confidence in our abilities to adapt and succeed.

Our thanks to the Board, staff, students, parents, schools, partners and Australia's amazing circus community.



LARA BLOCK

Chair



ANNI DAVEY

Artistic Director



RICHARD HULL

Chief Executive Officer



LEARNING THE ART OF CIRCUS

Our full-time circus program is delivered over a 41-week school year with a principal aim to provide elite-level technical skills and artistic learning for young people who have the dedication and attributes to become professional circus performers.

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus is a true cross-border organisation, with our academic school in Victoria and training facility in NSW.

While this is ordinarily a positive, it threw up a number of challenges during the year as COVID-19 forced both state governments to apply border and movement restrictions, often responding to their own particular priorities.

Our full-time training program was disrupted and our school and building closed for Term 2. Whilst in lockdown were unable to provide face to face teaching but kept our students connected to the circus and each other with remote learning classes delivered online.

Students were divided into small groups overseen by a consistent trainer and concentrating on core competencies: strength, flexibility, conditioning, aerobic fitness and handstands.

Training sessions were halved in length from our usual face to face training (1.5-hour instead of 3-hour blocks).

Creative classes were also delivered remotely to all student levels and our school delivered a comprehensive program of remote academic classes.

Over this challenging period we also convened 'Inspirational Chats' for the senior students on Friday evenings, with alumni and other professional circus artists.

As restrictions eased, we instigated a phased return to training with staggered group attendance and reduced hours. This was to both ease the students back into their more demanding exercise routines and ensure capacity restrictions were adhered to and extensive cleaning protocols implemented.

By Term 4, the full-time program had returned to a normal schedule and we had commenced a staged return of our public classes.

At the start of 2020, 72 students were enrolled in the Circus Program.

Training proceeds through three structured levels of advancement (Preparation, Foundation and Development) and culmination in graduation.

Our training model continues to develop in response to research, feedback and industry best practice. Our philosophy models individual learning plans based on a long-term vision for each student. The long-term vision is based on sector trends and each student's passion and skill.

Morning training sessions were reintroduced in term 4, three times per week for students in years 6 to 9. This training included a contemporary dance program designed for circus artists; core physical conditioning; flexibility and acrobatic training. Students in years 10 to 12 continued their additional training of two hours per week and open independent training.

Enrolments

72

Certificate III in Circus Arts

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus is the only school in Australia that delivers this national qualification. Certificate III in Circus Arts provides an entry level vocational qualification in elementary level circus skills and knowledge.

This course is perfect for aspiring circus artists seeking a qualification and as a pathway for further learning. The Certificate III in Circus Arts can be used for preparation for Certificate IV in Circus Arts and Bachelor of Circus Arts courses. Our course is delivered in collaboration with our academic partner Wodonga Senior Secondary College and is auspiced by Swinburne University/NICA.

Certificate III is delivered over two years and in 2020 there were 17 students enrolled in the course. The three units studied were:

- NAT10823002 Execute core circus foundation skills to elementary level
- NAT10823003 Execute group acts skills to elementary level
- NAT10823001 Undertake elementary fitness preparation for Circus performers

Participants

17



PREPARATION GROUP

9

BASIC WEEKLY TRAINING HOURS

In the Preparation group, younger Fruities learn to control and understand their bodies and are trained in the fundamentals of four major disciplines – balance, acrobatics, aerials and manipulation.

FOUNDATION GROUP

17.5

BASIC WEEKLY TRAINING HOURS

In the Foundation group students further develop the four disciplines, increase core strength and agility, improve their understanding of body mechanics and specialise in a particular discipline or apparatus.

DEVELOPMENT GROUP

18

BASIC WEEKLY TRAINING HOURS

It is in the Development group that students begin to specialise their training in particular circus apparatus and artistic sensitivities. Each student has an individual training program that is inspired by the natural skills and interests of the student.

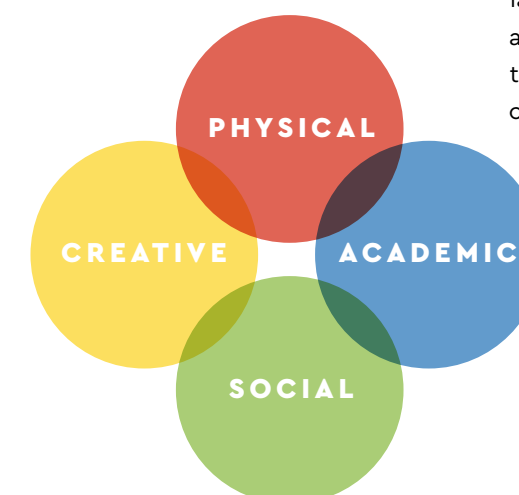
The following elements form an important part of our training program, each aiming to increase the young artists' awareness and knowledge of circus as an artform and a creative industry, these include:

- (a) Weekly creative training classes working towards a termly informal cabaret performance;
- (b) Circus Links – in addition to the Flying Fruit Fly Circus School curriculum exploring creative and circus related subjects.

The Spirit of our Circus

Our cultural philosophy is based around four key attributes that we prioritise in our programs and communications with students, staff and families.

These four attributes are:



Recognising these four attributes is the essence of developing a healthy holistic circus artist.

We frame and address these values in our curriculum and positive behaviour programs.

We have created this shared language with our partner academic providers and continue to develop a series of programs that communicate this philosophy to students and families.

These four attributes encourage a more holistic, creative and healthy culture for our students and staff.



DISCOVERING THE WORLD OF PERFORMANCE

It is important for aspiring performers to have as many varied and meaningful performance experiences as possible in different contexts that might reflect their future working life.

Putting work in front of an audience teaches young acrobats the importance of thorough preparation, about the contribution of production elements to the success of an act (lighting, sound, costume), and about the more elusive qualities of a good performer like charisma, empathy, and being able to 'read' an audience (responsiveness). Performances and shows are also an invaluable demonstration of the quality of our performance and skills training program to prospective students, our local community, funding bodies, and other stakeholders.

In 2020, COVID-19 caused major disruption to our events calendar, however we still presented a number of performances.

**TOTAL
AUDIENCE
12,537**



Disruption and Resilience

From a performance perspective, our year was bookended by two successful seasons.

