



One of the cornerstones of  
the modern circus industry.

– ARTS HUB



**FLYING  
FRUIT FLY  
CIRCUS**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022





**We acknowledge the Wiradjuri People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we train and operate.**

**We recognise and celebrate their continuing connection and contribution to culture, Country and community.**



Staff and students, 2022.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.

Cover photo: Girls With Altitude.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.





# Our Circus Vision & Mission

## VISION

To be the pre-eminent centre of contemporary circus in Australia.

## MISSION

To train young people in the artform of circus and create extraordinary new circus works.





# 2022 In Review

## January

Summer workshops at  
Thredbo Alpine Resort

Under Construction Residency:  
Harley Mann, Na Djinang Circus

Girls with Altitude rehearsals

## February

Full-time Circus Program  
– Term 1 begins

Falls Creek Festival –  
workshops & performance

Girls with Altitude –  
The Cube Wodonga

## March

Girls with Altitude on tour

Circus Passport: Wilcannia  
residency with Outback Theatre  
for Young People

## April

Girls with Altitude on tour

Under Construction Residency:  
Rooke Circus 'Interloper'

## May

Under Construction Residency:  
Throw Catch Collective 'Escalate'

## June

CoCreate – performance at  
The Cube Wodonga

Deckchair Cabaret

## July

National Training Project

Tempo – The Cube Wodonga  
and Sydney Opera House

## August

Circus Passport: Broome & Beagle  
Bay residency with Sandfly Circus

Big Sky creative development

Announcement of \$3.3M funding  
for Borderville Theatre

## September

Deckchair Cabaret

Girls with Altitude –  
Arts Centre Melbourne

Auditions for 2023 enrolment

Making Tracks residency –  
Na Djinang Circus

## October

Under Construction Residency:  
A Good Catch Circus 'Airborne'

Circus Passport: Wilcannia  
residency with Outback Theatre  
for Young People

A Day in the Orchard, Griffith –  
workshops and performance

## November

Under Construction Residency:  
Flip Kammerer 'Flip the Kammerer'

Rainbow on the Plains, Hay  
– workshops

## December

Borderville

– Galah Bar

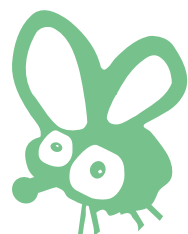
– Circus Arts Showcase

– Night Flies Showcase

– Circus in the Square: Part I

– Circus in the Square: Part II

– The Grad Show



Circus in the Square:  
Part 2, Borderville.

Photo by Ian Sutherland.



# Company Statement

Returning to pre-Covid activities was the key to a year that exceeded expectations. The schedule for 2022 had been carefully planned to ensure that if Covid-restrictions allowed, we would hit the ground running with a full pipeline of productions and programs.

It was both challenging and exhilarating to be back on stage, back on the road, and back to unrestricted training and collaboration.

Our year was dominated by four highly successful events - Girls with Altitude on tour and in Melbourne; Tempo at Sydney Opera House; National Training Project with Circa; and our annual festival Borderville. These underpinned our year of 'back to normal' circus training, public classes and community initiatives.

Beginning the year with state borders open once again, we went on tour with Anni Davey's wonderful collaboration with Judy Horacek, Girls with Altitude - three years in the making! Covid and the Covid protocols of each state did impact both the cast and crew, but a comprehensive Covid safety plan ensured everyone was looked after and only one performance was cancelled. Later in the year, the show sold out its season in The Playhouse at the Arts Centre Melbourne. An audience of 13,577 saw the all-female cast of 17 young acrobats over 30 performances in 2022.

Tempo started life as a 15-minute act for Albury-Wodonga's Upstream Festival in 2021. The show then evolved via a schools tour into a full-length work for Sydney Opera House. Director Jake Silvestro crafted a fast-moving ensemble work that wowed Sydney audiences and sold out all 10 performances with a total attendance of 2,608. It paved the way for a renewed partnership committing to the presentation of annual performances at the world's most recognised arts centre.

For the first time, we co-presented our National Training Project with the internationally renowned Circa. This gave the two week winter intensive a new energy and more creative eye, also providing a direct industry connection. All places were sold well in advance.

We reached out to the remote communities of Beagle Bay WA and Wilcannia NSW as part of our ongoing Circus Passport program and performed at a number of local events. Everyone felt good about interacting face to face once again.

Under Construction, our ever growing artist residency program, supported six innovative projects and brought 31 diverse artists into our space. An exciting crucible for new work and inspiring insight into professional practice for our young artists.

In August the Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, NSW Minister for the Arts, announced a game changing grant from the NSW Creative Capital Fund of \$3.3M to build a new performance space and storage facility, extending our existing creative headquarters. The Borderville Theatre will be a flexible 110-seat black box space for education and making circus, opening in December 2023. Apart from many amazing future opportunities, this was a significant vote of confidence in our work from the state government.

Our annual Borderville festival focussed on the community, with generous support from both Albury and Wodonga Councils allowing for free performances in both cities. Every Fruity performed and across all events we attracted a record 9,900 people.

We ended the year with a spectacular Grad Show, farewelling 12 final year students. 10 years in the making for some, this innovative and skilful production, guided by Alex Mizzen in collaboration with our trainers, was an emotional end to a packed 12 months.

By the beginning of 2023, seven recent graduates were working with Cirque du Soleil in Montreal, just one indicator of the quality and international reputation of our circus program, and the incredible dedication and talent of our young artists.

Financially we continued to focus on building capacity and long term sustainability. We maintained good relationships with key stakeholders including government partners, philanthropic trusts and our local business community. Rising costs and supply chain issues squeezed our operational budget and injected some necessary caution into future plans.

Our end of year result is unusually elevated due to the first capital grant payment received from the NSW government for the Borderville Theatre project, which will continue to impact our budget throughout 2023, and a revaluation of our artist accommodation property in South Albury.

We are always stronger together and would like to thank our students, staff, community and board for seeing us through another big year at the circus.



**Lara Block**  
CHAIR



**Anni Davey**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**Richard Hull**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Photos by Nic Fenton, OGA.





# PERFORMANCE



We will make  
and tour the best shows  
for children and family  
audiences.

