

WESTERN EDGE YOUTH ARTS

# Annual Report 2006



"I REMEMBER THE DAY WHEN WE BOTH CROSSED PATHS  
 I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAD HAPPENED  
 I'M JUST LOST ON TRANSLATION  
 BUT I JUST WANT TO SAY  
 WELCOME TO THE WORLD  
 MY WORLD"

(Manza, young spoken word performer, Frontier '06)

## About Western Edge

Western Edge Youth Arts is a non-profit organisation established to provide positive arts and performance experiences to culturally diverse young people living in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne and Western Region of Victoria.

Western Edge became an independent incorporated association in 2005 after ten years delivering innovative projects in communities and schools under the auspices of the Footscray Community Arts Centre.

Our mission is the empowerment of all young people, particularly those facing social or cultural marginalisation, through access to quality arts experiences and the creation of artistic works that have an authentic youth voice.

We are committed to innovation and excellence in youth arts and education, professionalism, accountability and social justice.

## About this report

### About the Contributors

This report has been produced in collaboration between the board and staff of Western Edge Youth Arts.

In line with our values, Western Edge actively gathers ideas and feedback from the young artists and participants in our community through research, forums and the youth action group.

This report includes quotes from those young people which critique and comment on Western Edge programs and processes. Quotes by young artists and participants appear in italics and are anonymous. All quotes have been recorded for publication with permissions where appropriate and the express knowledge and consent of the person being quoted.

### About the Reporting Period

Western Edge Youth Arts is reporting on program activities for the period from January 1st to December 31st in 2006.

Footscray Community Arts Centre (FCAC) managed and was legally accountable for funds pertaining to Western Edge Youth Arts activities up until June 30th, 2006. Western Edge became financially independent as of July 1st, 2006.

This annual report is presenting financial statements for the six month calendar period from July 1st to December 31st, 2006.

"WE THINK WE ARE ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE WORLD BUT IN FACT WE CAN REACH OU TO A LARGER WORLD AND GROW"

(SCRAYP '06 'Broken Pieces', young person's analysis)

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"PEOPLE HATE BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID TO LOVE."

(final line of 'Broken Pieces' SVRAYP'06)



## The 2006 Program at a glance What is a Western Edge Project?

Western Edge Projects are innovative, inclusive and rich in both process and outcome. They have powerful content and complex artistic and social meaning - collaboration and quality are key.

Western Edge projects have diverse young people at the centre of the work (young artists, young leaders, young people in communities, young people in schools) Western Edge projects take time, with many projects occurring over months and years, not just weeks. The projects have a long term vision and lasting results.

### 2006 Western Edge projects:

- involved **405 participants**
- collaborated with **6 community partners**
- delivered **1020 contact hours** with young people
- produced **2 documentaries**
- created **5 new works**
- produced **6 new public performances**
- and designed and delivered **3 new training and development programs**

### Toolbox '06

The Toolbox program represents Western Edge's ongoing commitment to training and development for artists, arts managers and emerging young people working in arts and education.

Toolbox has 3 core components - 1. mentoring and training for young people, 2. development and training for our arts professionals and 3. contributing to the growth, education and development of the youth arts and education sector.

In 2006 Toolbox ran a six week free training program for young people in project creation from planning, management and marketing to risk assessment and how to write a grant application. Toolbox mentored 2 young emerging artists and 2 young artists in schools. The program delivered professional development to teachers, and an industry educational film showing and forum.

Toolbox supported the Australia Council 'Flying Start' mentorship of General Manager Heather Marsh to Brisbane and Adelaide and in early 2007 Toolbox will launch its annual artist training and induction day and plan for the bi-annual artist's residency.

**Toolbox '06** delivered mentoring to **4 young people** supported the training of **8 arts professionals** and delivered an arts/education forum to **40 industry professionals**, ran a training course for **6 emerging artists**, and provided **governance training** to our **6 board members**.



### Explosion '06

Explosion, a dynamic youth mentoring program aimed at young artists who want to be in the driver's seat, was piloted in 2006 and will continue in its second year in 2007.

Young people were invited to devise an artistic concept and pitch it to a selection panel. 2 young artists were selected for development through Explosion '06. They were matched with professional arts mentors who supported them to create and develop their work culminating in a public showing.

Explosion '06 exceeded every expectation by inspiring and involving friends of the young artists in the performance showings and drawing a large and appreciative crowd to support and enjoy the work of emerging artists

Explosion '06 involved mentorship + creative development + performance with 5 culturally diverse young and emerging artists aged 16 - 22 years.



### Frontier 06 (Disaster and Beauty Show)

Disaster and Beauty was a spoken word, v-jay and d-jay creative development, leading to a performance at the Braybrook Big Day Out in November 2006. Young people (aged 14-20) from the local Braybrook/Maidstone area generated original poetry, visual images and a selection of accompanying music in a series of workshops. This material was then used to create a live performance.