In January, *Time Flies* at Sydney Festival celebrated our 40th Anniversary with a cast of 50 FFFC young artists in the Seymour Centre's York Theatre. At the other end of the year, our annual festival *Borderville* was also a celebration of our community's resilience and cultural heart. It was an opportunity to present a new outdoor production *Endangered Species* in Albury's Wonga Wetlands, our Grad Show and three of the works we supported throughout the year through our artists residencies.

Over the year we expanded our *Under Construction* program to support more emerging artists develop original work and launched a COVID-19 emergency initiative *Make Our Way Out* providing funds, accommodation, rehearsal space and artistic support for established artists who had suddenly lost work.

We supported nine projects featuring 35 artists providing seed funding of \$22,000 plus in-kind support to the value of \$60,000.

Time Flies

Presented by
Sydney Festival

Date
14 – 19 January 2020

Director Anni Davey
Sound Design Natano Fa'anana
Composer and Musical Director
Bec Matthews
Sound Operator Steve Froud
Training Director Loic Marques
Trainers Ben Lewis, Bec Neill, Phil Witt
Lighting Designer Rob Scott
Technical Director Scott Stoddart
Show Rigger Simon Yates
Stage Manager Jo Lancaster
Costume Design Lyn Shields
Cast Support Team Madge Fletcher,
Don Gargan

Cast
Abbey Szakal, Abigail Sandral, AJ
Johnson, Amelia Cole, Ava Paydon,
Ayva Armstrong, Barney Herrmann,
Bianca Hall, Cate Kelly, Chelsea Quail,
Chloe Pirie, Claire Braunack, Clancy
Rosewarne, Ellie Marks, Ella Saabel,
Emma Giasoumi, Ewan Schell, Fidel
Lancaster-Cole, Finn Neill, Campbell
Clarke, Holly-Rose Boyer, Hudson
White, Isabella Meola, Jacinta Rensen,
Jacob Kavanagh, Jessica Hupfield,
Kayla Hulm, Kelsey Eckhardt, Kezia
Sutton, Khalan Walsh-Young, Lucie
Mariethoz, Meg Shiels-Jones, Mitchell
Kilsby, Molly James, Natasha Hall, Nick
Marsack, Nicolaas Pope, Paige Stiffe,
Peter Giasoumi, Poppy McFarlane,
Rachael Carey, Roscoe Harris-Westman,
Savanna Barker, Soma Murphy, Taliyah
Walsh-Young, Tess Spry, Tom Leask,
Tom Paydon, Will Ledingham

Chaperones
Julia Quail, Katherine Ledingham, Lara
Block, Mara Giourouki, Michelle Lloyd

Performances
7

Type
Contract Fee

Audience
5,418

Today Show

Noreuil Park, Albury
Channel 9 broadcast

Date
29 January 2020

Cast
Chloe Pirie, Ella Saabel, Emma Giasoumi,
Holly-Rose Boyer, Jacob Kavanagh,
Khalan Walsh-Young, Nicolaas Pope,
Peter Giasoumi, Taliyah Walsh-Young

Act Guidance
Anni Davey & Loic Marques

Performances
1

Type
Free

Audience (TV)
175,000

Upstream Arts Festival

Date
6 March 2020

Director Anni Davey
Training Director Loic Marques
Creative Circus Associates Phil Witt,
Scott Neill
Technical Director Scott Stoddart
Show Rigger Simon Yates
Costume Design Lyn Shields

Cast
Abbey Szakal, Aysha Guiliamse-Witt,
Clancy Rosewarne, Dakota Skrypczak,
Emma Giasoumi, Finn Neill, Harry
McEachern, Campbell Clarke, Isabella
Meola, Jacob Kavanagh, Kayla Hulm,
Milanni Klippel, Molly James, Nate
Klippel, Nicolaas Pope, Paige Stiffe,
Roscoe Harris-Westman, Ruby Myers,
Savanna Barker, Soma Murphy, Tom
Leask, Tom Paydon, Tyce Binding, Will
Ledingham

Chaperones
Ana Alzati, Michelle Gilbert

Performances
1

Type
Contract Fee

Audience
1,500



Deckchair Cabaret

Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Albury
Term 3

Cast
Various FFFC students; including Night
Flies students

Act Guidance
Anni Davey, Julie Wilson, Per Westman,
Misha Reale, Seth Scheuner, Tracey
D'Elton

Performances
1

Type
Free

Audience
40

Livestream Audience
3,900

Little Fruit

Date
20 November 2020

Directors and Composers
Bec Matthews and Sarah Ward
Assistant Director Ewan Schell
Trainer Per Westman
Technical Director Scott Stoddart

Cast
Abigail Sandral, Astaria Benne-Keeble,
Caitlin Taylor-Daines, Clancy Rosewarne,
Dakota Skrypczak, Edwina Harrington,
Emma Giasoumi, Finn Neill, Harry
McEachern, Meghan Edinborough,
Natasha Meani, Nate Klippel, Tameka
Rees, Campbell Clarke, Kezia Sutton,
Lucie Mariethoz, Peter Giasoumi, Poppy
McFarlane, Rachael Carey

Chaperones
Tony Keeble

Performances
1

Type
Self-entrepreneuried

Audience
20

Livestream Audience
276

Borderville Circus Festival

Various Locations

Date
3 – 12 December

Borderville Circus Festival was re-imagined in 2020 as a covid-safe celebration for our community to come together.

The program featured performances by the entire FFFC ensemble, as well as a range of work-in-progress showings from emerging and established independent artists who were able to complete residencies at the FFFC throughout the year.