– FFFC STRATEGIC PLAN





# Girls with Altitude

30 Performances

13,577 Attendance

DIRECTOR Anni Davey

CARTOONIST Judy Horacek

CIRCUS TRAINERS Ben Lewis, Misha Reale, Phil Witt, Amy Stuart

VIDEO DESIGNER Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman

LIGHTING DESIGNER Richard Vabre

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Ania Reynolds

SET DESIGNER Bosco Shaw

COSTUME DESIGNER April Dawson

RIGGING DESIGN Simon Yates

RIGGER Daryll John

RELIGHTER Jacob Shears

AV TECHNICIAN Tim Dennis

WARDROBE ASSISTANTS Jo Lancaster, Mozes

STAGE MANAGER Felix Hauge (Regional Tour) Steph Young (Melbourne)

COMPANY MANAGER Bec Cooen (Regional Tour) Bek Gibbs (Melbourne)

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Scott Stoddart

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Tahni Froud

“Joyous, engaging and life-affirming; a staunchly feminist work that utilises comedy to ensure its political bent is never didactic or contrived but which simultaneously never compromises in its important yet celebratory message.

- ARTS HUB

ON TOUR

February 24th – February 26th

March 12th – April 27th

September 14th – 17th

VENUES

The Cube Wodonga

Orange Civic Theatre

Griffith Regional Theatre

Glasshouse Theatre, Port Macquarie

HOTA, Gold Coast

Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton

Araluen Theatre, Alice Springs

Riverside Theatre, Parramatta

Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo

Bunjil Place, Narre Warren

West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul

Arts Centre Melbourne

CAST

Abbey Szakal

Abigail Sandral

Amelia Cole (Regional Tour)

Ava Paydon

Bianca Hall

Chloe Pirie

Claire Braunack

Ella Saabel

Emma Giasoumi

Eryn Beattie

Maya Chynoweth (Melbourne)

Monique Blackie

Natasha Hall

Natasha Meani

Paige-Taylor Stiffe (Regional Tour)

Rachel Phillips (Melbourne)

Taliyah Walsh-Young (Regional Tour)

Taria O'Connor

Tess Spry

CHAPERONES

Ana Alzati

Bek Gibbs

Con Giasoumi

Emanjilli Hunt

Ian Paydon

Lara Block

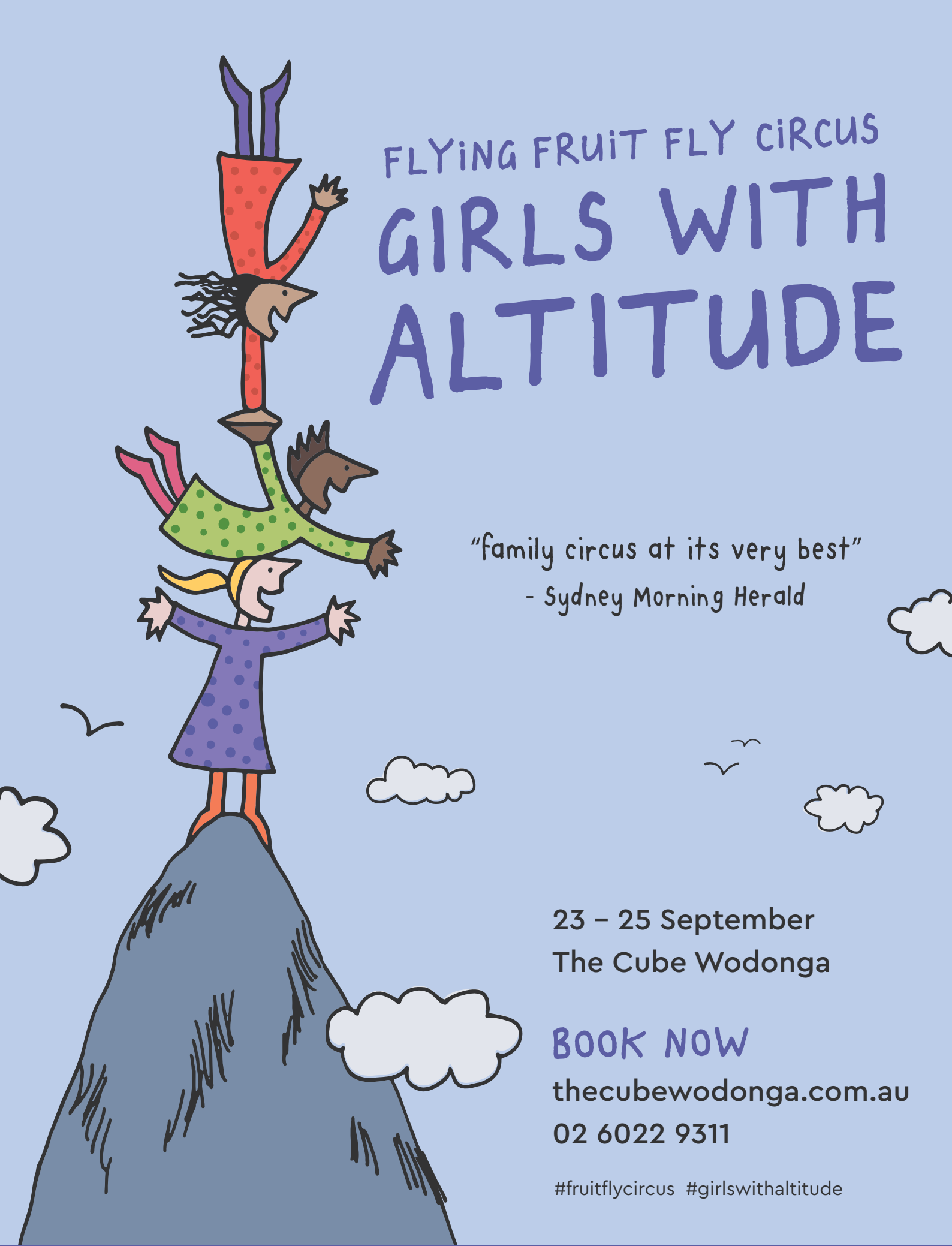
Mara Giourouki

Michelle Lloyd

Natano Fa'anana

Rachael Gadd

Rachael Szakal



“family circus at its very best”  
- Sydney Morning Herald

23 – 25 September  
The Cube Wodonga

BOOK NOW  
thecubewodonga.com.au  
02 6022 9311

#fruitflycircus #girlswithaltitude



# Tempo

## ON TOUR

July 1st – 2nd  
July 10th – 16th

## VENUES

The Cube Wodonga  
Sydney Opera House

## DIRECTOR

Jake Silvestro

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Ania Reynolds

## CIRCUS TRAINER

Lauren Shepherd

## LIGHTING DESIGNER

Kofi Isaacs

## COSTUME DESIGNER

April Dawson

## RIGGER

Finton Mahony

## STAGE MANAGER

Steph Young

## ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Bek Gibbs

## TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Scott Stoddart

**13**  
**Performances**

**2,608**  
**Attendance**

## CAST

Arthur Hull

Barney Herrmann

Chelsea Quail

Finn Neill

Jay Rensen

Jacob Kavanagh

Lucie Mariethoz

Nico Pope

Peter Giasoumi

Tal Shemesh

Tameka Rees

Yoav Shemesh

## CHAPERONES

Julia Quail

” The Flying Fruit Fly Circus’  
innovative new show...  
a circus dream team.