Disaster and Beauty fulfilled its commitment to innovation by trialling a new form that had synergy in a community context. The spoken-word with dj and vj backing gave the young people a sense of being able to communicate as individuals in a supported environment. By making truthful and beautiful work, Disaster and Beauty contributed to the breaking down of stereotypes of young people.

**Frontier Theatre 06 (Disaster and Beauty)** used **spoken word + hybrid media** through **workshops** with **72 culturally diverse young people** aged **14 - 19 years** to create a **performance** at the Braybrook Big Day Out.



### Chicks Theatre Lab '06

Chicks Theatre Lab addressed the barriers to leadership roles for culturally diverse young women in the arts. The 2006 research phase explored great female characters through interviews by the young women with female role models in the arts and other sectors.

The interviews were also an opportunity for the participants to ask questions about each woman's journey into the arts and their chosen careers.

The research resulted in some wonderful writing by participants, which was presented in June 2006, with a full-performance planned for 2007/8.

We gratefully thank Yumi Umimare, Caroline Lee, Jerril Rechter, Thy Nguyen, Elena Vereker, Vanessa Pigrum, and Aneeta Krishna for sharing their knowledge.

**Chicks Theatre Lab '06** involved **workshops + research + a performance (showing)** with **7 culturally diverse young women** aged **16-26 years**.



### SCRAYP '06

The SCRAYP program (Schools, Community, Research, Arts, Youth Program) delivers innovative models of working with culturally diverse young people in schools. It is widely recognised for its cutting edge practice in arts education.

The aim of the program is to generate powerful learning, through innovative processes leading to performances that are engaging and challenging. SCRAYP develops meaningful partnerships with teachers to generate new educational approaches that connect young people to their peers, school community and wider social community. SCRAYP in 2006 developed new models of practice to impact on a range of curriculum areas including pioneering work in peer education. SCRAYP is the subject of a three-year ARC funded research project with Melbourne University.

In 2006, the SCRAYP program in schools continued its successful 3 year partnership with four schools in inner Melbourne: Debney Meadows Primary School, Kensington Primary School, Kensington Community School and Debney Park Secondary College.

SCRAYP 2006 projects included 'Australian Dreaming-making connections between culturally diverse young people and Koori culture', 'Cooling Conflict- an innovative peer led anti-bullying program, 'Ancient Rome- history and culture explored through theatre', 'Broken Pieces- young people's own stories about race, identity, masculinity, love and death' and 'Graffiti Life- a performance project about the fine line between vandalism and art'.

**SCRAYP '06** program delivered **6 major projects in schools** with **142 culturally diverse young people** creating **5 new performance works** and **2 documentaries** - the DVD school and arts resource 'Who We Are' and Video documentary 'Broken Pieces'. and was the subject of **5 research publications**.



“THIS EXPERIENCE GAVE ME INSIGHT TO MY OWN CREATIVE PROGRESS AS AN ARTIST, A PERFORMER A WRITER A COLLABORATOR. HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT TO AN AUDIENCE THAT WAS BOTH SUPPORTIVE AND RESPONSIVE IS A UNIQUE WAY TO DEVELOP CREATIVE WORK.”

(Chicks '06 participant feedback)

## Chairs Report

2006 has been a particularly exciting year for Western Edge Youth Arts. It has seen this new arts and education entity establish itself as an incorporated body, with an exceptional staff and an excellent board. - new in name and in shape perhaps, but importantly carrying the ten year history of the successful SCRAYP and Y3P programs and the generous nurturing of the Footscray Community Arts Centre's Incubator program.

Western Edge has created itself to be all that its **ten-year legacy** stands for and more; working with young people not only as its former iterations did 'in-schools' or 'outside school', but as an organisation that is committed to youth arts programs in and for the whole community.

The establishment of Western Edge has provided the opportunity to bring to life this **commitment** with a structure that connects the arts and education in the context of young people's real lives- in families, social groups, schools, and as the creators, consumers and future leaders of arts, culture and community. Our two wonderful Artistic Directors, Dave Kelman and Chi Vu have led this exciting conceptualisation of Western Edge Youth Arts.

Both artistic directors' work is importantly informed and enriched by their professional links beyond Western Edge; by Chi's Australia Council fellowship during August/September 2006 which saw her based at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Ireland and by Dave's PhD studies at The University of Melbourne. As well, both directors are constantly and **actively shaping, modelling and evaluating** Western Edge processes and artistic outcomes. The results contribute to a valuable and rich exchange in the ever changing community arts sector.