Artistic Director Anni Davey
Executive Producer Tahni Froudish
Technical Director Scott Stoddart

Endangered Species

Dates
Cast 1 3, 4, 5 December
Cast 2 10, 11, 12 December

Director Anni Davey
Training Director Loic Marques
Associate Director Alyson Evans
Stage Manager Alison Neville
Show Rigger Simon Yates
Costume Design Lyn Shields
Trainers Bec Neill, Cooper Ayton, Lauren Shepherd, Misha Reale, Michelle Stevens, Nick Hutchinson, Per Westman, Phil Witt, Scott Neill, Tanya Lester
Production Assistants
Marcela Scheuner, Nathan Jones

Cast 1
Abbey Szakal, Amelia Cole, Angus Foley, Ava Paydon, Aysha Guilliamse-Witt, Ayva Armstrong, Barney Herrmann, Bianca Hall, Campbell Clarke, Cate Kelly, Chelsea Quail, Chloe Pirie, Clancy Rosewarne, Edwina Harrington, Emma Giasoumi, Holly-Rose Boyer, Hudson White, Kezia Sutton, Lara Burdett, Lilly Holmes, Lucie Mariethoz, Meghan Edinborough, Milanni Klippel, Natasha Hall, Nate Klippel, Oliver Foley, Paige Taylor Stiffe, Peter Giasoumi, Poppy McFarlane, Rachael Carey, Roscoe Harris-Westman, Savanna Barker, Tal Shemesh, Tameka Rees, Taria O'Connor, Natasha Meani, Tom Paydon, Tyce Binding, Will Ledingham, Yoav Shemesh

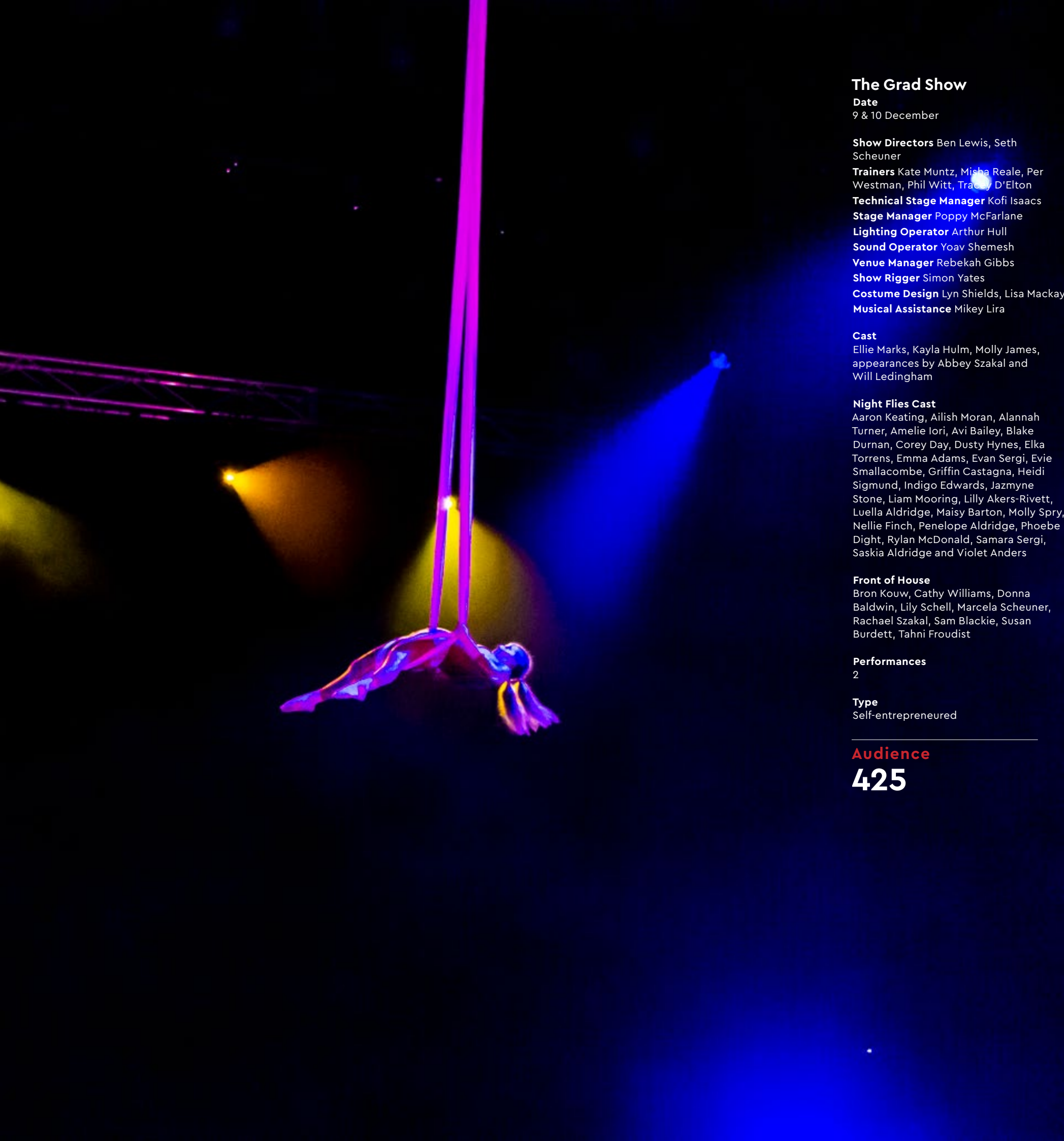
Cast 2
Abigail Sandral, AJ Johnson, Angus Foley, Araluen Vonthien, Arthur Hull, Astaria Benne-Keeble, Caitlin Taylor-Daines, Claire Braunack, Clancy Rosewarne, Dakota Skrypczak, Ella Saabel, Emma Giasoumi, Eryn Beattie, Ewan Schell, Fidel Lancaster-Cole, Finn Neill, Harry McEachern, Holly-Rose Boyer, Isabella Meola, Jacob Kavanagh, Kelsey Eckhardt, Khalan Walsh-Young, Meghan Edinborough, Monique Blackie, Nick Marsack, Nicolaas Pope, Peter Giasoumi, Ruby Myers, Tal Shemesh, Taliyah Walsh Young, Taria O'Connor, Natasha Meani, Tess Spry, Tilly Jenkins, Tom Leask, Tom Paydon, Yoav Shemesh

Chaperones
Alison Meani, Beck Palmer, Genaveive Neal, Lara Block, Lily Schell, Peter Marsack, Rachael Szakal, Rhiannon Ersser, Samantha Blackie, Tony Keeble

Performances
24

Type
Self-entrepreneured

Audience
618



The Grad Show

Date
9 & 10 December

Show Directors Ben Lewis, Seth Scheuner
Trainers Kate Muntz, Misha Reale, Per Westman, Phil Witt, Tracy D'Elton
Technical Stage Manager Kofi Isaacs
Stage Manager Poppy McFarlane
Lighting Operator Arthur Hull
Sound Operator Yoav Shemesh
Venue Manager Rebekah Gibbs
Show Rigger Simon Yates
Costume Design Lyn Shields, Lisa Mackay
Musical Assistance Mikey Lira

Cast
Ellie Marks, Kayla Hulm, Molly James, appearances by Abbey Szakal and Will Ledingham

