



**WESTERN
EDGE
YOUTH
ARTS**

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

ABOUT WESTERN EDGE YOUTH ARTS

Western Edge Youth Arts is a community youth performance company with a twenty-year track record of cutting-edge theatre in marginalised communities. Incorporated in 2006, the company emerged out of the innovative practice at Footscray Community Arts Centre in the 1990s.

At Western Edge Youth Arts we create a place where young people can make socially engaged art, develop skills to be leaders in their community, and discover new perspectives along the way.

Many of our performers are unlikely to have ever set foot in a mainstream theatre. All under 26, they live in the western suburbs and beyond, and often move between their different cultural backgrounds and Australian culture. They bring to the organisation rich experiences in ways that make for complex, funny, challenging and beautiful art.

Everything we do at Western Edge Youth Arts is grounded in theory and underpinned by fun. We encourage rigorous thinking that young people can carry into their daily lives. Many of our performers go on to lead their communities under our mentorship.

Our professional artists, skilled in community arts, applied theatre and arts education, run workshops alongside culturally diverse emerging artists. Together, we find the burning issues and transform them into thrilling contemporary performance.

We are also dedicated to gathering audience feedback and best practice research in order to improve our performances and processes.



CHAIR'S REPORT

Although I have been a Western Edge Youth Arts board member and chair for six years, I am still amazed by the impact this small organisation achieves. Western Edge Youth Arts is an evolving, innovating and challenging organisation that demands constant and careful balancing, as we strive to keep ahead of opportunities that engage young people building their capacity to make meaning through powerful stories with their own authentic voice, and take their role as active citizens in their community.

As Melbourne's western suburbs become busier, we find demand for our programs grows and spreads further west than Footscray. Western Edge Youth Arts continues to advocate for young people and communities experiencing social marginalisation or economic disadvantage as the change in the area's demographics puts pressure on the region and impacts on social health and wellbeing. Access by young people to self-development through the arts must be considered for a healthy society, and Western Edge Youth Arts is committed to continue to create opportunities for young people to participate in the creation of high quality theatre for and with their communities.

The Western Edge Youth Arts Board has worked hard through the year on some major challenges – staff changes, restructures, and strategic planning being some of the key drivers. I am confident that we are in a good position to address financial sustainability this year and look forward to a renewed focus on fundraising from the private sector.

I would sincerely like to thank my fellow board members for their continued passionate commitment to Western Edge Youth Arts. We are fortunate to enjoy strategic and knowledgeable leadership from people working in a number of professions and their contributions are invaluable. We have a small but brilliant team of staff who each play a special role in the daily operations of the organisation, alongside a dedicated band of associate and emerging artists that work in schools and community projects.

On behalf of the board I'd like to thank the staff for their commitment and drive and particularly the young people who are at the heart of what we do. In 2014 Western Edge delivered 15 outstanding and inspirational projects with over 500 young people. Our major production *Scheherazade*, involving a cast of 50 young people was performed to more than 400 people in Footscray.

Achievements in 2014 would not have been possible without the generous support of our funding and project partners. Their continued commitment to our mission means that we can continue to engage young people and provide them with the opportunity to participate in the creation of outstanding theatre each year.

I trust you will enjoy reading this year's Annual Report and hope you continue to appreciate Western Edge Youth Arts as a remarkable youth organisation that is changing lives in our community.

Bernadette Fitzgerald, Chair



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

2014 was a great year for the organisation, with a vibrant artistic program soundly backed by increased funding and community partnerships.

Our financial result, with a surplus of \$7,622 from operations, indicates healthy progress. This success was driven by an increase in fees for project delivery through government and private funding.

Our programs this year provided ways for us to engage with new communities in Braybrook and Geelong. We pulled together an impressive five shows at the Footscray Community Arts Centre in December 2014, with 50 participants from Geelong, Footscray, Braybrook and Richmond, rounding off the year on a high.

Funds from private giving continued to provide an extremely important source of revenue for the organisation's programs at a total of \$100,903 in 2014. The organisation is fortunate to have the support of Federal, State and Local Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, the Department of Education and Training and Maribyrnong City Council.

Internally, we've been working hard on a rebrand and new website for 2015, along with a new donor program and fundraising campaign.