- BORDER MAIL

# FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS

**1-2**  
**JULY**

**Tempo**

The Cube  
Wodonga

See it live these  
school holidays!



**Never fear, the Flying Fruit Fly Circus is here!**

Book Now | [thecubewodonga.com.au](http://thecubewodonga.com.au) | 02 6022 9311 #FruitFlyCircus #Tempo







Circus in the Square:  
Part 2, Borderville.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.

# Borderville

19  
Performances

9,836  
Attendance

Dates:  
2 – 17 December

## Galah Bar: Borderville

Presented by HotHouse Theatre in association with Borderville

PROGRAMMED BY Beck Palmer  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Scott Stoddart  
STAGE MANAGER Steph Young

PERFORMANCES BY  
Arthur Hull  
Alyce Fisher  
Flying Fruit Fly Circus  
Jared Buckley  
Nick Steain  
TopSide

FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS CAST  
Abigail Sandral, Alyssa Lambert, Barney Herrmann, Blake Durnan, Claire Braunack, Eli Jones, Emilia Russell, Emma Giasoumi, Finn Neill, Griffin Castagna, Hudson White, Imogen McDonald, Jacob Kavanagh, Khalan Walsh-Young, Maya Chynoweth, Monique Blackie, Natasha Hall, Tal Shemesh, Tia Young

LOCATION  
HotHouse Theatre, Wodonga  
DATE December 2nd  
PERFORMANCES 1  
Attendance: 200

## Circus in the Square: Part 1

DIRECTOR Anni Davey  
TRAINERS Amber Kaldor, Jake Silvestro, Lauren Shepherd, Scott Neill  
COSTUME Lyn Shields, Alex Heien  
RIGGER Simon Yates  
STAGE MANAGER Steph Young  
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Tameka Rees

CAST Abigail Sandral, Allera Wight, Alyssa Lambert, Ava Hitchcock, Barney Herrmann, Bianca Hall, Blake Durnan, Caitlin Kellett-Surridge, Charlotte Pugh, Claire Braunack, Eli Jones, Emilia Russell, Emma Giasoumi, Erin McNab,

Etta Gramlick, Finn Neill, Frankie Allison, Fraser Hanssens, Griffin Castagna, Hudson White, Hunter Rush, Imogen McDonald, Jacob Kavanagh, Khalan Walsh-Young, Maya Chynoweth, Monique Blackie, Natasha Hall, Olivia Crawford, Peyton Rose Canning, Ruby Muth, Sophie Norris, Spencer Haberecht, Tal Shemesh, Tahlia Essop, Tia Young, Ysabella Yaxley  
LOCATION Junction Square, Wodonga  
DATE December 3rd  
PERFORMANCES 3  
Attendance: 3,000

## Night Flies Showcase

DIRECTOR Seth Scheuner  
COORDINATOR Bron Kouw  
SOUND Marcela Scheuner, Bek Gibbs  
TRAINERS Eryn Beattie, Genaveive Neal, Jay Rensen, Kate Muntz, Per Westman, Tracey D'Elton  
COSTUME Lyn Shields  
CAST Night Flies Ensemble  
LOCATION Flying Fruit Fly Circus  
DATE December 3rd  
PERFORMANCE 1  
Attendance: 253

## Circus Arts Showcase

DIRECTOR Tanya Lester  
COORDINATOR Bron Kouw  
SOUND Marcela Scheuner, Bek Gibbs  
TRAINERS Arabella Slattery, Arthur Hull, Bodhi Noonan, Genaveive Neal, Jay Rensen, James Wilson, Per Westman, Rachel Phillips, Rhiannon Ersser, Seth Scheuner, Taria O'Connor, Tracey D'Elton, Zac Saltalamaccia  
COSTUME Bron Kouw, Alex Heien  
CAST Saturday Circus Arts Students  
LOCATION  
Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Albury  
DATE December 3rd  
PERFORMANCES 4  
Attendance: 932

## Circus in the Square: Part 2

DIRECTOR Anni Davey  
TRAINERS Misha Reale, Per Westman, Tanya Lester, Tracey D'Elton, Scott Neill  
RIGGER Simon Yates, Ryan Taplin  
STAGE MANAGER Jo Lancaster

CAST Abbey Szakal, Astaria Benne-Keeble, Bianca Hall, Chelsea Quail, Chloe Pirie, Chot Walford, Clancy Rosewarne, Dakota-Rose Denyer, Dakota Skrypczak, Edwina Harrington, Felicity Lyell, Harry McEachern, Imogen Cole, Isabella Turner-Spessot, James Wilson, Lucie Mariethoz, Meghan Edinborough, Nate Klippel, Natasha Meani, Nico Pope, Peter Giasoumi, Rachel Phillips, Rylan McDonald, Tameka Rees, Taria O'Connor, Tom Paydon, Tyce Binding

TEENSY TINY TOP  
Nicci Wilks with Bev Parker, Nat Dyball  
LOCATION QEII Square, Albury  
DATE 8–10 December  
PERFORMANCES 7  
Attendance: 4,990

## The Grad Show

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY  
Amelia Cole, Arthur Hull, Ava Paydon, Eryn Beattie, Ewan Schell, Fidel Lancaster-Cole, Jay Rensen, Taliyah Walsh-Young, Tess Spry, Will Ledingham, Yoav Shemesh, and a special mention to Ella Saabel  
OUTSIDE EYES Alex Mizzen & Byron Hutton  
TRAINERS Bec Neill, Jake Silvestro, Ben Lewis

LIGHTING DESIGN Kofi Isaacs  
STAGE MANAGER Steph Young  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Scott Stoddart  
SHOW RIGGER Mozes  
LOCATION Flying Fruit Fly Circus  
DATE December 15th – 17th  
PERFORMANCES 3  
Attendance: 461



