



**FLYING FRUIT
FLY CIRCUS**


ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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

- Arts Hub



A photograph of a circus performance. In the foreground, a female acrobat in a red leotard is performing a handstand on a small wooden block supported by a metal pole. She is looking down with concentration. In the background, another acrobat in a light blue leotard is also performing a handstand on a similar block. The stage is lit with vibrant blue and red lights, creating a dramatic atmosphere. The background shows a blurred audience and stage equipment.

"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 inspiration for a unique creative journey where students can 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:

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 12 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, replacing training floor lighting with LEDs and a new water tank. We continue to be committed to greening our space and reducing our environmental impact across all of our activities.

• 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 traveling 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.





"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

2021 was billed as the year life would return to normal, but it was at least as challenging as its predecessor. The Delta and Omicron variants arrived and COVID-19 cloaked our year once again. However, our incredible young artists, staff and community rose to the occasion and together we delivered another impressive year despite the odds being stacked against us.

The year began with a new organisational structure, fully merging our full-time training program, with a new two-person leadership team, into the Artistic development wing of the company's operations. This positioned the art of circus (performance and creation) as an intrinsic part of the training program that complements and enhances the physical preparation of students. The review at six months soundly endorsed the new structure which has seen the focus shift away from a purely physical skills program to developing students understanding of the history and art of circus. While the younger cohort learnt and performed traditional circus group acts like table sliding, knockabout chase, comedy chairs, the senior students were given more agency and variety in their choice of skills.

In 2021 we offered all our key casual staff permanent part-time contracts, a reflection of their commitment to the company and our determination to provide the most secure and best possible employment conditions to our valued staff.

Because of the enforced lack of performance opportunities in 2020, we were even more resolved to seize and amplify any chance to get students in front of audiences.

Early in the year, term one Artistic Associate Jake Silvestro developed two separate outings. Two aerial acts and entertaining roving for the Arbour Festival at Pilot Hill Arboretum near Tumbarumba, an outdoor country

music event and a 20-minute pilot version of a work titled TEMPO for Upstream Festival. This work was further developed for schools touring in Terms 2 and 3. Our amazing team successfully navigated the changing landscape of Covid border closures and school incursion prohibitions to deliver a great little show for schools and a wonderful experience for the performers.

We also squeezed in a Term 1 Deckchair Cabaret, and in Term 2, Sideshow Alley, a performance of sideshow acts developed by our senior students under the tutelage of Master Showman Shep Huntly before more lockdowns.

Our major work in development, Girls With Altitude, managed two successful creative development periods before the Delta outbreak forced its second postponement just before moving into final rehearsals.

Despite border closures around the country and COVID-19 restrictions, we delivered our annual National Training Project in July. Numbers took a hit and so did the financials, but it was successful and a rewarding experience for those who could make it.

We continued to sharpen our focus on supporting the development of new work and the broader circus industry through our Under Construction residency program and the commissioning or co-commissioning new works including Fart Fabulous (Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews), World Repair Technicians (Acrobat) and Tale of Two Harpies (Nicci Wilks and Emilie Bloom).

Two students in their graduating year left us early for employment contracts with Circa and Gravity and Other Myths respectively, while three performed in the end of year Grad Show.

For the first half of the year the training program continued to benefit from circus performers being forced home from overseas contracts and working with us as trainers. As major international companies began to re-employ artists, we sadly waved farewell to a few while rejoicing in their good fortune and the return of international live performance.

We also farewelled Michelle Stevens after many years with us in varied roles. A former Fruit Fly student, Michelle was always passionate about our circus and made a significant contribution to the training program.

The year finished on a high with an ambitious Borderville festival centred around a spectacular Big Top in Noreuil Park, which for two weeks became a hub of performances and community celebrations. Over 8,000 people visited the site and we delivered the full festival program without interruption, including Back in the Big Top Again! featuring our entire student ensemble and new commissioned works. The tent brings our community together in a truly circus context, reminding us that our art form is accessible, inclusive, diverse, spectacular, popular, and important as the cultural glue that connects our community.