Night Flies Cast
Aaron Keating, Ailish Moran, Alannah Turner, Amelie Iori, Avi Bailey, Blake Durnan, Corey Day, Dusty Hynes, Elka Torrens, Emma Adams, Evan Sergi, Evie Smallacombe, Griffin Castagna, Heidi Sigmund, Indigo Edwards, Jazmyne Stone, Liam Mooring, Lilly Akers-Rivett, Luella Aldridge, Maisy Barton, Molly Spry, Nellie Finch, Penelope Aldridge, Phoebe Dight, Rylan McDonald, Samara Sergi, Saskia Aldridge and Violet Anders

Front of House
Bron Kouw, Cathy Williams, Donna Baldwin, Lily Schell, Marcela Scheuner, Rachael Szakal, Sam Blackie, Susan Burdett, Tahni Froudish

Performances
2

Type
Self-entrepreneured

Audience
425

December

Date
11 December

Created and Performed by Jake Silvestro
Director Adam Deusien
Technical Stage Manager Kofi Isaacs
Venue Manager Rebekah Gibb

Front of House
Beck Palmer, Lily Schell, Marcela Scheuner, Rhiannon Ersser, Susan Burdett, Tahni Froudish

Performances
1

Type
Box office split

Audience
63

Tale of Two Harpies

Date
19 December

Created and Performed by Emilie Bloom and Nicci Wilks
Director Susie Dee
Technical Stage Manager Kofi Isaacs
Venue Manager Rebekah Gibb

Front of House
Bron Kouw, Lara Block, Lily Schell, Marcela Scheuner, Rachael Szakal, Tahni Froudish

Performances
1

Type
Box office split

Audience
93

Extracts From The State Of Uncertainty Collection

Date
19 December

Artists Deni Davidson, Ruben Ingwersen, Zachariah Johnson, Zac Saltalamacchia, Doug Fox
Venue Manager Rebekah Gibb

Front of House
Beck Palmer, Bron Kouw, Lara Block, Tahni Froudish

Performances
1

Type
Box office split

Audience
184

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus was founded as a community project and community remains at the heart of our endeavours. We engage in a number of events and programs each year designed to make circus arts accessible to as many people as possible.

BURRANH BILA BURAA

In 2020 we commenced working with ten Burranha Bila Buraay Leaders who attend James Fallon High School in Albury.

The closure of schools and ongoing border restrictions due to COVID-19 severely disrupted this program and the majority of Terms 2 and 3 were lost. A welcome return in Term 4 ensured a continuation of the program and provided useful preparation for a hopefully more regular schedule in 2021.

Despite the fractured year, Lena Clark, a participant in the program for three years, auditioned for and was accepted into NAISDA (National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association), Australia's leading Aboriginal contemporary dance college and fellow Arts8 member.

Co-ordinator

Michelle Stevens

Trainers

Michelle Stevens, Phillip Witt,
Per Westman

Participants

10

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

In 2020 we were only able to provide workshops for two local schools and one local business.

The workshop facilitators involve our senior trainers as well as our FFFC students who learn to teach under direct supervision from our more experienced trainers.

Participants

77

FRUIT BATS

This program has been running since 2002 with participants ranging in age from 55-85. They train twice a week focusing on circus skills that help prevent falls and maintain balance and coordination. The Fruit Bats regularly present performances in our local community and generously sponsor a student scholarship each year. This is an important social and wellbeing program and, for this reason, Fruit Bats was the first community class to resume when COVID health advice allowed us to carefully reopen the building.

Participants

11

"While the physical skills they develop are impressive, accomplishing much in the few hours they spend down in the training space each week, the real growth we see each year reaches beyond that."

James Fallon High School

Burranha Bila Buraay: Leaders



PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Academic Partners

Our two partner schools are the select entry Flying Fruit Fly Circus School, annexed to the Wodonga Middle Years College Felltimber campus and Wodonga Secondary Senior School.

Both schools switched to remote learning during Victorian lockdowns and our three organisations worked closely together to support each other throughout various emergency restrictions, ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students. It was a year that truly demonstrated the strength and value of our partnership with the Victorian Education Department.

Flying Fruit Fly Circus School

Our select entry Flying Fruit Fly Circus School is a specialist school supporting educational opportunities for students at the FFFC.

The dedicated and experienced teachers work closely with students to assist them to achieve and be successful in their learning and development.

School students traditionally achieve high academic outcomes in an environment that supports the diversity of every student. The connection with Wodonga Middle Years College and Wodonga Senior Secondary College allow FFFC students to access a comprehensive educational pathway from Year 3 through to VCE or a Certificate III in Circus.

Students attend school from 8.50am, with the school day ending at 3.10pm. Primary and Secondary school classes are taught through the Victorian Department of Education & Training, AusVELS curriculum. The primary school class is made up of Year 3, 4 and 5, operating in a traditional primary school structure. The Year 6/7 group and our Year 8/9 group, operate in a traditional secondary school model, with core subjects being conducted in our purpose built and exclusive school. Elective subjects are broad and varied and are offered by Wodonga Middle Years College.

Students enrolled 48

Wodonga Secondary Senior College

Wodonga Senior Secondary College is committed to providing support and flexibility for students of the FFFC and opportunities for all students via:

- State of the art Visual Arts, Technology, Performing Arts facilities.
- High Achieving Year 12 students.
- Programs of Excellence.
- One of the broadest range of subject offerings available.
- A history of sporting excellence including many state champions.
- An extensive student support Pathways program offering guidance and careers counselling.
- Outstanding ICT and Technology programs.
- Partnerships with a wide range of community organisations.
- Hospitality Training restaurant Peppers.
- Senior Student Learning Centre and Library Complex.

FFFC Students enrolled 20

ARTS8

We maintained regular remote meetings throughout the year and shared ideas, resources and our various responses to COVID-19.

These meetings were highly valuable and provided helpful forums for each organisation to articulate their particular COVID challenges and responses. They generated a real sense of strength in unity.

We conducted a zoom meeting with the federal Arts Minister Paul Fletcher MP and our other Arts8 colleagues. This was an opportunity to inform the Minister of our COVID experiences, current situations and future challenges and opportunities. Unfortunately the annual Arts8 collaboration project was a COVID casualty and had to be cancelled.