I would like to thank the Western Edge Youth Arts Board, chaired by Bernadette Fitzgerald, for its guidance and support over the course of another busy year with new challenges. Thanks also to the young people that show such enthusiasm in their theatre making.

I congratulate all our staff and artists on a great year. Their talent and commitment to Western Edge Youth Arts and its value to the community are always inspiring.

Sally Farr, General Manager/Joint CEO

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2014 was another year of significant artistic achievement for Western Edge Youth Arts. Director Tariro Mavondo joined our core team of Cuong Nguyen, Jane Rafe, Jo Trevathan, Katherine Branch, Kereen Ely-Harper and Hoang Tran Nguyen to collaborate on groundbreaking, contemporary youth theatre works.

Scheherazade was a stunning interactive installation work with the participation of 50 culturally diverse young people in a performance that made a powerful statement against male violence. Katherine Branch's beautiful design was complimented by the passion and intensity of the young performers, led by our emerging artists to create a unique work.

2014 saw the launch of the Edge Ensemble, a fabulous company of emerging artists, most of whom had previous history with the company. The creative development of *Iago* in collaboration with Tariro Mavondo was a fantastic learning experience for the company, leading to a highly successful work-in-progress showing.

Our extended school residency collaboration with Footscray City College created a truly stunning work called *Be Not Afraid*. This innovative installation work combined material from Shakespeare's *Tempest* and *Othello* to create a formidable new work about the nature of love.

Jane Rafe and Jo Trevathan continued their successful collaboration at Tate Street Primary School producing *The Deeds of Loki*, an epic performance with beautiful poetry and shadow puppets created by the children.

The overall output of the company in 2014 was remarkable. A total of ten high-quality new works delighted large community audiences who don't normally have access to the arts. For me, this is what our company is all about.

Dave Kelman, Artistic Director/Joint CEO

500 students participating in schools program

85 weeks of full-time work for young emerging artists

21 total performances

3000 total audiences

2 published research articles

30 artists and project staff employed

1 book of young people's writing published

18 young artists mentored

400 workshop sessions

20 funding and project partners

\$394,177 turnover

10 new Australian works

4 outreach theatre workshop programs



2014 NEW WORK AND ADAPTIONS

FATE

A reworked script of last year's successful community performance of *FATE* was performed by our emerging artists as a work-in-progress to an enthusiastic audience at the Melbourne Arts Centre.

FATE blended hip-hop, choral music and edgy theatre to examine the choices we make and how much we are really in control of our own lives.



Solomon Salew, Mazna Komba, Jared Hiakita and Legrand Andersen

Performances 1
Attendance 39
Participants 10
Production team 4
Venue Melbourne Arts Centre
Dates 10 July

This project was a partnership with cohealth arts generator and was given financial and in-kind support from the Melbourne Arts Centre.

Lovers and Friends - Youth Perspectives on HIV/AIDS

The Edge Ensemble was commissioned by the City of Maribyrnong to perform as part of the AIDS2014 conference in Melbourne.

This brilliant show was performed and written by Achai Deng, Oti Willoughby, Rex Pelman, Natalie Lucic, Piper Huynh and Legrand Andersen, to a very responsive audience.



Performances 1
Attendance 25
Participants 6
Production team 1
Venue Kindred Studios, Yarraville
Dates 24 July
Supported by Maribyrnong City Council.

Tales of the Teenage Time Bombs

Devised and performed by Phoenix Youth Theatre, this original work burst off the stage showcasing an awesome group of young performers — telling tales from left and right, front and centre.



Performances 1
Attendance 45
Participants 9
Production team 3
Venue Phoenix Youth Centre, Footscray
Dates 3 October
Phoenix Youth Theatre is a partnership project with Maribyrnong Youth Services.

SCHOOLS

Be Not Afear'd

Footscray City College students created a multi-media installation piece based on Shakespeare's *Tempest* and *Othello*, leading audiences down a tunnel of love, with side trips into hate, magic and jealousy.



Performances 4
Attendance 500
Participants 40
Production team 5
Venue Footscray City College Theatre
Dates 28-29 August

Supported by Footscray City College, Creative Victoria and the Department of Education and Training.