Despite the various challenges of 2021, we continued to carefully manage our finances and build our future capacity and sustainability.

We would like to thank our students, staff, community and board for seeing us through another roller-coaster twelve months.



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.

As in 2020, COVID-19 presented a number of challenges during the year as both state governments applied their own rules and restrictions, often responding differently. We did our best to navigate through all of this and achieve the best outcomes for our students.

At the start of 2021, 84 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.

Enrollments

84

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 in Circus Arts is delivered over two years and in 2021 there were 17 students enrolled in the course. The five units studied were:

- NAT10823004 Develop elementary performance skills for circus and physical theatre
- NAT10823005 Develop elementary movement skills for circus and physical theatre
- NAT10823006 Develop elementary applied practices for circus performers
- NAT10823007 Participate in elementary small group circus or physical theatre performance
- NAT10823001 Undertake elementary fitness preparation for circus performers. Delivered at WSSC over 18 months

Participants: 17 students participated in Cert III in Circus Arts 13 students successfully passed the two-year course.

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.

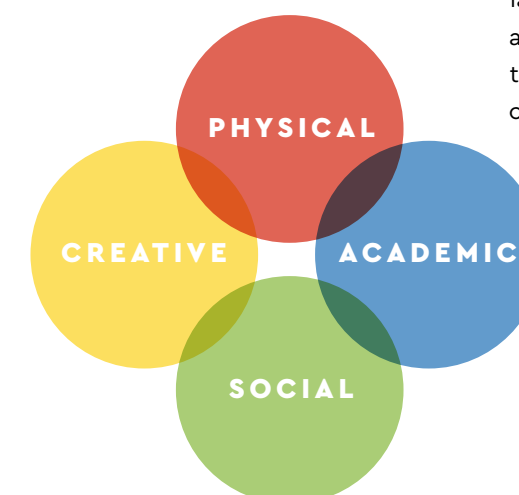
The following elements form an important part of our training program, each aiming to increase the young artists' awareness and knowledge of circus as an artform and a creative industry, these include:

- (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.

Despite continuing restrictions caused by COVID-19 in 2021, we presented most of our planned projects and performances.

**TOTAL
AUDIENCE
2021:
14,682**



Arbour Festivale
Finale Concert

Date
13 February

Location
Arbour Festival, Pilot Hill Arboretum

Director Jake Silvestro
Trainer & Counterweight Ben Lewis
Rigger Simon Yates
Wardrobe Supervisor Lyn Shields
Technical Director Scott Stoddart
Executive Producer Tahni Froudist

Cast
Abigail Sandral, Amelia Cole, Angus Foley, Ella Saabel, Harry McEachern, Holly-Rose Boyer, Jay Rensen, Jessica Hupfield, Nate Klippel, Nick Marsack, Savanna Barker, Tal Shemesh, Tess Spry, Tilly Jenkins, Yoav Shemesh

Chaperone
Beck Palmer

Performances
1

Type
Contract Fee

Audience
500

Upstream Festival: Cube
Collective Cabaret

We performed a 20-minute excerpt of our new work TEMPO for the Cube Collective Cabaret, as part of the second Upstream Festival of Art and Culture.

Date
6 March

Director Jake Silvestro
Musical Director Ania Reynolds
Trainer Lauren Shepherd
Technical Director Scott Stoddart
Executive Producer Tahni Froudist
Show Rigger Simon Yates
Wardrobe Supervisor Lyn Shields

Cast
Arthur Hull, AJ Johnson, Ava Paydon, Barney Herrmann, Campbell Clarke, Chelsea Quaill, Edwina Harrington, Jacob Kavanagh, Peter Giasoumi, Rachael Carey

Performances
1

Type
Contract Fee

Audience (In Person)
240

Audience (Livestream)
1,814

Deckchair Cabaret

Date
29 March

Trainers
Anni Davey, Jake Silvestro, Per Westman

Cast
Alicia Sketcher, Amelia Cole, Bianca Hall, Ella Saabel, Eryn Beattie, Ewan Schell, Kelsey Eckhardt, Kezia Sutton, Meg Edinborough, Natasha Hall, Nico Pope, Tal Shemesh, Taria O'Connor, Tess Spry, Tilly Jenkins, Yoav Shemesh