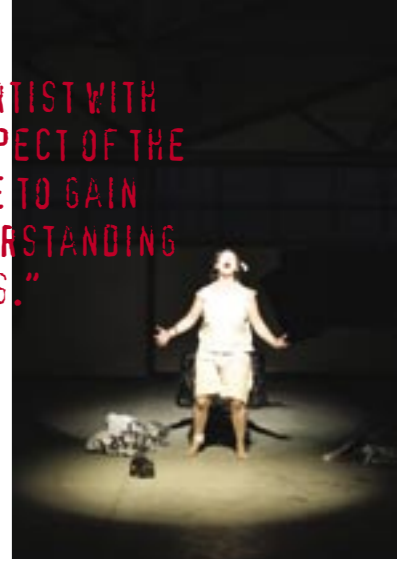
This entire core Western Edge activity is supported by the excellent administrative and financial skills of Heather Marsh, our General Manager, who in 2006 created the business infrastructure of the newly incorporated organisation and Pansy Kwan who has joined the Board as Treasurer. In addition to Pansy, the Western Edge Board has **strong expertise** across the many areas that impact upon an arts organisation in today's climate: legal (Melanie Rice), educational (Gail Crennan), community and ethics (Basil Varghese) and youth arts (David Everist).

It is my pleasure to present this annual report to you and in doing so I commend the exemplary contribution, not only of the staff and Board but of all the young people, teachers and community organisers who have been part of Western Edge during 2006.

**Maureen Ryan,**  
Chair

“DESPITE BEING ONLY 16 AT THE TIME, I WAS TREATED AS AN ARTIST WITH AN IDEA AS OPPOSED TO AN ADOLESCENT. THE MENTORSHIP ASPECT OF THE PROJECT PROVED TO BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, AS I WAS ABLE TO GAIN ADVICE FROM AN EXPERIENCED PERSON, BROADENING MY UNDERSTANDING AND OPENING MY EYES TO DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES AND IDEAS.”

(Explosion '06 participant feedback)



## General Manager's Report

2006, Western Edge's first year out as an incorporated organisation, was not so much a year of beginning as a coming of age. The artistic processes and the philosophies that are at the heart of our practice had seen Western Edge's programs (as Y3P and SCRAYP) in good stead for almost ten years. After ten years though, incorporation was the necessary and natural step for the growing organisation and, like any coming of age, the change brought with it new **challenges, rewards and responsibilities**.

Our achievements for 2006 were diverse and many, but as a fan of brevity and simplicity I'll just give the broad brush strokes:

**Independence** was the ultimate goal for Western Edge in 2006. There were both practical and legal imperatives to lay the operational foundations and put policy and systems in place for long term autonomy and success. The focus across all areas of policy, governance and system creation was on 'getting it right from the start' - being thorough and mindful of the future. In 2006, myself, the artistic directors and board of Western Edge, dedicated intentional and rigorous hours to design systems of **integrity**, that work the way they are intended to and that are consistent with our values and vision.

In 2006 we set up employment systems including payroll, tax, super, work-cover, contracts and position descriptions for more than 21 employees. The board created a finance committee which supported me in making budgets, cash flows, strategic financial plans and finance procedures.

We moved into our own independent office where we set up administrative and communication systems and secured funding to purchase office and project equipment. With the extraordinary efforts and expertise of our board we risk assessed our work practice, produced legal frameworks, secured insurance for the company and board and became registered for deductible gift recipient status.

At the same time as producing these operational necessities, the board and staff devoted substantial time to **planning, development and aligning our practice with our vision and values** by creating a one year, and then three-year strategic plan, conducting board training, supporting me in a 'strategic partnership and planning' mentorship in Brisbane and Adelaide, drafting 'The Guide to the Western Edge' - an all user policy document and recruiting for the 'Youth Action Group' - a program providing leadership and governance training to young people with a view to future board membership.

Creating a **strong identity** for the newly incorporated entity was critical in our first year out, and in addition to the creation of systems and procedures, we communicated the organisational changes to our partners, funders, networks and participants, launched the Western Edge website and rolled out the branding and new logo of Western Edge Youth Arts!

You may think that given all of the above mentioned projects and tasks, there wasn't much time to do anything else in 2006 - yet our artistic directors produced an extraordinary creative program in schools and communities that gave purpose and fulfilment to all of our efforts 'behind the scenes'.

It is a unique opportunity to be part of the creation of a company's business structure from the ground up and it is especially gratifying to be doing that for an organisation like Western Edge. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Tamsin Sharp, for her truly excellent and important work in 2004/2005 and my wonderful board, colleagues, mentors and the inspiring 'WEYA' artists and young people for making 2006 one of the most exciting and satisfying years of my professional life.

**Heather Marsh,**  
General Manager.



“THE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE AMAZING AND HAD NEVER DONE SPOKEN WORD BEFORE THIS PROJECT. IT’S SUCH AN INTERESTING AND FLEXIBLE FORM ENABLING POEMS ABOUT A RANGE OF TOPICS; DISTANT ANXIETIES OF SEPTEMBER 11, FINDING THE PERFECT BOYFRIEND IN BRAYBROOK, AND EXPERIENCES IN CAIRO WHEN YOU’RE A REFUGEE.”

[Frontier '06 • Chick's Theatre Lab '06 • Explosion '06]

## Co-Artistic Director's Report Frontier '06 • Chick's Theatre Lab '06 • Explosion '06

In 2006 Western Edge began an exciting phase in its growth as an independent youth arts organisation.

Our In-Communities Program engendered **artistic leadership, innovation and excellence** in the overall program design. This required setting artistic forms appropriate to the young people involved and the contexts in which the work was created.