Deeds of Loki

A group of students from Tate Street Primary School took their audience on a journey deep in time, to a Viking village where tales from Old Norse mythology were told. The shadows leapt and flickered as the storyteller conjured giants, dwarves, mythical beasts and the gods of Asgard: Thor, Odin, Loki and the rest!



Performances 1
Attendance 260
Participants 25
Production team 5
Venue Shenton Performing Arts Centre, East Geelong
Dates 10 September

Supported by Tate Street Primary School, The Kimberley Foundation, Newsboys Foundation, Geelong Community Foundation and the Department of Education and Training.

Misfits

Mount Alexander College students devised and performed four unique stories about the search for belonging. The question: What would you do to fit in?



Performances 2
Attendance 250
Participants 36
Production team 8
Venue Flemington Community Centre
Dates 16 September

Supported by Mount Alexander College, Newsboys Foundation, and the Department of Education and Training.

1001 Nights

This in-school project involved 25 young people aged 12-14 in an adaptation of *10001 Arabian Nights*. The project culminated in a vibrant performance to over 200 young people that was met with great enthusiasm and excitement. The project was directed by Jane Rafe, with Max Barker, Natalie Lucic and Rex Pelman.



Performances 1
Attendance 200
Participants 25
Production team 5
Venue Northern Bay College, Corio Vic
Date 24 October

Supported by the REYM fund through the Myer Foundation, and the Department of Education and Training

Forbidden

Devised and performed by young people of the North Geelong Theatre Group, *Forbidden* was a fast-moving comedy about love, life, culture and football.



Kiril Stamenkov, Stefani Alimic, Alan Bakulikira and Craig Gunguta

Performances 1

Attendance 45

Participants 9

Production team 2

Venue Croatian Association Hall, Geelong

Dates 8 November

Supported by North Geelong Secondary College, Australian Communities Foundation and by the REYM Fund through the Myer Foundation.

Iago

An in-yer-face contemporary reworking of Shakespeare's *Othello*, created and performed by the Edge Ensemble. This fast-paced exploration of gender identity and sexual politics in a rapidly changing world will have a full season at the Coopers Malthouse in May 2015.

Edge Ensemble: Achai Deng, Oti Willoughby, Piper Huynh, Legrand Andersen, Rex Pelman and Natalie Lucic.



Legrand Andersen

Performances 1

Attendance 50

Participants 6

Production team 2

Venue Blue Stone Church Arts Space, Footscray

Dates 14 November

Supported by Gandel Philanthropy, Besen Family Foundation and Maribyrnong City Council.

Scheherazade

Scheherazade was a stunning interactive installation performance bringing together 50 members of Uprising Theatre, Phoenix Youth Theatre, Braybrook Youth Theatre, North Geelong Youth Theatre and the Edge Ensemble. Audiences arrived at a haunted warehouse by the river, where a gangster known as 'The Man' married a new wife every month only to then kill her so she could never be unfaithful to him. In this retelling of the classic Arabian tale, a modern day Scheherazade sorts out this monster-man once and for all.



Performances 5

Attendance 365

Participants 50

Production team 10

Venue Footscray Community Arts Centre

Dates 4-6 December

Supported by Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Australian Communities Foundation, Victorian Multicultural Commission, Australia Council and Footscray Community Arts Centre.

WHAT THE CRITICS, PARTICIPANTS AND AUDIENCES SAID

FATE:

'Fate is a story about taking chances and it hits the jackpot. There is so much going on in this explosion of theatre, hip-hop and singing that is fresh and vibrant.'

Cheryl Threadgold, 17 Dec 2013,
Melbourne Observer

Misfits:

'My confidence really improved during the weeks of doing [Misfits]. I've become more open and loud and it gave me confidence to stand up in front of people to do what I want to do without being scared.'

Student participant,
19 September 2014

Iago:

'The main thing is that Iago has all the ingredients for a successful theatrical journey, combining an innovative interpretation of a classic play with creating awareness of contemporary social and cultural issues. Bravo to Dave Kelman and Western Edge Youth Arts on an engaging, inspirational production.'

Cheryl Threadgold, 19 November, Melbourne Observer

Scheherazade:

'...a very complex series of interweaving stories underlining the serious theme of violence towards women ... great inventiveness and ingenuity ... intensity of performance...'