With special guests Andrew Sumner, Jake Silvestro, Nick Hutchinson and Shep Huntly

Performances
1

Type
Free

Audience (In Person)
60

Audience (Livestream)
2,000

Big

Date
4 June

Location
Flying Fruit Fly Circus

Director Alyson Evans

Cast
Meg Edinborough, Clancy Rosewarne, Astaria Benne-Keeble, Heidi Sigmund, Rylan McDonald

Performances
1

Type
Showing

Audience
60

Sideshow Alley

Date
17 June

Location
Flying Fruit Fly Circus

Director Shep Huntly
Trainers Tanya Lester, Jake Silvestro

Cast
AJ Johnson, Amelia Cole, Ava Paydon, Ella Saabel, Eryn Beattie, Ewan Schell, Fidel Lancaster-Cole, Holly-Rose Boyer, Jay Rensen, Kezia Sutton, Nick Marsack, Rachael Carey, Taliyah Walsh-Young, Tess Spry, Tom Leask, Will Ledingham, Yoav Shemesh

Performances
1

Type
Free

Audience
82



TEMPO -
Schools Tour

Dates
Term 2 & Term 3

Schools
Trinity Anglican College, Glenroy Public, Springdale Heights Public, Tumbarumba Public, St Patricks School Albury, Holbrook Public, Rutherglen Primary, Osborne's Flat Primary, Wooragee Primary, Bethanga Primary, Talgarno Primary, Eskdale Primary, Mitta Primary

Director Jake Silvestro
Sound Designer Ania Reynolds
Executive Producer Tahni Froudish
Trainers Lauren Shepherd, Nathan Jones
Technical Director Scott Stoddart
Production Assistant Kofi Isaacs
Costume Design Lyn Shields

Cast
Arthur Hull, Ava Paydon, Barney Herrmann, Edwina Harrington, Eryn Beattie, Jacob Kavanagh, Kezia Sutton, Lucie Mariethoz, Nico Pope, Peter Giasoumi, Tal Shemesh, Yoav Shemesh

Performances
17

Type
Contract Fee

Audience
1,926



Borderville

Borderville threw open its doors with a stunning season of circus focused around a Big Top Tent in Noreuil Park. The program featured performances by the entire FFFC ensemble as well as professional circus artists from around the country, all with strong ties to the Fruities.

Dates
4 - 18 December

Locations
Big Top Precinct, Noreuil Park Albury
HotHouse Theatre, Wodonga

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

Total Festival
Attendance
8,000

First Night Fling

Dates
4 December

Locations
Borderville Big Top

Programmed by Tahni Froudish
Hosted by Anni Davey
Technical Director Scott Stoddart

Welcome to Country
Uncle Yalmambirra Clegg
Performances by
The Muirs, Showtime Brothers, Fruit Bats, Haus of Fork, Campbell Clarke & Tom Leask, This Way North

Performances
1

Type
Free ticketed public event

Audience
552





Circus Arts Community Extravaganza

Date
5 December

Location
Borderville Big Top

Director Tanya Lester
Coordinator Bron Kouw
Sound & Lighting Brent Scott, Kofi Isaacs, Marcela Scheuner, Meg Shiels
Trainers Alicia Sketcher, AJ Johnson, Arthur Hull, Ewan Schell, Genaveive Neal, James Wilson, Kayla Hulm, Kate Muntz, Kezia Sutton, Misha Reale, Per Westman, Rhiannon Ersser, Seth Scheuner, Tess Spry, Tracey D'Elton
Show Rigger Mozes, Misha Reale, Ryan Taplin
Costume Bron Kouw, Janelle Scheuner

Cast
Saturday Circus Arts students & Night Flies ensemble

Performances
5

Type
Self-entreprenerd

Audience
1,104

Kaput

Date
6 December

Location
Borderville Big Top

Created and Performed by Tom Flanagan
Cast Arthur Hull
Technical Stage Manager Kofi Isaacs
Production Assistant Kate Muntz
Lighting Operator Rob Scott
Follow Spot Operator Koral Chandler
Front of House Manager Janine Peacock