NICA

We continued our strong relationship with the National Institute of Circus Arts. Swinburne/ NICA continue to auspice our Certificate III, delivered in partnership with Wodonga Secondary Senior College.

The Cube Wodonga

In 2020 we continued our successful circus-in-residence partnership with The Cube Wodonga and presented Little Fruit Cabaret. Little Fruit was a collaboration with our Flying Fruit Fly Circus School and Melbourne based artists Bec Matthews and Sarah Ward. 13 students in year 3/4/5, and two senior students, worked with Sarah and Bec in preparing and writing 16 songs which we were able to present at The Cube Wodonga. It was performed with a small audience of 20 and also live streamed to families.

Projection Dance

In 2020 Projection Dance continued to deliver dance curriculum to our students in their regular training hours.

FEDEC

We are a full member of FEDEC which is an international network of about 70 members representing secondary, vocational and higher education training institutions as well as information, research and circus arts advocacy, located in more than 20 countries in Europe and beyond.

FEDEC is committed to supporting the development and evolution of training, teaching and creation in the field of circus arts.

Arts on Tour

Arts on Tour continues to be an essential partner for our regional touring work. They assist us to plan tour itineraries, build relationships with our regional presenting partners and develop our funding applications. Arts on Tour provide comprehensive logistical support when we are on the road.

In 2020 we worked with them to successfully develop a national tour itinerary for our forthcoming production Girls with Altitude in 2022.



PATHWAYS AND SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

We aim to offer a range of opportunities to our senior students and graduates, designed to transition them into further training, creative developments or professional performing contracts. As a leader for the Australian youth circus sector, we also offer opportunities to companies and artists, free of charge.

Artist Accommodation

In 2018 the FFFC purchased two two-bedroom units in South Albury to use as artist accommodation. The primary purpose of these units is to provide free or discounted accommodation for visiting artists, trainers, directors and professional staff who are working for or with the FFFC on limited engagements. The secondary purpose is to generate income from commercial short-term rentals that contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the properties.

The artist accommodation has increased the organisation's capacity to offer residencies to circus and physical theatre artists. Faced with lockdowns and border closures and a decimated performing arts industry, the FFFC was able to increase the support we offered emerging and established artists through two residency programs.

In 2020 we provided 181 nights of accommodation to artists at no cost. The accommodation was also booked for 205 nights for short-term rentals, providing income of \$16,863.

Rental Income	305 Nights	\$16,863
Accommodation Savings	181 Nights	\$19,910*
Accommodation Costs		(\$31,313)**
	Total	\$ 5,460

*number of artist nights provided multiplied by \$110/night

**not including depreciation costs

Artistic Residencies

Under Construction

Under Construction was a new residency program in 2020, supporting emerging circus artists based in NSW to develop new work. Support included \$4,000 cash, rehearsal space and accommodation for 3 weeks and mentoring advice from the FFFC team.

- Dylan Singh – *Insert Name*
- Stephanie Pick – *Derelict*
- Ellen Perry Armstrong – *Crossroads*

Unfortunately due to border restrictions all three residencies have not taken place at FFFC so far, and are scheduled for 2021.

The project was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, provided through Regional Arts Australia, and in NSW through Regional Arts NSW.

Make Our Way Out

A quick response residency program for established artists to provide support to create new work while in lockdown. Each residency received \$2,000 cash, accommodation if required, rehearsal space and support from the FFFC team.

- Jon Bonaventura – *Get Well Circus*
- Jake Silvestro – *December*
- Kylie Simpson & Amber Kaldor (Duo Akita) – *Cirque Di Solation*
- Nicci Wilks & Emilie Bloom – *Tale of the Two Harpies*
- Zebastian Hunter – *The Metamorphosis*

Two residencies have been postponed to 2021.

Creative Space

In 2020 we continued our Creative Space program which provides free rehearsal space for circus and physical theatre artists.

- Small Town Syndrome Circus – Extracts from the State of Uncertainty Collection
- Sam Waite & Zac Saltamacchia

Open Training

The Open Training program provides a free, safe space for senior Fruit Fly students, alumni, staff and other circus professionals to explore and improve their practise. This often includes circus artists travelling through the area who will also engage with our students through coaching and mentoring in the full-time program.

Deckchair Cabaret

Term 3

An informal showing of acts designed and devised by students of our full-time program and our Night Flies with guidance throughout the term from Anni Davey, Per Westman, Seth Scheuner, Kate Muntz and Tracey D'Elton.

This creative stream offers students an invaluable opportunity to explore and perform their own ideas in an informal, supportive setting. Only one cabaret could be presented in 2020 and it was performed in front of a reduced audience and in line with our COVID Safe plan. It was streamed live on Facebook for families by one man on his mobile phone. Low tech but good outcome.

Our Graduates

We farewelled three graduating Fruit Flies – **Elisabeth Marks, Kayla Hulm** and **Molly James**. Kayla was supported in her act by Abbey Szakal and Will Ledingham. Our Night Flies students also performed at the Grad show providing an entertaining transition between acts. These performances were part of our Borderville Festival which we delivered as a 'fully live' festival in December to enthusiastic audiences.

Alumni

The global pandemic closed theatres and festivals around the world. Major employers, such as Cirque du Soleil, suspended or cancelled artists contracts and consequently a number of our alumni returned to Albury-Wodonga. This was a highly challenging time for these young artists but we were able to offer them coaching work with our full-time program and free training space. It was an unexpected bonus for our students to have these fruit fly graduates teaching classes and sharing their skills and touring experiences from Las Vegas, China, Europe and beyond.



PUBLIC CLASSES

We provide a range of circus classes to our local community. In 2020 all public classes were suspended from the final two weeks of Term 1.

While we were able to resume limited full-time program training in-person again during Term 3 our signature public program, Saturday Circus Arts did not return until Term 4, albeit with limited class capacities.

The Public Classes also provide an opportunity for our full-time circus students to be mentored in teaching circus skills and workshops. During 2020 four senior trainers, five graduate students and nine FFFC students taught in the public programs. Five staff and one senior student participated in a Beginner Coaching Level One course.