Our youth arts projects took into account the cultural and linguistic resources required to work with young people from different backgrounds, specific to the needs and level of experience in art-making of the target participants.

In-communities projects in 2006 were very specifically targeted. Young people in the West represent massive diversity - the geographic, social and cultural groups of young people are **idiosyncratic and multi-layered**. Chicks Theatre Lab (Research Phase) was a program just for young women to explore female characters, Explosion (Dynamic Youth Mentoring), was aimed at emerging artists and Frontier Theatre (Disaster and Beauty) took new media, writing and performance to the multi-cultural Braybrook and Maidstone areas.

The 2006 program provided a **spectrum of artistic approaches**. Access to exceptional artists enabled culturally diverse young people to gain a range of skills, perspectives and approaches to making art, including writing, spoken word, physical theatre, hybrid media, music and theatre-making. Western Edge also continued to make connections with the wider arts sector and a range of community partners and networks in order to stimulate the long-term growth of culturally inclusive youth arts. The range of artistic approaches attracted different segments of young people, and enabled access and equity to the arts- a long term goal of Western Edge for culturally inclusive arts in Australia.

Each project 'on-the-ground' delivered on that commitment by providing workshops to develop young people's artistic skills across a range of disciplines, by providing opportunities for young people to collaborate with experienced artists to create high quality, innovative performances that exhibited Australia's cultural diversity in a new way, and encouraged the development of **young people as artists in their own right**.

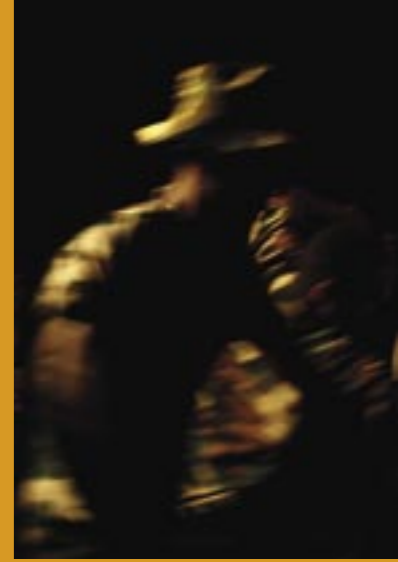
The public performances created through each project attracted new audiences from the Western region and beyond and were critically lauded as engaging, moving and thought-provoking work.

Below is an excerpt from an article on 'Disaster and Beauty' by Chris Kohn in Lowdown Magazine:

*"It is the 'artists' job to confuse the categories of art and life'. One of the things I love most about that broad category of work we call Community Theatre is the fact that, perhaps more than any other category, it operates within a space where life and art are most blurred. Where notions of expertise, mastery and illusion are central to the experience of 'professional' performance, the strength of community theatre lies in the transparency of the work, the fact that the mechanics of the work are visible at all times. The skill of a community arts company is to create or provide a frame through which members of a specific community can express personal experience in a way that is enlightening and entertaining, and of benefit to all participants, in the audience and on stage. It is a credit to Western Edge and its performers that 'Disaster and Beauty' merged form and content to produce a satisfying and life affirming whole."*

I congratulate and thank the artists, young and older for their generous work.

**Chi Vu,**  
Co-Artistic Director.



“IN THE PLAY HABIB SAYS HE HATES HIMSELF. IT’S REALLY POWERFUL BECAUSE SOME MEN HAVE VERY NEGATIVE FEELINGS AND THEY CAN’T EXPRESS THEIR EMOTIONS. FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST BETWEEN FRIENDS CAN HELP MEN CHANGE AND EXPRESS THEIR EMOTIONS AND THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENS TO HABIB.”

[Participant Analysis 'Broken Pieces' SCRAYP '06]

## Co-Artistic Director's Report SCRAYP '06

The SCRAYP program of Western Edge continued its successful partnership with four schools in inner Melbourne: Debney Park Secondary College, Debney Meadows Primary School, Kensington Primary School and Kensington Community School. These schools are remarkable in terms of the cultural and social diversity of their students and families. The voices of these young people are unquestionably from the margins of our society and therefore their dramatised stories are particularly interesting and meaningful, particularly in an Australia which is questioning and re-defining cultural identity.

The scope of the SCRAYP program's work across the four schools in 2006 was significant. As well as devising 5 original performances, the program evolved three distinct arts/education models – the Dramatised Story model: young people telling **stories of importance** to them through drama, the Documentary model: young people using research and documentary theatre to explore narratives based on fact, and the Peer Education model: young people using drama to interact and teach their peers.

The **creation, testing, evaluation and ultimately sharing** of innovative and successful ways of engaging young people in education through the arts is core to the SCRAYP program, as evidenced through the continuing **research** partnership with Debney Park Secondary College and Melbourne University. This research, funded by the Australian Research Council, involves the recording and analysis of many hours of interviews with young people about their work within the SCRAYP program.