Performances
1

Type
Buy-In

Audience
211

Back in the Big Top Again! - Walk Run Flip

Date
9 December – 18 December

Location
Borderville Big Top

Director Ben Lewis
Sound Design Kim 'Busty Beatz' Bowers
Associate Director Phil Witt
Trainers Bec Neill, Nick Hutchinson, Nathan Jones, Scott Neill
Lighting Design Rob Scott
Follow Spot Per Westman
Stage Manager Bek Gibbs
Production Assistants Tanya Lester, Tracey D'Elton
Technical Director Scott Stoddart
Show Rigger Ryan Taplin
Costume Design Lyn Shields, Laurel Frank with Alex Heien, Marcela Scheuner, Meg Angelini, Mozes
Front of House Manager Janine Peacock

Cast
Abbey Szakal, Abigail Sandral, Alicia Sketcher, Allera Wight, Amelia Cole, Angus Foley, Araluen Vonthien, Astaria Benne-Keeble, Ava Paydon, Aysha Guilliamse-Witt, Barney Herrmann, Bianca Hall, Blake Durnan, Caitlin-Ann Kellett-Surridge, Chelsea Quail, Chloe Pirie, Chot Walford, Claire Braunack, Clancy Rosewarne, Dakota Denyer, Dakota Skrypczak, Edwina Harrington, Ella Saabel, Emma Giasoumi, Eryn Beattie, Etta Gramlick, Ewan Schell, Felicity Lyell, Fidel Lancaster-Cole, Finn Neill, Harry McEarchen, Heidi Sigmund, Hudson White, Imogen McDonald, Isabella Yaxley, Jay Rensen, Jacob Kavanagh, James Wilson, Jeremy Taylor-Daines, Khalan Walsh-Young, Lashae Thompson, Liam Mooring, Lucie Mariethoz, Meghan Edinborough, Monique Blackie, Natasha Hall, Natasha Meani, Nate Klippel, Nico Pope, Paige-Taylor Stiffe, Peter Giasoumi, Peyton Rose Canning, Roscoe Harris-Westman, Ruby Muth, Ruby Myers, Rylan McDonald, Savanna Barker, Sophie Norris, Spencer Haberecht, Tal Shemesh, Taliyah Walsh-Young, Tameka Rees, Taria O'Connor, Tess Spry, Tom Leask, Tom Paydon, Tilly Jenkins, Tyce Binding, Will Ledingham, Yoav Shemesh

Performances
9

Type
Self-entreprenerd

Audience
3,964

Livestream
45

Tale of Two Harpies

Date
10 - 11 December

Location
HotHouse Theatre

Created and Performed by Emilie Bloom and Nicci Wilks
Director & Co-Creator Susie Dee
Assistant to the Director Meg Shiels
Slapstick Consultants Phil Witt & Per Westman
Original Music Jethro Woodward
Lighting Designer Kofi Isaacs

Performances
3

Type
Buy-In

A CELSIUS co-production for HotHouse Theatre, in association with Borderville

Audience
205

The Grad Show

Date
15 December

Location
Borderville Big Top

Created and Performed by Campbell Clarke, Kezia Sutton, Rachael Carey with Tom Leask
Host Ben Lewis
Outside Eyes Anni Davey, Lauren Shepherd
Trainers Bec Neill
Lighting Design Rob Scott
Technical Director Scott Stoddart
Show Rigger Ryan Taplin

Type
Showcase

Audience
316

Fart Fabulous

Date
18 December

Location
Borderville Big Top

Creative Director Sarah Ward
Directorial Eye Susie Dee
Musical Director Bec Matthews
Designer Joe Noonan
Choreographer Gabi Barton
Videographer Chris Bennet

Cast
Bec Matthews, Dale Woodbridge-Brown, Gabi Barton, Glitter and Snatch, Jess Love, Koko MA\$\$, Nicci Wilks, Sarah Ward and Seth Sladen

Technical Stage Manager Kofi Isaacs
Production Assistant Kate Muntz
Front of House Manager Janine Peacock

Performances
1

Type
Commission

Audience
295

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 BURAAY

In 2021 the Burranha Bila Buraay continued in partnership with Albury City, Glenroy Public School and James Fallon High. The program works with local First Nations young people to develop interest and skills in circus, physical activity and leadership.