SATURDAY CIRCUS ARTS

4yrs – 18yrs

Participants

Term 1: 194

Term 4: 141

CIRCUS TOTS

2½yrs – 4½yrs

Participants

Term 1: 44

Term 4: 38

TOTS AND PARENTS

1½yrs – 2½yrs

Participants

Term 1: 14

CIRCUS PRE-SCHOOL

4yrs – 6yrs

Participants

Term 1: 21

NIGHT FLIES

9yrs – 18yrs

Participants

Term 1: 22

Term 3: 25

Term 4: 31

OPPORTUNITY GROUP

6yrs – 9yrs

Participants

Term 1: 20

Term 3: 22

Term 4: 25

ACRO/PARKOUR TWEEN

7yrs – 11yrs

Participants

Term 1: 20

ACRO/PARKOUR TWEEN

12+ years

Participants

Term 1: 16

EXTREME TRAMPOLINE

12yrs+

Participants

Term 1: 7

ADULT AERIAL

18+

Participants

Term 1: 7

ADULT CIRCUS CLASS

18yrs+

Participants

Term 1: 7

MARKETING AND FUNDRAISING

Total social media followers

32,478



TOTAL WEB PAGE VIEWS

59,444

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

1,695

YOUTUBE VIEWS

16,657

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus reaches its diverse audience of circus artists, adults and children locally, nationally and internationally primarily through our strong social media presence and high-profile media opportunities.

We maintain a strong relationship with our marketing partner OGA Creative Agency. OGA provide all of our graphic design and website support, as well as working with us on key strategy pieces. With less performance opportunities to promote in 2020, we took the opportunity to upgrade to a new website with easier access to information about our range of programs, and developed a strong campaign around our auditions for 2021 intake.

In 2020 our key opportunities to promote the brand nationally included our season of *Time Flies* at Sydney Festival in January, and *Borderville Circus Festival* in December. Locally we also performed in the inaugural *Upstream Festival* which allowed us to connect with our regional community.

As the world began to shut down in March we released archival footage of some of the earlier works of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, and with Arts Centre Melbourne through their Together With You digital platform, reshared our full-length recording of *JUNK*, filmed by the ABC.

Borderville Circus Festival was reimaged in 2020 to provide a covid-safe celebration for our local community. *Borderville* continues to position Albury-Wodonga as Australia's regional capital of circus, with a diverse program of works featuring the FFFC and some of Australia's finest emerging and established independent artists. 1,383 tickets were sold to events at Wonga Wetlands and the Flying Fruit Fly Circus.

We continue our relationship with Nomad Films and Ian Sutherland who provide film and photographic documentation of our activities. Our main communication channels are Facebook (28,043 followers) and our monthly newsletter (1,695 subscribers) with a strong and growing following on Instagram and Youtube.

FLYING FRUIT FLY FOUNDATION

The Foundation is a charitable fund that supports the activities of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, including helping us attract world-class instructors and international master trainers; provide health, injury prevention and physiotherapy programs; providing outstanding performance opportunities locally, nationally and internationally; and attracting the very best creative leaders and arts practitioners.

The Foundation runs three annual campaigns to underpin our activities, an annual appeal for the core program, the Noel Tovey Scholarship Fund (including the Hovell Tree Inn Scholarship), and The Ringmasters.

The Noel Tovey Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to the families of young artists who, without this support, could not participate. In 2020, one full and three partial scholarships were awarded.

Hovell Tree Inn Scholarship pays one year's full fees to a student who might otherwise not be able to attend the circus. It is presented by The Hovell Tree Inn, Albury.

The Ringmasters are a collective like-minded small businesses across the local region who support our artistic program through annual donations. Together, their support enables us to complete a creative development for a new work each year.

The Ringmasters are:

Harris Lieberman Solicitors

Active Print and Design

Cuss Bus Lines

Jones Winery and Vineyard

Mynyx – First Aid Training

Regent Cinemas

Kim Thompson

THESE DONATIONS HELP US TO

1

Keep our fees pegged at a reasonable level (equivalent to about 25% of the total program cost for each student)

2

Continue to improve student services

3

Expand performance and other creative opportunities

4

Attract the best national and international arts educators

5

Plan more community activities and have more fun!

GOVERNANCE

The Flying Fruit Fly Foundation is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee governed by a Board of Directors who meet between six and eight times a year.

Board members are elected to hold office for three-year terms from the point of endorsement at an Annual General Meeting. There is no limit to the number of terms that a director may serve.

In 2020 nine directors met remotely, due to COVID-19, seven times.

The Board of Directors

CHAIR

LARA
BLOCK

TREASURER

DIANNE
MCGRATH

DIRECTORS

GLENN MANCER
JAMES JENKINS
JONATHAN BIELSKI
MARGARET MURRAY
MARGUERITE
PEPPER
NICHOLAS MARKS
VERN HILDITCH

FINANCE COMMITTEE

DIANNE MCGRATH
LARA BLOCK
RICHARD HULL
SAMUEL MOREY
(FINDEX)
OLIVIA GILES
(FINDEX)

COMPANY SECRETARY

DONNA
BALDWIN

Directors' attendance

	A	B
Dianne McGrath	7	7
Glenn Mancer	7	6
James Jenkins	7	6
Jonathan Bielski	7	4
Lara Block	7	7
Margaret Murray	7	7
Marguerite Pepper	7	7
Nicholas Marks	7	6
Vern Hilditch	7	6

A - Number of meetings attended
B - Number of meetings held during the time the director held office during the year

Circus Personnel

- Anni Davey Artistic Director
- Bec Neill Resident Trainer
- Ben Lewis Resident Trainer
- Bron Kouw Public Programs Administrator
- Cathy Williams Finance Office (Index)
- Don Gargan School Liaison Officer
- Donna Baldwin Executive Officer
- Genaveive Neal Casual Trainer
- Julie Wilson Property Coordinator/Resident Trainer
- Lauren Shepherd Resident Trainer
- Lily Schell Administration Assistant
- Loic Marques Training Director
- Lyn Shields Wardrobe Supervisor
- Madge Fletcher Tour Manager
- Michelle Stevens Circus Program Coordinator
- Misha Reale Resident Trainer
- Natalie Dyball Casual Trainer
- Nicholas Hutchinson Casual Trainer
- Per Westman Resident Trainer
- Phillip Witt Resident Trainer
- Rhiannon Ersser Administration Assistant/Casual Trainer
- Richard Hull Chief Executive Officer
- Sam Waite Casual Trainer
- Scott Neill Resident Trainer
- Scott Stoddart Technical Director
- Seth Scheuner Resident Trainer
- Simon Yates Resident Rigger