As well as delivering projects to young people, Western Edge is committed to **sector development**, which was demonstrated by the SCRAYP program in 2006 through PD training for teachers, the mentoring of two young

artists in education and by hosting a showing of the 'Who We Are' documentary produced in 2006 with a linked forum for arts educators and community arts workers.

SCRAYP ran two projects in Debney Park Secondary College in 2006: 'Ancient Rome' and 'Broken Pieces'. 'Ancient Rome' used the documentary theatre model to work with thirty year-seven students to create a **powerful performance** featuring choreographed gladiator sword fights and factual power-points. *"I didn't know much about Romans before. Yes, it's easier, more enjoyable than just reading and writing. It's more fun so you're more into it. I learned too."* (Young people's feedback, Ancient Rome)

'Broken Pieces' used the dramatised story model to have twenty-two young people tell three different **stories about gender, culture, race and identity**. The result was a sophisticated and challenging piece of theatre that was very well received by young audiences in particular. The program was consolidated by the creation of a documentary film of the play by award winning filmmaker Tamsin Sharp. *"She asked again 'Why are you black?' and for the first time in my life, I wished I wasn't black. Then I looked at my hands and I realize, I can't hide this. So I lean down to her and say, 'Why are you white?'"* (Mendela's monologue from 'Broken Pieces')

SCRAYP ran one project in Debney Meadows Primary School, 'Australia Dreaming' **exploring Australian History**. This project utilized exciting 'process drama' in collaboration with teachers. The exploration was particularly important to the young participants from diverse cultural backgrounds who needed to know about and understand the history of the white colonisation of Australia and start to place themselves in relation to it.



## Co-Artistic Director's Report cont...

Particularly powerful was the young people's movement sequence based on their own poetry celebrating pre-colonisation Koori culture.

*"Earth is their mother/ They lived here 50,000 year ago/ Law is: mother earth, land, respect places/ Stories spoken, through dream-time/ Nurturer is the person that protects you/ Family is the nurturer/ Law is a land/ Everything is connected"*

(Poem about Koori Culture, Debney Meadows Primary School Students)

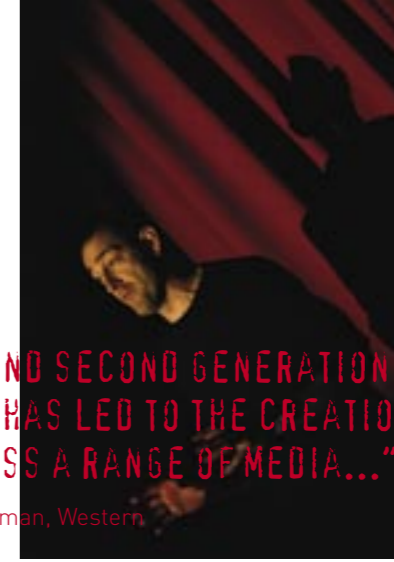
SCRAYP worked on one project in Kensington Community School – 'A Graffiti Life', which used the dramatised story model to produce an exceptional performance about the **lives, loves and concerns** of a group of young 'graffers'. The public performance was acclaimed as being of a high standard and was particularly significant for the young performers who have limited success at school.

*"It matters. Adults don't listen to us or understand us. People don't care. It's good to have it about them (young people), what they feel. That's why we graff so we can have a say."*

SCRAYP implemented a special peer-led, anti bullying project, 'Cooling Conflict' in Kensington Primary School. This innovative program used process drama techniques to explore issues of the use and abuse of power in wider **cultural contexts** using material based on Greek tragedy (Antigone) Greek mythology (The Minotaur) and history (the rise of Nazism). The program then taught a forum theatre based, anti-bullying workshop to young people who then ran it for their peers. This program involved all students in year 4,5 & 6 and was showcased in an interactive presentation to parents that was very well received.

*"I think that people should respect other people's culture and beliefs, instead of teasing them. I thought they were trying to show us what bullying was and everyone was the same no matter what colour the skin, culture and religion. Everyone should be treated the same."* (Student feedback, 'Cooling Conflict')

**Dave Kelman,**  
Co-Artistic Director.



**"THEIR SUPPORT FOR NEWLY ARRIVED AND SECOND GENERATION YOUNG ARTISTS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS HAS LED TO THE CREATION OF NEW ORGANISATIONS AND OUTPUT ACROSS A RANGE OF MEDIA..."**

(Alison Richards in Artwork magazine, 2006 about Dave Kelman, Western Edge Co-Artistic Director and David Everist, Board member)

## The Western Edge Team

### Staff

#### **Heather Marsh , General Manager**

Heather Marsh has worked in community arts since 1993 in both artistic and administrative roles. She has a BA in theatre and qualifications in business management and bookkeeping. In 2006, Heather was awarded an Australia Council 'Flying Start' mentorship in arts/business partnership and strategic financial planning. Outside of Western Edge, she works as a writer and illustrator of works for children and young adults. Heather is also secretary to the board of directors of Western Edge.