10 primary school participants from Glenroy Public School engaged with us weekly in circus skills training, with five secondary students from James Fallon joining fortnightly with a focus on creativity, performance and leadership skills.

The ongoing restrictions due to COVID-19 severely disrupted the program in 2021 with the majority of Terms 3 and 4 being impacted.

Trainers

Michelle Stevens, Phil Witt, Per Westman, Tracey D'Elton

Participants
15

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

In 2021 despite ongoing restrictions and lockdowns due to COVID-19 our training team was still able to safely deliver 21 community workshops.

Throughout the year trainers were able to provide experiences within schools, onsite at the FFFC training facility, as well as travel to surrounding communities such as Tumbarumba, Cootamundra, Cobram, Shepparton and Wangaratta.

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
493

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. In May the Fruit Bats welcomed four members of Melbourne's POW (Performing Older Women) for two days of collaborative workshops sharing training techniques and tips and facilitated by Ruby Rowat.

The Fruit Bats regularly and generously sponsor an annual student scholarship.

Participants
9



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 Senior Secondary College.

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 and Wodonga Senior Secondary College.

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 54

Wodonga Senior Secondary 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.

Students enrolled 28

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.

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 Senior Secondary College.

The Cube Wodonga

The Cube continues to be an important partner for us and is the venue where we premiere seasons of our new works, before we embark on tours or other city presentations. It ensures we can play to local audiences first. In 2021 we were forced to postpone performances due to COVID-19, but we scheduled the premiere of our show Girls With Altitude for February 2022.

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 2021 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. In 2021 the FFFC continued to offer extended residencies for artists.

In 2021 we provided 534 nights of accommodation to artists at no cost. The accommodation was booked for 94 nights for short-term rentals.

Rental Income	94 Nights	\$4,960
Accommodation Savings	534 Nights	\$58,740*
Accommodation Costs		(\$35,462)**
	Total	\$ 28,238

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

**not including depreciation costs

Artistic Residencies

Under Construction

Under Construction is a residency program supporting circus artists to develop new work. Support includes cash funding, rehearsal space, accommodation and staff time as required.

- Acrobat – *World Repair Technicians*
- Stephanie Pick - *Derelict (cancelled due to WA border closure)*
- Unvarnished Circus – *Wattle St*

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. Visiting artists in 2021 included

- Will Meagher & Latonya Wigginton
- Axl Osbourne & Megan Vaughan Giesbrecht
- Kylie Simpson
- Mathew Brown

Deckchair Cabaret

Term 1

An informal showing of acts designed and devised by students of our full-time program with guidance throughout the term from Anni Davey, Per Westman and Jake Silvestro (who also made a guest appearance in the juggling act!).

This creative stream offers students an invaluable opportunity to explore and perform their own ideas in an informal, supportive setting. As a way of introducing Term 2 Guest Artist, the master showman Shep Huntly MC'd the Term 1 cabaret demonstrating his inimitable and generous style. Shep spent Term 2 introducing Foundation and Certificate 3 students to the fine arts of sideshow, spruiking and carnival barking.

Our Graduates

We farewelled five graduating Fruit Flies – Campbell Clarke, Holly-Rose Boyer, Kezia Sutton, Nick Marsack and Rachael Carey. Holly-Rose and Nick departed early to start training with Circa and Gravity and Other Myths in December. Campbell, Kezia and Rachael performed their Grad show in the Borderville Big Top, with support from student Tom Leask and MC'd by Lead Trainer Ben Lewis.



PUBLIC CLASSES

We provide a range of popular circus classes to our local community. In 2021 Circus Arts, Tots, Opportunity Group and Night Flies were able to proceed as normal throughout most of the year, although we have still not restored all the classes from pre-pandemic times. We had one week of lock down at the end of May and cancelled Tots for the last 4 weeks of Term 4.