Falls Creek Festival

DIRECTOR Phil Witt  
TRAINERS Bec Neill & Kate Muntz  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Scott Stoddart  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Bek Gibbs  
  
CAST Alicia Sketcher, Angus Foley, Araluen Vonthien, Edwina Harrington, Imogen McDonald, Jacob Kavanagh, James Wilson, Khalan Walsh-Young, Nico Pope, Roscoe Harris Westman  
  
CHAPERONES Letitia Harrington, Caitlin Wilson  
LOCATION Falls Creek Alpine Resort  
DATE February 19th  
PERFORMANCES 1

Attendance: 2,000

CoCreate

DIRECTOR Anni Davey  
TRAINER Ben Lewis  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Scott Stoddart  
SHOW RIGGER Simon Yates  
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR Lyn Shields  
  
CAST Araluen Vonthien, Aysha Guilliamse-Witt, Chot Walford, Clancy Rosewarne, Edwina Harrington, Ewan Schell, Fidel Lancaster-Cole, Hudson White, Imogen McDonald, James Wilson, Khalan Walsh-Young, Maya Chynoweth, Nate Klippel, Rachel Phillips, Rylan McDonald, Tom Paydon  
  
LOCATION The Cube Wodonga  
DATE June 4th  
PERFORMANCES 1

Attendance: 800

Deckchair Cabaret

COORDINATED BY Anni Davey  
  
CAST Allera Wight, Amelia Cole, Ava Hitchcock, Caitlin Kellet-Surridge, Charlotte Pugh, Etta Gramlick, Dakota-Rose Denyer, Erin McNab, Ewan Schell, Felicity Lyell, Fidel Lancaster-Cole, Finn Neill, Frankie Allison, Fraser Hanssens, Hunter Rush, Imogen McDonald, Jacob Kavanagh, James Wilson, Liam Mooring, Meg Edinborough, Nico Pope, Olivia Crawford, Peyton-Rose Canning, Rachel Phillips, Ruby Muth, Sophie Norris, Spencer Haberecht, Tahlia Essop, Tameka Rees, Tal Shemesh, Totm Paydon, Will Ledingham, Ysabella Yaxley  
  
LOCATION Flying Fruit Fly Circus  
DATE June 20th, September 8th  
PERFORMANCES 2

Attendance: 250

A Day in the Orchard

DIRECTOR & TRAINER Jake Silvestro  
TRAINER Lauren Shepherd  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Bek Gibbs  
  
CAST Aysha Guilliamse-Witt, Dakota-Rose Denyer, Hudson White, Imogen Cole, Khalan Walsh-Young, Nate Klippel, Tom Paydon, Tia Young  
  
CHAPERONE Mel McClure  
LOCATION Piccolo Family Farm, Griffith  
DATE October 9th  
PERFORMANCES 2

Workshops – Attendance: 200

Joss Christmas Party

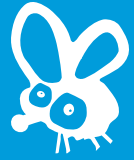
DIRECTOR Anni Davey  
LIGHTING DESIGNER Kris Chainey  
RIGGER Simon Yates  
COSTUME Lyn Shields  
TRAINER Amber Kaldor & Lauren Shepherd  
  
CAST Abbey Szakal, Barney Herrmann, Bianca Hall, Chelsea Quaill, Chloe Pirie, Emma Giasoumi, Finn Neill, Hudson White, Jacob Kavanagh, Khalan Walsh-Young, Natasha Hall, Rachel Phillips  
  
LOCATION Flying Fruit Fly Circus  
DATE December 20th  
PERFORMANCES 1

Attendance: 30

Circus in the Square: Part 1, Borderville.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.







# EDUCATION



We will be a beacon  
of excellence for  
creative learning  
and circus training.

– FFFC STRATEGIC PLAN

Galah Bar, Borderville.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.





# Circus

STUDENTS  
ENROLLED: **82**

## 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, aerial and manipulation.

## FOUNDATION GROUP

**16** 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 begin to concentrate on particular disciplines 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 interest of the student.

Circus in the Square: Part 1, Borderville.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland

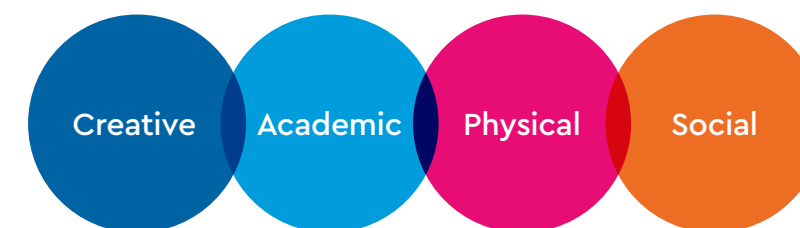
The following elements form an important part of our training program, each aiming to increase the acrobat's awareness and knowledge of circus as an art form and a creative industry, these include:

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

## The Spirit of Circus

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

*These four attributes are:*



Recognising these four attributes is the essence of developing a healthy 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 communicates this philosophy to students and families.

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



## Certificate III in Circus Arts

We are the only school in Australia currently delivering 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 as preparation for the Certificate IV in Circus Arts and Bachelor of Circus Arts courses at the National Institute for Circus Arts (NICA). Our course is delivered in collaboration with our academic partner Wodonga Senior Secondary College and auspiced by Swinburne University/NICA.

Certificate III in Circus Arts is delivered over two years.

**Students: 10**

## Our Schools

From years 3–9, our students enjoy exclusive enrolment in the **Flying Fruit Fly Circus School**, situated in a purpose-built facility on the Wodonga Middle Years College Felltimber campus. This specialist school has a team of dedicated and experienced teachers who work closely with our students, supporting them to be successful in their learning and development. In-school training at the circus is incorporated into the curriculum and timetable flexibility allows for rehearsals, touring and other performance commitments.

From years 10–12, students attend the **Wodonga Senior Secondary College**, which provides support and flexibility for our students to maintain their circus education and offers one of the broadest subject ranges in the state.

This unique educational partnership with the Department of Education and Training Victoria ensures our students receive a complete and high quality learning experience during their time with us, never compromising their academic or circus studies.

In 2022 we welcomed a new leader to the Flying Fruit Fly Circus School.