Geraldine Colson, 11 December, Melbourne Observer

'Loved the characters ... loved the different perspectives ... loved the power of many voices speaking as one. My cheeks are hurting from smiling and laughing so much. Thanks for a great show!'

Audience participant

'Congratulations on a wonderful show. As usual the young people were superb and the messages that came through them inspired and moved me. I felt very humbled by the piece and found myself in awe of the talent and diversity of each player. As a group, there was such a strong force of energy and depth to the narrative. Brill.'

Emma Schmidt, local drama teacher

'Honestly, at the end when we had to make poses, when we had to make a gesture, I wanted to hug to show that we're sorry in the name of all men—as a message—even though I hadn't done anything.'

Scheherazade cast member

'Collaboration between different young people—collaboration is the future. It builds elasticity as a performer. Different groups interpreted the themes differently—content and stylistically and the electric energy of different artists coming together. The core team led the vocals, keeping it together, unified, mentorship. Young people like seeing older people who look like them doing things—passing on the baton and then they pass on the baton to others.'

Western Edge Youth Arts
emerging artist

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

1. Industry leadership and research
 - Two innovative installation performance projects realised through creative collaborations between professional artists
 - One professional emerging artist creative development
 - Two significant research papers published on audience response and teaching Shakespeare in primary schools
2. Access for participants and audiences
 - Over 100 participants engaged across marginalised refugee communities in Geelong and Flemington
 - Over 80 participants engaged in strongly economically disadvantaged communities in East Geelong and Corio
 - New community audiences engaged in Corio, North Geelong, and Flemington
3. Mentoring and professional development
 - Ten emerging artists trained in facilitation and performance
 - Five new culturally diverse emerging artists recruited to Western Edge Youth Arts
 - Emerging artists employed and trained in digital art, sound design, composition and interactive performance
 - Six leading industry professionals, working in a range of art forms, trained our emerging artists and collaborated with our core team of artists

Ensembles

Edge Ensemble
Phoenix Youth Theatre
North Geelong Youth Theatre
Playback West

Outreach theatre workshop programs

Phoenix Youth Theatre
Arts Access/Western Edge Youth Arts (AWWE)
Braybrook After School
North Geelong Secondary College



PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORTERS

Government support

Australia Council for the Arts
Creative Victoria
Department of Education and Training (Victoria)
City of Maribyrnong

Private support

Newsboys Foundation
The Kimberley Foundation
Gandel Philanthropy
Besen Family Foundation
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
Geelong Community Foundation
The REYM Fund through the Myer Foundation

Project partners

cohealth arts generator
Melbourne Arts Centre
Footscray Community Arts Centre
Diversitat, Geelong
Maribyrnong Youth Services
Arts West

School partners

Tate Street Primary School
Mount Alexander Secondary College
Footscray City College
North Geelong High School

Donors

Anonymous



2014 WESTERN EDGE TEAM

Board

Bernadette Fitzgerald, Chair
Ian Elsum, Treasurer
Angela O'Brien, Vice-Chair
Sue Russell
Marcus Hughes
Narelle Sullivan

Staff

Artistic Director: Dave Kelman
General Manager: Sally Farr
Bookkeeper: Brea Acton
(Replaced Debbie Pearson)

Emerging Artists

Piper Huynh
Oti Willoughby
Rex Pelman
Natalie Lucic
Achai Deng
Matt O'Brien
Lan Chu
Simone Liew
Max Barker
Solomon Salew
Maki Issa
Mazna Komba
Jo Pires

Lead artists and designers

Dave Cuong Nguyen
Jo Trevathan
Jane Rafe
Tariro Mavondo
Katherine Branch
Hoang Tran Nguyen
Matt Fabris
Jeany Lee

Photography and film:
Nicola Dracoulis (all photos
in this Annual Report)



Western Edge Youth Arts

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2014

Income from ordinary Activities

	2014	2013
Earned Income:		
Performance Income	\$ 2,422	\$ -
Project Delivery Fees	\$ 82,801	\$ 53,721
Other Earned Income	-	\$ 25,000
Grants and Subsidies:		
Federal Grants	\$ 80,000	\$ 54,195
State Grants	\$ 99,138	\$ 124,310
Local Grants	\$ 25,450	\$ 34,450
Corporate and Private Giving		
Philanthropic Trusts	\$ 98,935	\$ 88,461
Donations	\$ 1,968	\$ 1,500
Other Revenue:		
Interest Income	\$ 3,462	\$ 3,913
	\$ 394,176	\$385,550