Night Flies and all four classes of Circus Arts performed in the big top Borderville season, to big and enthusiastic crowds.

The Public Classes also provide an opportunity for our full-time circus students to be mentored in teaching circus skills and workshops. During 2021 five senior trainers, eight Graduate students and nine FFFC current students taught in the public programs.

SATURDAY CIRCUS ARTS

4yrs – 18yrs

Participants

Term 1: 212

Term 2: 207

Term 3: 210

Term 4: 181

NIGHT FLIES

9yrs – 18yrs

Participants

Term 1: 27

Term 2: 27

Term 3: 23

Term 4: 26

CIRCUS TOTS

2½yrs – 4½yrs

Participants

Term 1: 43

Term 2: 60

Term 3: 57

Term 4: 47

OPPORTUNITY GROUP

6yrs – 9yrs

Participants

Term 1: 17

Term 2: 19

Term 3: 15

Term 4: 15

TOTS AND PARENTS

1½yrs – 2½yrs

Participants

Term 1: 7

Term 2: 9

Term 3: 9

Term 4: 10

FRUIT BATS

OVER 50'S

Participants

Term 1: 8

Term 2: 9

Term 3: 6

Term 4: 7

CIRCUS PRE-SCHOOL

4yrs – 6yrs

Participants

Term 1: 7

Term 2: 9

Term 3: 10

Term 4: 10

MARKETING AND FUNDRAISING

Total social media followers

33,352



TOTAL WEB PAGE VIEWS

77,827

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

1,853

YOUTUBE VIEWS

15,665

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 our 2021 schedule still affected by Covid-19, our opportunities to promote the brand were restricted compared to previous years.

Early in the year we worked with OGA and Associate Artist Jake Silvestro to film a high-octane advertisement for the circus that showcased our fabulous students as well as the training facility. This has been produced as a 90 second video as well as edited to a shorter 30 second cinema advertisement.

In 2021 our key opportunity to promote the brand was Borderville in December, where our visible street presence for the Big Top Tent at Noreuil Park aided in high local awareness. We worked closely with OGA to rebrand the festival and create a high impact unique festival style that was rolled out over all collateral including website, socials, festival brochure, posters, flyers and 200m of reusable fencing signage. Over 8,000 people attended a show or the festival hub over the course of the festival.

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 (28,572 followers) and our monthly newsletter (1,853 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 master trainers; provide health, injury prevention and physiotherapy programs; develop outstanding performance opportunities locally, nationally and internationally; and work with the very best creative leaders and arts practitioners.

The Foundation's annual fundraising also supports a number of scholarship funds:

The **Noel Tovey Scholarship** Fund provides financial assistance to the families of young artists who, without this support, could not participate. In 2021, two partial scholarships were awarded.

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

The **Borderville Scholarship** was established at the end of 2021 and will support up to two senior students a year based on their dedication and interest in entering the circus industry, with partial scholarships.

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 2021 one director resigned, and eight directors met remotely, due to COVID-19, six times.

The Board of Directors

CHAIR

LARA
BLOCK

TREASURER

DIANNE
MCGRATH

DIRECTORS

GLENN MANCER
JAMES JENKINS
JONATHAN BIELSKI
(RESIGNED MAY
2021)
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	6	6
Glenn Mancer	4	6
James Jenkins	6	6
Jonathan Bielski	1	2
Lara Block	6	6
Margaret Murray	5	6
Marguerite Pepper	5	6
Nicholas Marks	6	6
Vern Hilditch	5	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 Leading Trainer
- Bek Gibbs Associate Producer
- Ben Lewis Leading Trainer
- Bron Kouw Public Programs Administrator
- Cathy Williams Finance Officer (Findex)
- Don Gargan School Liaison Officer
- Donna Baldwin Executive Officer
- Genaveive Neal Casual Trainer
- Jo Lancaster Resident Soft Construction
- Julie Wilson Property coordinator/Resident Trainer
- Kate Muntz Casual Trainer
- Kayla Hulm Casual Trainer
- Kelsey Shepherd Casual Trainer
- Lyn Shields Wardrobe Supervisor
- Michelle Stevens (resigned July 2021) Circus Program Coordinator
- Misha Reale Resident Trainer
- Mitch Kilsby Casual Trainer
- Natalie Dyball Casual Trainer
- Nathan Jones Casual Trainer
- Nicholas Hutchinson Resident Trainer
- Per Westman Resident Trainer
- Phillip Witt Resident Trainer
- Rhiannon Ersser Administration Assistant/Casual Trainer
- Richard Hull Chief Executive Officer
- Ruby Rowat Casual Trainer
- Scott Neill Resident Trainer