- Tahni Froudish Executive Producer
- Tanya Lester Public Programs Coordinator
- Tracey D'Elton Resident Trainer
- Tully Fedorowjtsch Casual Trainer

Our School Staff

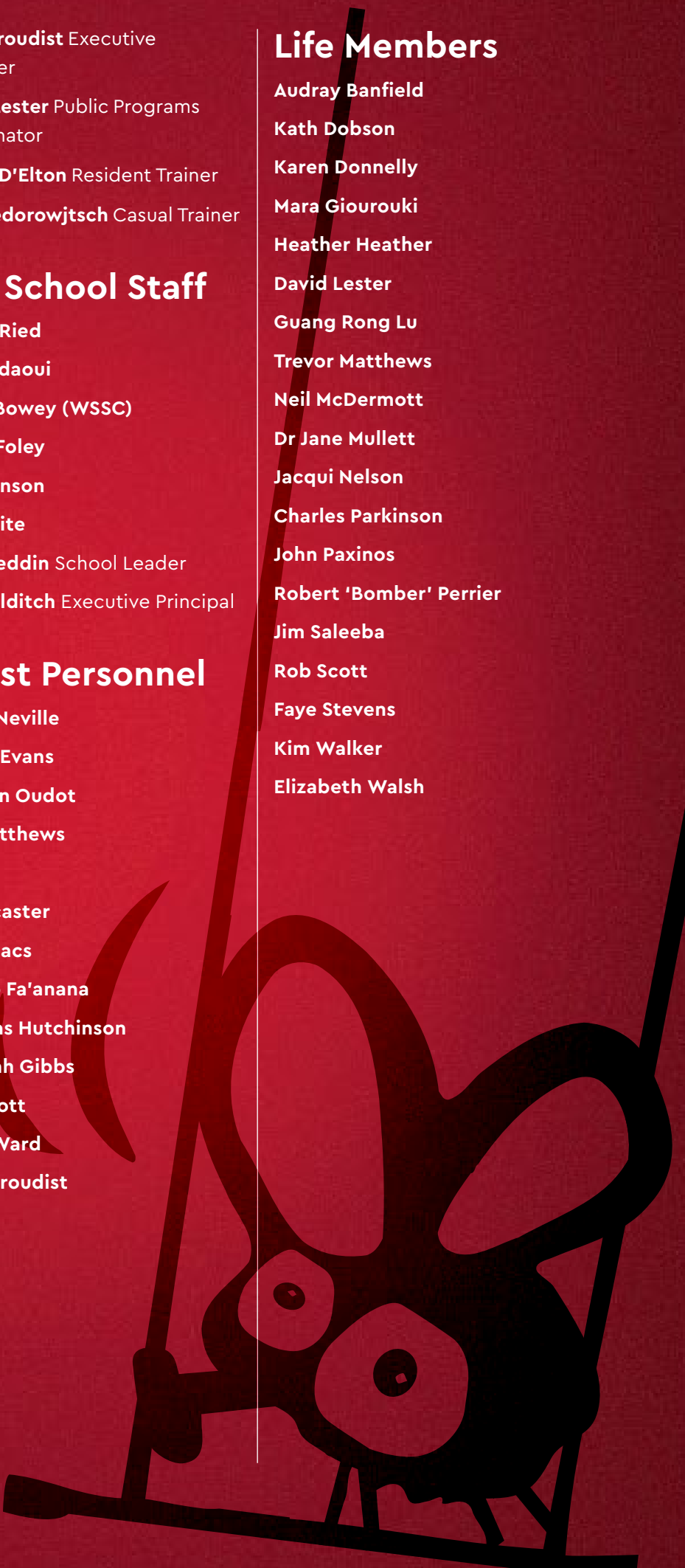
- Adrian Ried
- Dan Kadaoui
- Derek Bowey (WSSC)
- James Foley
- Jan Johnson
- Jan White
- Marg Leddin School Leader
- Vern Hilditch Executive Principal

Guest Personnel

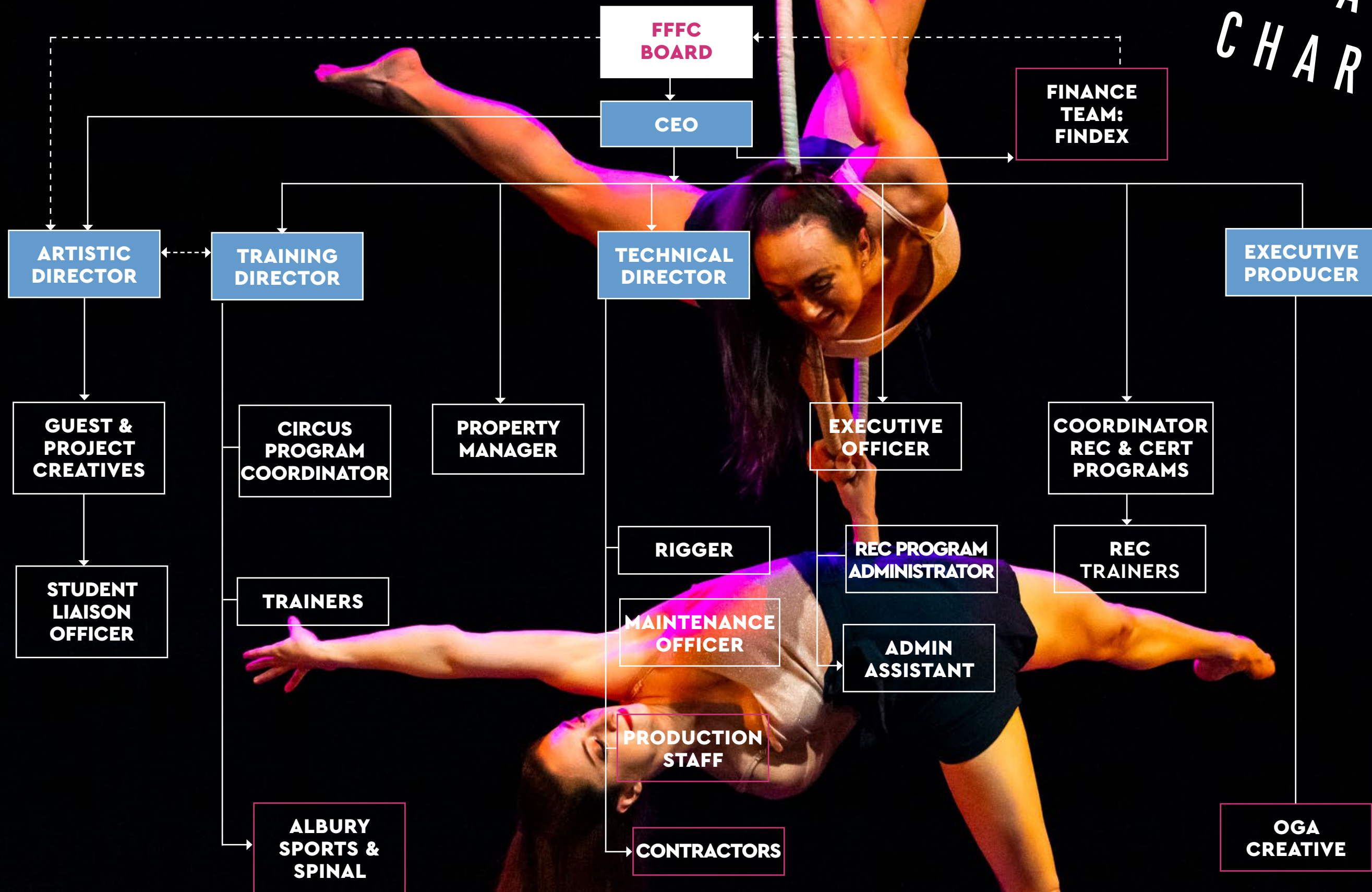
- Alison Neville
- Alyson Evans
- Aurelian Oudot
- Bec Matthews
- Casus
- Jo Lancaster
- Kofi Isaacs
- Natano Fa'anana
- Nicholas Hutchinson
- Rebekah Gibbs
- Rob Scott
- Sarah Ward
- Steve Froudish