Expenses from ordinary Activities

	2014	2013
Wages, Fees & Allowances	\$ 286,531	\$ 310,469
Production & Program Operating	\$ 27,363	\$ 22,178
Marketing & Promotion	\$ 24,795	\$ 16,505
Administration & Infrastructure	\$ 47,866	\$ 34,587
	\$ 386,554	\$ 383,739
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) before tax	\$ 7,623	\$ 1,811

Western Edge Youth Arts

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 191,408	\$ 104,671
Trade and other receivables	\$ 3,300	\$ 12,715
Total Other Assets	\$ 194,708	\$ 117,386
Non Current Assets:		
Property Plant & Equipment	\$ 4,187	\$ 6,941
Total Non-Current Assets	\$ 4,187	\$ 6,941
Total Assets	\$ 198,895	\$ 124,327
Current Liabilities		
Payroll Accruals	\$ 21,526	\$ 19,409
Tax Liabilities	\$ 10,720	-\$ 9,597
Grants Received in advance	\$ 114,242	\$ 62,295
Trade and other payables	\$ 8,423	\$ 13,047
Total Current Assets	\$ 154,911	\$ 85,154
Total Liabilities	\$ 154,911	\$ 85,154
Net Assets:	\$ 43,983	\$ 39,173
Equity:		
Retained Profits	\$ 43,983	\$ 39,173
Total Equity	\$ 43,983	\$ 39,173

Western Edge Youth Arts

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
Retained earnings:		
Balance at 1 January:	\$ 39,173	\$ 35,101
Surplus / (Deficit) attributable to the entity	\$ 4,810	\$ 4,072
Balance as at 31 Dec	\$ 43,983	\$ 39,173

Western Edge Youth Arts

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Cash receipts from operations	\$ 94,217	\$ 64,131
Payments to suppliers and employees	-\$ 389,457	-\$ 392,544
Interest received	\$ 3,462	\$ 3,913
Operating grants receipts	\$ 355,470	\$ 326,416
Receipts from donations	\$ 1,968	\$ 1,500
Goods and Services Tax paid	\$ 21,077	-\$ 30,933
Net Cash inflow from operating activities	\$ 86,737	-\$ 27,517
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:		
Payments from Plant & Equipment	\$ -	-\$ 3,450
Net cash Flows used in Investing Activities	\$ -	-\$ 3,450
Net increase / (decrease) in Cash Held	\$ 86,737	-\$ 30,967
Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 1 January	\$ 104,671	\$ 135,638
Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 31 December	\$ 191,408	\$ 104,671

Western Edge Youth Arts Inc.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2014, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended with the notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc is in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, including;

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2014 and of its performance for the year ended on that date and;
- (b) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Western Edge Youth Arts Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Peter Worn, Regd Co Auditor, Regn: 10510

Dated this ^{9th} day of ^{April}2015

Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. Committee's Report

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. for the financial year ended 31 December 2014.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Bernadette Fitzgerald

Ian Elsum

Professor Angela O'Brien

Sue Russell

Narelle Sullivan

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

Promotion & Development of Arts Education amongst the Youth

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.


Operating Result

The Profit after providing for income tax for the year ended 31 December 2014 amounted to \$7,622.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



.....
Bernadette Fitzgerald



.....
Ian Elsum

Dated

Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. Statement by Members of the Committee

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

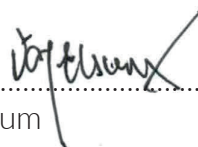
In the opinion of the committee as set out in the accompanying financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. as at 31 December 2014 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



.....
Bernadette Fitzgerald



.....
Ian Elsum

Dated



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Western Edge Youth Arts is proud to be part of Arts West, a unique alliance of arts organisations who reflect the exciting, vibrant and diverse arts and culture thriving in Melbourne's inner west.

Photography: Nicola Dracoulis
Design: Miranda Costa