- Scott Stoddart Technical Director
- Seth Scheuner Resident Trainer
- Simon Yates Resident Rigger
- Tahni Froudlist Executive Producer
- Tanya Lester Public Programs Coordinator
- Tracey D'Elton Resident Trainer

Our School Staff

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

Guest Personnel 2021

- Alex Heien
- Alex Mizzen
- Alex Pirie
- Alyce Fisher
- Alyson Evans
- Andrew Sumner
- Ania Reynolds
- April Dawson
- Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman
- Bev Parker
- Bosco Shaw
- Bridie Hooper
- Busty Beatz

- Byron Hutton
- Conor Wild
- Daniel Power
- Freyja Wild
- Jake Silvestro
- James Blaxall
- Janine Peacock
- Jo Lancaster
- Judy Horacek
- Kofi Isaacs
- Laurel Frank
- Marcela Scheuner
- Martin Hansford
- Mathew Brown
- Meg Angelini
- Meg Shiels
- Mozes
- Narelle Vogel
- Paul Lim
- Rob Scott
- Ryan Taplin
- Shep Huntly
- Will Meagher

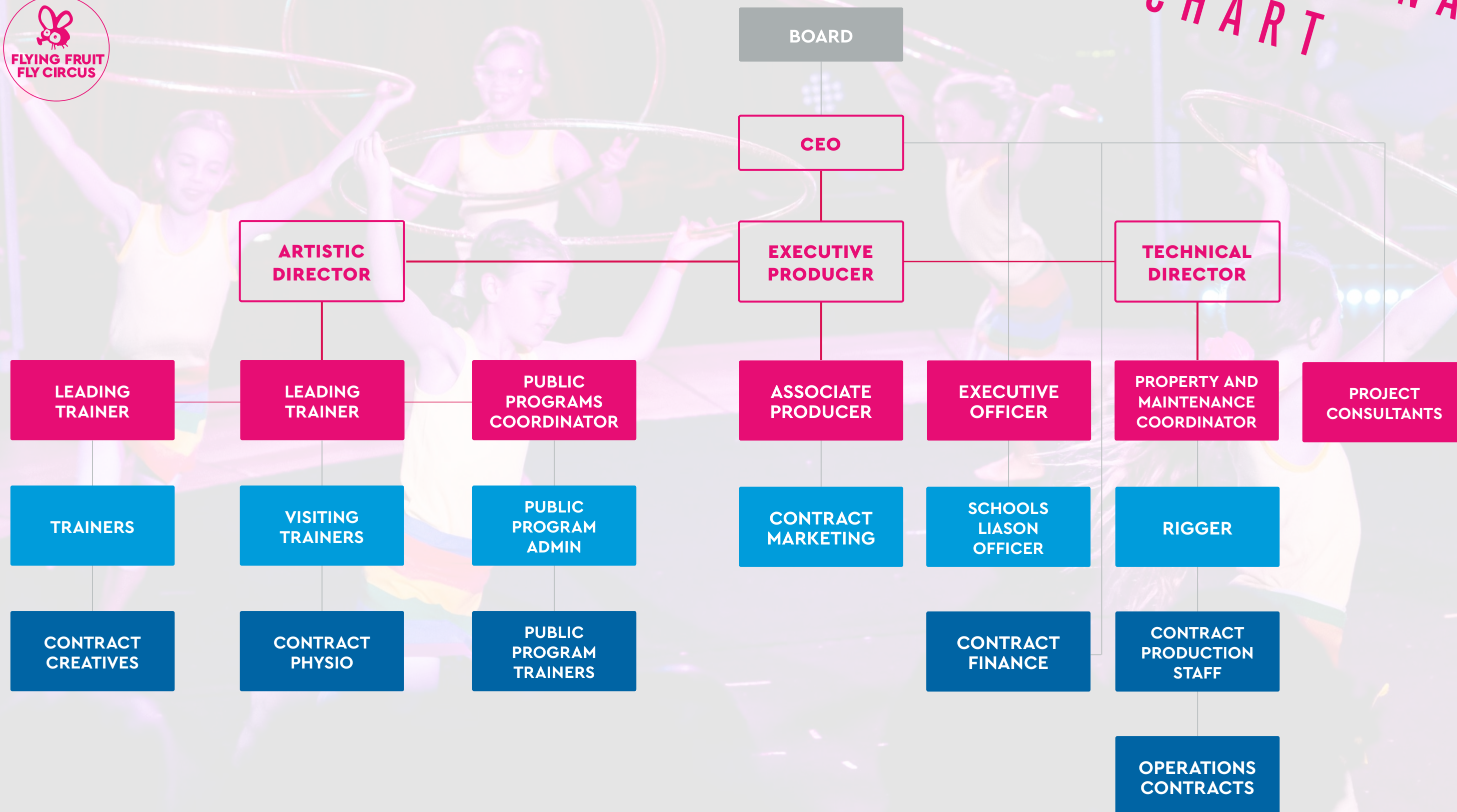
Life Members

- 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





ORGANISATIONAL CHART



FINANCIALS

Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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

ABN 76 007 293 389

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		Consolidated	
	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
Revenue	4	3,088,126	3,020,135
Employee related expenses		1,860,015	1,835,929
Depreciation and amortisation	5	58,063	68,598
Production expenses		239,139	185,569
Administration expenses		130,855	113,528
Lease expense		250,000	250,000
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	5	-	3,578
Other expenses		257,999	164,023
Surplus before income tax		292,055	398,910
Income tax expense	1(b)	-	-
Net Surplus for the year		292,055	398,910
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Result for the year		292,055	398,910

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

		Consolidated	
	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	1,735,482	1,399,149
Trade and other receivables	7	36,262	193,410
Other Financial assets	8	252,395	-
Inventories	9	5,424	832
Other	10	18,301	21,343
Total Current Assets		2,047,864	1,614,734
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	11	753,360	781,772