#### **Chi Vu, Co-Artistic Director**

Chi Vu is a writer and co-artistic director of Western Edge Youth Arts. She holds degrees in Arts and Commerce from The University of Melbourne. She has worked with a range of arts organisations and diverse community groups since 1996, and has had plays performed at the North Melbourne Arts House, Sidetrack Theatre (Sydney) and The Studio at the Sydney Opera House. She was awarded a literature residency to Ireland by the Australia Council in 2006.

#### **Dave Kelman, Co-Artistic Director**

Dave Kelman has worked for the last twenty years as a community theatre maker and drama educator in Australia and UK. He has toured nationally with his own award winning TIE company Dog Theatre and pioneered hip hop theatre in UK and Australia. Dave co-founded SCRAYP in 1996 and has created original performances throughout the West. He is also a researcher completing a PhD in drama education at Melbourne University.

### Board

#### **Maureen Ryan, Chair**

Maureen Ryan is a professor in the School of Education at Victoria University. Maureen is committed to collaborative and community focussed teaching and research. In her work she continues to explore especially the relationships between youth, education and community, the partnerships possible, the skills and understanding that people working to create and build partnerships need and the particular ways in which arts and activity based projects can enable these things to happen.

#### **David Everist, Deputy Chair**

David has worked in various capacities making art within a community context for over 20 years. Since starting work at Footscray Community Arts Centre in 1992 his role has changed considerably as the organisation itself has changed. Over this time he has developed and consolidated his skills as a CCD artist, facilitator, arts administrator and theatre director. He is currently the Program Coordinator for Footscray Community Arts Centre.

#### **Pansy Kwan, Treasurer**

Pansy Kwan graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong with an Honours Degree in Business Administration in 1980 and is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered & Certified Accountants of United Kingdom, a Fellow of CPA Australia and a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is also a qualified Educator and Council Member of the Gerson Lehrman Group, Accounting & Financial Analysis Research, USA. On the CPA Director register and recruited through the BoardBank program of Australia Business Arts Foundation, Ms Kwan joined the Board as a Treasurer in July 2006.

"I HAVE LEARNT THINGS BESIDES ACTING AND DRAMA. I HAVE ALSO LEARNT THINGS ABOUT MYSELF AND WHAT I CAN DO IF I REALLY AIM MYSELF FOR IT...I HAVE ALSO LEARNT ABOUT CHOICES I WILL HAVE TO FACE IN THE FUTURE AND I HAVE BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE RIGHT CHOICES I CAN MAKE."

(SCRAYP Program, participant feedback)



## The Western Edge Team cont...

### Melanie Vedig, Legal Expert

Melanie is a lawyer who has experience in general commercial litigation and now currently works in media law. She has also worked on many pro bono projects including conducting consultations with community groups and preparing submissions on behalf of the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) in support of a Victorian Charter of Human Rights. She currently regularly attends the Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (VACRO) on behalf of the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH), an independent not for profit legal referral service, and meets with clients and provides legal advice.

### Gail Crennan, Educational Expert

Gail is an English and ESL teacher at Debney Park Secondary College. She began teaching there 27 years ago, but left to travel; to have two children; and (for a 10 year period) to teach at and then manage a transitional setting for newly-arrived, non-English Speaking, secondary age students. She has always enjoyed doing drama with her students, because she sees that it promotes- among other things- fun and engagement, confidence and connection, and the acquisition of language. She collaborated with Dave Kelman and his SCRAYP artists on drama projects at Debney Park in 2004/5.

### Basil Varghese, Ethics and Social Justice Expert

For over three decades Basil Varghese has been dedicated to working with and for the disadvantaged in Australian society. Basil is committed to building awareness and understanding about the reality of poverty and disadvantage, so that we can better work together to create a fairer and more compassionate society for everyone. Since 1988 Basil has worked with the Brotherhood of St Laurence as their Education Coordinator & Ambassador.

## Artistic Team

Western Edge had a highly skilled artistic team for 2006, representing not only diverse arts practices, but diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and emerging artists.

### In Communities Team:

**Naomi Steinborner, Sandra Long, Emile Zile, Eleanor Butt, Elissa Goodrich, Toula Filokostas, David Nguyen & Dale Packard.**

*In Communities Emerging Artists:*

**Priscilla Weaver, Emily Johnston.**

### In Schools Team:

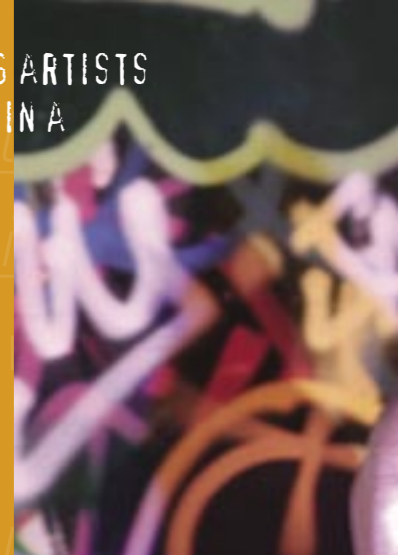
**Daryl Pellizzer, Jo Trevathan, David Nguyen, Tilbor Gede.**

*In Schools Emerging Artists:*

**Kris Juresko, Jo Pires, Alex Athanasiadis, Faten Mohammed and Kylie Gal.**

"THE PROJECT PROVIDED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR EMERGING ARTISTS TO TRIAL, TEST, DEVELOP AND ENHANCE THEIR ARTISTIC IDEAS IN A CONTEXT THAT ENCOURAGES ARTISTIC AUTONOMY."