**Melanie McClure** has been associated with the circus for the last 20 years. Her son Simon joined the full-time circus program in 2004 and is now a member of international company Gravity and Other Myths. Melanie has worked in Wodonga schools for 23 years and intimately understands the importance of a rounded education and the needs of families during their unique journey at FFFC.



Girls With Altitude.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.



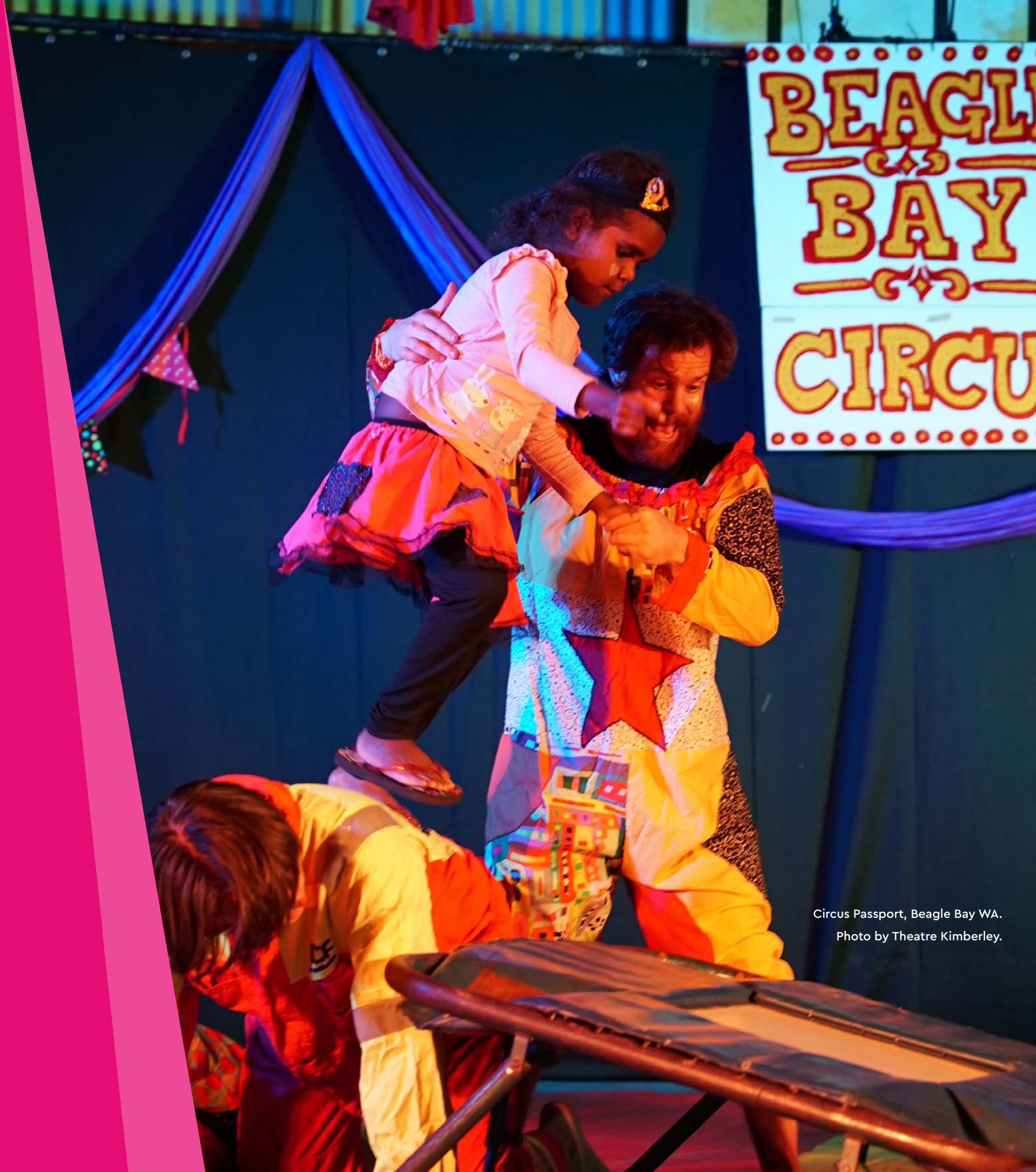


# COMMUNITIES

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We are proud of our regional home and the communities we share it with.

— FFFC STRATEGIC PLAN



Circus Passport, Beagle Bay WA.  
Photo by Theatre Kimberley.



## Public Classes

Our public classes offer an opportunity for everyone in our community to enjoy circus, regardless of age and ability. Tots, senior citizens, and everyone in between can experience the physical, creative and social benefits of circus training.

### Classes in 2022:

Saturday Circus Arts (age 4–18)

Night Flies (age 9–18)

Adult Night Flies (age 18+)

Opportunity Group (age 6–9)

Tots and Pre-School (age 2–6)

Fruit Bats (age 55+)

**Attendance: 15,418**

## Burranha Bila Buraay

In 2022 the Burranha Bila Buraay program continued despite the ongoing impact for schools from Covid restrictions and teaching staff limitations. James Fallon High School worked with our team to provide workshops on school grounds for both new and returning young people. Some of this year's participants have been a part of the program for over 5 years.

Burranha Bila Buraay provided First Nations young people with fortnightly workshops, starting in Term 2 at the James Fallon campus and then bringing students into the FFFC training facility in Term 4. Our trainers developed participant interest in circus, engaging them in a physical activity while building trust and leadership within the group.

**TRAINERS** Per Westman, Tracey D'Elton, Dominique Cravero

**Attendance: 50**

## Inside the Circus

Facilitated by the company manager and acrobats while on tour, Inside the Circus is a unique experience for audience members to see behind the scenes of the circus. Participants get an exclusive look at the performers warming up, chat with the company manager and meet the cast after the show for an exclusive Q&A.

In 2022 we facilitated Inside the Circus experiences throughout the Girls With Altitude regional tour and at Arts Centre Melbourne, and the Tempo season at Sydney Opera House.

**Participation: 580**

## Community Workshops

In 2022 our training team delivered 14 workshops within our local community as well as additional workshops and circus experiences throughout all our tours. Connecting with surrounding communities such as Hay, Temora, Falls Creek, Griffith, Tallangatta, and Wagga Wagga, off site and onsite at FFFC.

Our workshops are facilitated by both our senior trainers as well as our FFFC students who learn to teach under direct supervision from our more experienced trainers.