Life Members

- Audray Banfield
- Kath Dobson
- Karen Donnelly
- Mara Giourouki
- Heather Heather
- David Lester
- Guang Rong Lu
- Trevor Matthews
- Neil McDermott
- Dr Jane Mullett
- Jacqui Nelson
- Charles Parkinson
- John Paxinos
- Robert 'Bomber' Perrier
- Jim Saleeba
- Rob Scott
- Faye Stevens
- Kim Walker
- Elizabeth Walsh



ORGANISATIONAL CHART



FINANCIALS

Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited
and Controlled Entities**

ABN 52 057 916 257

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

		Consolidated	
	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
Revenue	4	3,020,135	2,848,165
Employee related expenses		1,835,929	1,753,915
Depreciation and amortisation	5	68,598	58,972
Production expenses		185,569	535,133
Administration expenses		113,528	164,902
Lease expense		250,000	250,000
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	5	3,578	(623)
Other expenses		164,023	81,174
Surplus before income tax		398,910	3,446
Income tax expense	1(b)	-	-
Net Surplus for the year		398,910	3,446
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Result for the year		398,910	3,446

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

		Consolidated	
	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	1,399,149	455,720
Trade and other receivables	7	193,410	249,329
Inventories	8	832	890
Other	9	21,343	42,120
Total Current Assets		1,614,734	748,059
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10	781,772	827,884
Total Non-Current Assets		781,772	827,884
Total Assets		2,396,506	1,575,943
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	161,819	168,395
Provisions	12	114,099	69,570
Contract liabilities	13	887,288	516,187
Total Current Liabilities		1,163,206	754,152
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	14	65,646	53,047
Total Non-current Liabilities		65,646	53,047
Total Liabilities		1,228,852	807,199
Net Assets		1,167,654	768,744w
EQUITY			
Retained profits		1,167,454	768,544
Settlement funds		200	200
Total Equity		1,167,654	768,744



Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Consolidated		
	RETAINED PROFITS	SETTLEMENT FUNDS	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1 January 2019	765,098	200	765,298
Surplus for the year	3,446	-	3,446
Balance as at 31 December 2019	768,544	200	768,744
Surplus for the year	398,910	-	398,910
Balance as at 31 December 2020	1,167,454	200	1,167,654



Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Consolidated		
	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from grants and patrons		3,197,057	2,433,076
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,227,662)	(2,514,085)
		969,395	(81,009)
Interest received		98	1,045
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		969,493	(79,964)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment	10	(26,064)	(22,608)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities		(26,064)	(22,608)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		943,429	(102,572)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		455,720	558,292
Cash at the End of the Financial Year	6	1,399,149	455,720

Auditors: Johnsons MME Chartered Accountants

The FFFC gratefully acknowledges financial support from local, state and federal government organisations. We pay tribute to our sponsors and individual supporters. Their continued support ensures our long-term sustainability as Australia's National Youth Circus.

Government

Australian Government
Creative Victoria
Create NSW
Albury City

Academic

Flying Fruit Fly Circus School
Wodonga Middle Years College
Wodonga Senior Secondary College
NICA (Swinburne University)

Marketing

Ian Sutherland Photography
OGA Creative Agency
Nomad Films
Regent Cinemas

Presenting

Albury City
The Cube Wodonga
Murray Arts
Sydney Festival

Business

Best Western Plus Hovell Tree Inn
Findex
Sports & Spinal Albury

Affiliations

Albury Northside Chamber
Arts8
FEDEC
International Performing Arts for Youth
Live Performance Australia

Projects

Time Flies

Cuss Bus Lines
Sydney Festival
St Andrews College

Under Construction

Regional Arts Fund, provided through
Regional Arts Australia and
NSW through Regional Arts NSW

Little Fruit

Flying Fruit Fly Circus School
The Cube Wodonga

Borderville

AlburyCity
Create NSW
Murray Arts
Professional Audio Services





Postponed Or Cancelled Projects

Due to the national and state lockdowns, cancellation of overseas flights and border closures (we had two – NSW closed the border to Victoria, then Victoria closed the border to NSW), a number of our planned projects for 2020 were impacted. Some projects were postponed, cancelled or had to be modified to comply with the new COVID regulations.

Postponed Projects

TEMPO in Vietnam - performances and workshops at the Hue Festival and in Hanoi

Girls With Altitude – creative development, rehearsals and performance rescheduled to 2021

Cancelled Projects

School Holiday Workshop

ARTS8 Collaboration, Sydney

National Training Project

The Weirdest Kid in the World - schools tour

Circus Arts - end of year performance



FRUITFLYCIRCUS.COM.AU