(Explosion '06 Mentor feedback)



## Publications

Western Edge in Public Documents:

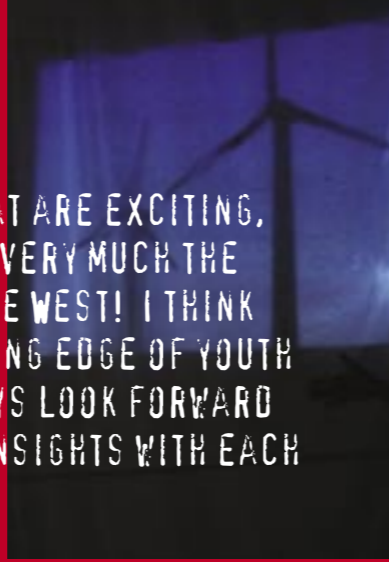
- **SCRAYP '04** • *Evaluation of School-based Arts Education Programmes in Australian Schools*, by Bryce et al. Australia Council for Education Research 2004
- **SCRAYP '06** • *Strengthening Local Communities. Arts in Community Settings. The Evaluation of Two Community Support Funded Arts Programs*. Arts Victoria Report 2006
- **SCRAYP '06** • *My Story/Our Stories: Growing and Connecting Through Enacted Stories*. Drama Australia Journal (refereed) Donelan, Kelman, O'Brien. 2006
- **SCRAYP '05** • *My Story/Our Stories: Growing and Connecting Through Enacted Stories. A Study of Young People's Performances in Schools*. A report to Vic Health by Kelman, O'Brien, Donelan. 2005
- **SCRAYP '06** • *Complex Messages: The Construction of Social Meaning in Young People's Theatre*. In Balfour and Somers Eds. Drama as Social Intervention. Captus Canada. 2006
- **SCRAYP '06** • *Rapa Nui*. In MASK – The Journal of Drama Victoria. Kelman. Winter, 2006.
- **Frontier Theatre '06** • *Disaster and Beauty* Chris Kohn. Lowdown review, February 2007.
- **Western Edge Youth Arts** *The Field in Victoria 2006* Allison Richards. Artwork Issue 64, June 2006.
- **Western Edge Youth Arts** *Open Dialogue: An Interview with Chi Vu* Ben Seifu The Nic of Time, Hybrid Edition, 2006.

Publications by Western Edge – available by request.

- **'Who We Are'** - DVD documentary resource for Teachers and Arts Educators, 2006.
- **'Broken Pieces' ('VIVA • HABIBI • PROOF')** - Short DVD documentary of the performance work created by Debney Park Secondary Students in the SCRAYP program, 2006, Tamsin Sharp, film-maker.

"WESTERN EDGE PRESENTS SHOWS THAT ARE EXCITING, INNOVATIVE AND UNIQUE REFLECTING VERY MUCH THE HEART OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN THE WEST! I THINK THAT WESTERN EDGE ARE AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF YOUTH THEATRE AND YOUTH ARTS AND I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR SHOWS AS THEY BRING NEW INSIGHTS WITH EACH PRODUCTION".

(Lian Low, freelance writer and audience member '06)



## Financial Reports

### Director's Report

The board of management is pleased to present their report on the financial results of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc (the Association) for the period since incorporation of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2006 (the Financial Year).

The members of the board of management at the close of the financial year were:

Maureen Ryan	Chair
David Everist	Deputy Chair
Pansy Kwan	Treasurer
Heather Marsh	Secretary
Melanie Rice	Ordinary Member
Basil Varghese	Ordinary Member
Gail Crennan	Ordinary Member

### Principal Activities

During the year, the principal activity of the Association was to provide positive arts and performance experiences to culturally diverse young people in the Western region of Melbourne. In order to achieve this objective, the Association established and now acts as trustee of the Western Edge Youth Arts Donation Fund.

### Operating Result

During the year under review, the Association received funding to carry out its objectives and income from project delivery fees and performances and achieved a financial surplus of \$28,987.

### Changes in State of Affairs

In the opinion of the Board, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Association that occurred during the year under review not otherwise disclosed in this report.

### Events Subsequent to Balance Date

No matter or circumstance has arisen since the end

of the financial year which is not otherwise dealt with in this report or in the financial statements, that has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association, in subsequent financial years.

### Board Member Benefits

No Board member or office bearer of the Association has received or become entitled to receive a benefit of any description during the year, other than as noted in the Notes to the accounts.