**Attendance: 1,130**

## Circus Passport

Circus Passport is a program funded by the Australian Government through the Regional Arts Fund. For three years we will connect with regional and remote communities supporting existing circus activities.

In 2022 we worked with Theatre Kimberley as part of their Sandfly Circus workshops in Beagle Bay and Broome. FFFC Trainer Jake Silvestro was in residence there for 3 weeks, and joined by senior students James Wilson and Jay Rensen.

In partnership with Outback Theatre for Young People we collaborated with the community of Wilcannia, NSW. Anni Davey, Alyson Evans, Julie Wilson, Natano Fa'anana and Dylan Singh conducted creative and basic skills workshops and community engagement over 3 weeks in March and October.

**Attendance: 200**



Circus Passport, Wilcannia NSW.  
Photo by Tahni Froud





## ***FACILITIES***

”

**Our Creative Headquarters will meet the needs of the next generation of students, artists and visitors.**

— FFFC STRATEGIC PLAN



Borderville Theatre, JWP Architects





## Creative Headquarters

Our building is owned by Albury City Council and leased to us on a secure long-term basis, managed and maintained through a successful partnership arrangement.

This purpose built 1500m<sup>2</sup> facility caters for a wide range of acrobatic training. It features a fully equipped training hall rising to a height of 13m, rehearsal studios and modern, brightly coloured offices, amenities and foyer.

## Circus House

Our two units in South Albury provide free or discounted accommodation close to the circus for visiting artists, trainers, directors and professional staff who are working with us on limited engagements. The secondary purpose is to generate income from commercial short-term rentals that contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the property.

The artist accommodation has increased the organisation's capacity to offer residencies to circus and physical theatre artists and is key to our Under Construction residency program. In 2022 we provided 731 nights of accommodation to artists at no cost. The accommodation was booked for 76 nights for short-term rentals.

## Borderville Theatre

In November 2021 we submitted a successful Expression of Interest to the NSW Government's Creative Capital Fund to extend our facilities in Albury and build a new studio theatre and storeroom.

In April 2022 we submitted the full application and business case. In a highly competitive process, we were thrilled that our vision for a 'new circus theatre' was awarded a grant of \$3.3M.

Joss Construction and JWP Architects were appointed to design and deliver the project, with a total cost of \$3.9M. Albury City, as the landowners, joined as partners providing consent for additional land use and administrative support.

Throughout the remainder of 2022 preliminary works continued, detailed drawings were completed and Development Consent was granted in December.

Construction began in March 2023 with project completion due in November. When announcing the funding in August, NSW Minister for Arts, The Hon Ben Franklin MLC, said;

***"The Flying Fruit Fly Circus extension is an important arts infrastructure project that will shape Albury as the premier destination for the development and presentation of contemporary circus works in NSW."***



The Hon Ben Franklin MP  
announcing Borderville Theatre funding.  
Photo by OGA.





# SECTOR

”

We will support the creation of new circus works and be a welcoming destination of choice.

– FFFC STRATEGIC PLAN



Tempo.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.



# Under Construction

The Under Construction National Circus Residency Program supports circus artists to develop new work. Support includes cash funding, rehearsal space, accommodation and staff time as required.

Our 2022 Under Construction Residents were:

**Harley Mann (Na Djinang Circus)** – Sertraline

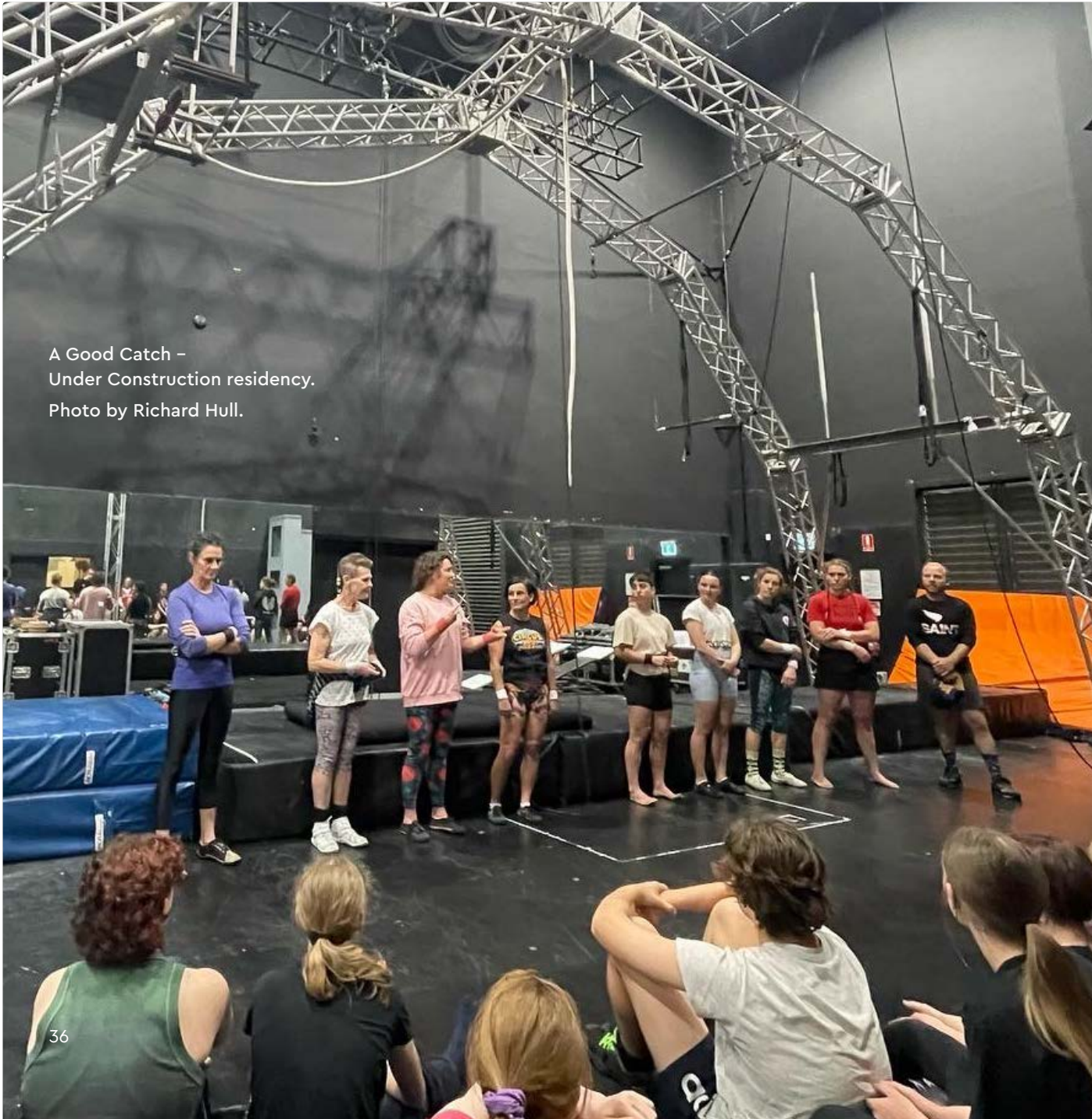
**Conor Wild, Freyja Wild, Lewis West, Mieke Lizotte (Rooke Circus)** – Interloper