Total Non-Current Assets		753,360	781,772
Total Assets		2,801,224	2,396,506
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	12	138,487	161,819
Provisions	13	167,714	114,099
Contract liabilities	14	973,218	887,288
Total Current Liabilities		1,279,419	1,163,206
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	15	62,096	65,646
Total Non-current Liabilities		62,096	65,646
Total Liabilities		1,341,515	1,228,852
Net Assets		1,459,709	1,167,654
EQUITY			
Retained profits		1,459,509	1,167,454
Settlement funds		200	200
Total Equity		1,459,709	1,167,654



Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Consolidated		
	RETAINED PROFITS	SETTLEMENT FUNDS	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1 January 2020	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
Surplus for the year	292,055	-	292,055
Balance as at 31 December 2021	1,459,509	200	1,459,709



Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Consolidated		
	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from grants and patrons		3,063,708	3,197,057
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,462,825)	(2,227,662)
		600,883	969,395
Interest received		17,496	98
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		618,379	969,493
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment	10	(29,651)	(26,064)
Purchase of investments		(422,895)	-
Proceeds from investments		170,500	-
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities		(282,046)	(26,064)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		336,333	943,429
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		1,399,149	455,720
Cash at the End of the Financial Year	6	1,735,482	1,399,149

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

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

Australian Government through the Restart
Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE)
Create NSW through the Rescue and
Restart Package
Eastern Riverina Arts
HotHouse Theatre
Professional Audio Services
Regional NSW through the Regional Event
Acceleration Fund
The Border Trust





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