**Byron Hutton, Richard Sullivan, Sam Kreusler (Throw Catch Collective)** – Escalate

**Collective Circus** – Waitlisted

**A Good Catch** – Airborne

**Flip Kammerer** – Flip the Kammerer



A Good Catch –  
Under Construction residency.  
Photo by Richard Hull.



National Training Project.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.

# National Training Project

The National Training project is an annual training intensive for students from around the country to train at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus with our core training staff and guest artists.

In 2022 we joined forces with Circa Contemporary Circus for the first time to present a record-breaking National Training Project. Circa has pioneered a new wave of contemporary Australian circus that fuses movement, dance, theatre and circus, and has become one of the world's leading performance companies. The company's work is in high demand around the world and its exceptional ensembles have toured to more than 40 countries, playing to over 1.5 million people.

The 2022 NTP was attended by students from the ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, VIC and WA. The training team included:

- Alex Mizzen (Independent) – Handstands
- Alice Muntz (Circa) – Rapid Fire Skills Development
- Ashley Youren (Circa) – Rapid Fire Skills Development
- Amber Kaldor (FFFC) – Aerial Hoop, Pyramids
- Anni Davey (FFFC) – Creative Classes
- Bec Neill (FFFC) – Tumble
- Ben Lewis (FFFC) – Chinese Pole, Hoop Diving, Straps
- Byron Hutton (Independent) – Juggle
- Casey Douglas (Independent) – Handstands, Hand to Hand
- Dan Power (Independent) – Tissu
- Dominique Cravero – Aerial Hoop, Pyramids, Tissu
- Marianna Joslin – Tissu, Hand to Hand
- Misha Reale (FFFC) – Swinging Cloudswing
- Phil Witt (FFFC) – Teeterboard, Tramp Wall
- Rhiannon Ersser (FFFC) – Hula
- Rowan Heydon-White (Circa) – Rapid Fire Skill Development
- Scott Neill (FFFC) – Trampoline, Tramp Wall
- Tanya Lester (FFFC) – Static/Double Trapeze
- Tracey D'Elton (FFFC) – Handstands, Trampoline

DATE June 27th – July 8th

Attendance: 94



Girls With Altitude.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.

# Open Training

The Open Training program provides free space for senior students, alumni, staff and other circus professionals to explore and improve their practice.

## Professional artists in 2022 included:

Alicia Sketcher | Amy Clark | April Dawson & Kyle Raftery  
Bailey Cooke | Caleb Hope | Claire Bindoff | Cooper Ayton  
Daniel McBurnie | Dominique Cravero & Amber Kaldor  
Jake Silvestro | Jarrod Takle | Kyle Fowler | Melissa Baker  
Michael James | Mitchell Kilsby | Mitchell Watson  
Nick Marsack | Rhiannon Ersser | Ronan Jenkinson  
Sam Waite | Spenser Inwood | Tyson Wallent

# Sector Partnerships

## ARTS8

We are proud to be a member of the group of eight national centres of arts training excellence with the Australian Ballet School (ABS), Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO), Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), NAISDA Dance College, Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA). In 2022 we attended a number of meetings and Leading Trainer Bec Neill attended the Yagunda Barbindu (Today – Tomorrow) project, an immersive retreat held on country for the leadership of each organisation, to build vital cultural capacity and First Nations understanding.

## 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.

## Sydney Opera House

Our production of Tempo in 2022 was the catalyst to renew our partnership with Sydney Opera House. Together, we have committed to co-presenting a season annually, with associated creative learning workshops and the potential to provide live stream or on-demand digital performances.

## The Cube Wodonga

The Cube continues to be an important partner as the venue where we premiere seasons of our new works before embarking on tours or other city presentations. It ensures we can play to local audiences first. In 2022 we premiered Girls With Altitude at The Cube in February, with 5 performances, and performed a short preview season of Tempo prior to Sydney Opera House.

## 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 2022 they coordinated our national tour of Girls with Altitude and helped us develop a 2024 tour of Tempo, which is awaiting funding confirmation.





# SUSTAINABILITY



**We will be a dynamic and financially resilient organisation that proactively reduces our contribution to climate change.**

– FFFC STRATEGIC PLAN





# Environment

## 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 also enable visitors, contractors, stakeholders and audiences to understand and minimise their pollution and carbon footprint when engaging with us. We have a ban on single use plastic and multiple recycling stations.

## Our Building

Our building is 13 years old and already benefits from a number of good sustainable design features. In recent years we have installed solar panels and a water tank and fitted LED lights in the training hall. Our Borderville Theatre project will deliver an extension to our existing facilities incorporating the latest environmental features.

## Transport

As the Flying Fruit Fly Circus tours and our schools arrange excursions around the region, Australia and overseas, we continually assess the impact of our traveling and work to minimise carbon impact.

## Our Artistic Program

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

## Making contemporary circus

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

## Decision making

Environment is a standing agenda item for all meetings, ensuring impact is considered at every level.







# FINANCIALS

## Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited  
and Controlled Entities

ABN 76 007 293 389

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited and Controlled Entities

### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Consolidated 2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Revenue &amp; Income</b>	4	3,657,404	3,088,126
Employee related expenses		1,959,898	1,860,015
Depreciation and amortisation	5	55,326	58,063
Production expenses		517,429	239,139
Administration expenses		151,767	130,855
Lease expense	2	250,000	250,000
Other expenses		345,284	257,999
<b>Surplus before income tax</b>		377,700	292,055
Income tax expense	1(b)	-	-
<b>Net Surplus for the year</b>		377,700	292,055
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to net result:</i>			
Land & buildings revaluation increment		303,632	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Result for the year</b>		681,332	292,055

*The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*



Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited and Controlled Entities

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2022

	Note	Consolidated 2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	827,358	1,735,482
Trade and other receivables	7	237,833	36,262
Other financial assets	8	325,685	252,395
Inventories	9	4,210	5,424
Other	10	20,382	18,301
Total Current Assets		1,415,468	2,047,864
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	11	1,633,961	753,360
Total Non-Current Assets		1,633,961	753,360
<b>Total Assets</b>		3,049,429	2,801,224
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	132,388	138,487
Provisions	13	231,976	167,714
Contract liabilities	14	513,710	973,218
Total Current Liabilities		878,074	1,279,419
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	15	30,314	62,096
Total Non-current Liabilities		30,314	62,096
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		908,388	1,341,515
<b>Net Assets</b>		2,141,041	1,459,709
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained profits		1,837,209	1,459,509
Asset revaluation reserve		303,632	-
Settlement funds		200	200
<b>Total Equity</b>		2,141,041	1,459,709

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited and Controlled Entities

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Retained Profits \$	Consolidated Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Settlement Funds \$	Total \$
<b>Balance as at 1 January 2021</b>		1,167,454	-	200	1,167,654
Surplus for the year		292,055	-	-	292,055
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2021</b>		1,459,509	-	200	1,459,709
Land & buildings revaluation increment		-	303,632	-	303,632
Surplus for the year		377,700	-	-	377,700
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2022</b>		1,837,209	303,632	200	2,141,041

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited and Controlled Entities

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Consolidated 2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts from grants and patrons		2,736,912	3,063,708
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,948,864)	(2,462,825)
		(211,952)	600,883
Interest received		3,083	17,496
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>		(208,869)	618,379
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(632,295)	(29,651)
Purchase of investments		(66,960)	(422,895)
Proceeds from investments		-	170,500
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities</b>		(699,255)	(282,046)
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held</b>		(908,124)	336,333
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		1,735,482	1,399,149
<b>Cash at the End of the Financial Year</b>	6	827,358	1,735,482

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.





# PEOPLE

”

We will be a place  
where the best in the  
industry aspire to work  
and collaborate.

– FFFC STRATEGIC PLAN



A Day in the Orchard, Griffith.  
Photo by Bek Gibbs.



# People

## 2022 Circus Personnel

- Resident Trainer** Amber Kaldor
- Artistic Director** Anni Davey
- Leading Trainer** Bec Neill
- Associate Producer** Bek Gibbs
- Leading Trainer** Ben Lewis
- Public Programs Administrator** Bron Kouw
- Finance Officer (Findex)** Cathy Williams
- NTP Coordinator/Circus Programs Administrator** Daniel McBurnie
- Casual Trainer** Dominique Cravero
- School Liaison Officer** Don Gargan
- Executive Officer** Donna Baldwin
- Casual Trainer** Genaveive Neal
- Resident Trainer** Jake Silvestro
- Resident Trainer** Jo Lancaster
- Property and Maintenance Coordinator** Julie Wilson
- Casual Trainer** Kate Muntz
- Resident Trainer/Injury Management** Lauren Shepherd
- Wardrobe Supervisor** Lyn Shields
- Resident Trainer** Misha Reale
- Casual Trainer** Natalie Dyball
- Resident Trainer** Per Westman
- Resident Trainer** Phillip Witt
- Administration Assistant/Casual Trainer** Rhiannon Ersser
- Chief Executive Officer** Richard Hull
- Resident Trainer** Scott Neill
- Technical Director** Scott Stoddart
- Resident Trainer** Seth Scheuner
- Resident Rigger** Simon Yates
- Executive Producer** Tahni Froudast
- Public Programs Coordinator** Tanya Lester
- Resident Trainer** Tracey D'Elton

## 2022 School Personnel

- Teacher** Adrian Ried
- Teacher** Derek Bowey (WSSC)
- Teacher** James Foley
- Teacher** Jan Johnson
- Administrator** Jan White
- Leader** Melanie McClure
- Executive Principal** Vern Hilditch (WSSC)

## 2022 Guest Personnel

- Alex Heien
- Alex Mizzen
- Alex Pirie
- Alyce Fisher
- Amy Stuart
- Ania Reynolds
- April Dawson
- Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman
- Bec Cooen
- Byron Hutton
- Casey Douglas
- Daniel Power
- Daryll John
- Dylan Singh
- Emma Valente
- Felix Hauge
- Finton Mahony
- Jack Manson
- Jacob Shears
- Judy Horacek
- Kofi Isaacs
- Kris Chainey
- Kylie Simpson
- Marcela Scheuner
- Marianna Joslin
- Mozes
- Natano Fa'anana
- Nicci Wilks
- Nick Hutchinson
- Richard Vabre
- Ryan Taplin
- Steph Young
- Tim Dennis

## Life Members

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

*In loving memory of Neil McDermott*

## Board of Directors

- Dianne McGrath (Treasurer)
- Glenn Mancer
- James Jenkins
- Lara Block (Chair)
- Mary Harvey
- Margaret Murray
- Marguerite Pepper
- Nicholas Marks
- Vern Hilditch



Tempo.  
Photo by  
Ian Sutherland.





# PARTNERS

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from local, state and federal governments, sponsors and individual donors.



National Training Project.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.



# Partners

## 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  
City of Wodonga  
Arts on Tour

## Business

Best Western Plus Hovell Tree Inn  
Biteit  
Findex  
Sports & Spinal Albury

## Affiliations

Albury Business Connect  
Arts8  
FEDEC  
Live Performance Australia

## Scholarships

Neil McDermott  
Noel Tovey  
Best Western Hovell Tree Inn  
Borderville

## Projects

Girls with Altitude was supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; the NSW Government through Create NSW and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

TEMPO was supported by the Australian Government through the Office for the Arts and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Borderville was supported by Albury City as part of the NSW Government Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events Program and the Wodonga Council.

Circus Passport was supported by the Regional Arts Fund, an Australian Government initiative supporting the arts in regional, remote and very isolated Australia.

Burrnha Bila Buraay was supported by the NSW Government through the Building Stronger Communities initiative.

The Borderville Theatre construction project is supported by the NSW Government through the Creative Capital Fund, Joss Construction, JWP Architects and Albury City.



Tempo, Sydney Opera House.  
Photo by Jaimi Joy.





The Grad Show.  
Photo by Ian Sutherland.