### Indemnification of Officer Bearers and Board of Directors

The Association has not during or since the financial year in respect of office bearers, directors of the board or auditor of the Association, indemnified or made agreements to indemnify against liabilities against those persons.

Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. has paid premiums for insurance policies covering the liability of all current directors and officers of the company.

### Auditor

Kimberly Smith, registered company auditor, was appointed auditor of the Association in accordance with the Constitution and the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria)

### Likely Developments and Expected Results of Operations

The members of the board do not foresee that the Association will undertake any change in its general direction during the coming financial year. The Association will continue to pursue its financial activities, including those of the Western Edge Youth Arts Donation Fund, to produce the most beneficial result to its members and donors.



## Financial Statements

### Statement of Financial Performance- Western Edge Youth Arts Inc.

#### Income from Ordinary Activities

Earned Income	
Box Office and Merchandise	\$1,567
Workshop + Project Fees	\$21,500

Sponsorship and Gifted Income	
Donations	\$500

Granted Income	
Federal Grants	\$47,165
State Grants	\$86,842
Philanthropic and Other	\$2,288

**Total Income** **\$159,862**

#### Expenses

Salaries Wages + Fees	
Artistic Direction	\$23,441
Business + Administration	\$15,792
Creative+Technical Personnel	\$49,681
Oncosts, Fees, Allowances	\$20,634

Program + Production	\$9,252
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Documenting + Marketing	\$6,237
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Admin + Infrastructure	\$5,838
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**Total Expenses** **\$130,874**

**Surplus for Year** **\$28,987**





## Financial Statements

### Statement of Financial Position- Western Edge Youth Arts Inc.

#### Current Assets

Bank + Cash	
Bank Ordinary	\$100,024
Bank Donation Fund	\$454
Petty Cash	\$100

Accounts Receivable	
State Grants	\$36,949
Merchandise Sales	\$32

**Total Current Assets \$137,559**

#### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$702
Grant Accruals	\$75,500
Employee Entitlements	\$21,936
Other Liabilities	\$8,435

**Total Current Liabilities \$106,573**

**Net Assets \$30,987**

#### Equity

Opening Balance	\$2,000
Net Income (Surplus)	\$28,987

**Total Equity (Accumulated Funds) \$30,987**

## Financial Reports

### Auditor's Report

To the members of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc.

I have audited the Special Purpose Financial Report of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. (the Association) for the financial year ended 31 December, 2006 comprising the Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Notes to the Financial Statements. The Committee of Management is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the constitution of the Association and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the constitution of the Association. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance of this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether in all material respects the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with

the accounting policies described in the Supplementary Information to the financial statements. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the Special Purpose Financial Report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements the financial position of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. as at 31st December, 2006 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.

**Kimberly Smith, FCA**  
Registered Company Auditor.

20 April, 2007,  
Kew Victoria.



## Financial Statements

Notes to the Financial Statements Year Ending  
31 December 2006

### Reporting Period

This annual report is presenting financial statements for the six month calendar period from July 1st to December 31st, 2006

Footscray Community Arts Centre (FCAC) managed and was legally accountable for funds pertaining to Western Edge Youth Arts activities up until June 30th, 2006. Western Edge became financially independent as of July 1st, 2006.

### Scope and Method

The financial report of Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. has been prepared as a special purpose financial report for the information of the members of the Association. The Board of Management has adopted this method of presentation as they consider that many of the Australian and International Financial Reporting Standards are not relevant for the purpose of reporting on the activities of the Association for the financial year. The financial report is not affected by the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IRFS) into Australia; however this report complies with those standards to the extent considered relevant to this Association.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Historical Cost Convention.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used.

### Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax by virtue of Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act. The Association has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a tax concession charity. *The Western Edge Youth Arts Donation Fund* has been endorsed as a deductible gift recipient.

## Acknowledgments

Western Edge would like to thank the following organisations for their invaluable support and partnership:

Footscray Community Arts Centre  
Australia Council for the Arts  
Arts Victoria  
Department for Education and Training  
ANZ Charitable Purposes  
Melbourne 2 Cluster of Schools.  
Braybrook Big Day Out Festival  
Vic Health  
Department for Victorian Communities

And the following individuals for their generous time, expertise and efforts:

### Business '06

Pro-bono finance professionals Elizabeth Tachjian of Calculated Actions, Damien Clancy, accountant and Kimberley Smith auditor  
'Flying Start' mentors Brian Tucker, Jessica Machin, Jason Cross, Tricia Walton and Georgie Davill, Sarah Masters, Debbie Pearson, Jerril Rechter, David Everist and Darren Gee of Footscray Community Arts Centre and Sharman and Sue from the Happy River Café Tamsin Sharp, all-round legend..

### Frontier '06 (Disaster and Beauty)

John O'Leary, Kathleen Mitakakis, Ariel Verona, Rod from Recwest, Kha Tran, Grace and Sue at Braybrook Community Centre, Paola Bilbrough at Melbourne City Mission, Peter Dagleish, and Dayanne from WYPIN.

### Explosion '06

Rob Appleton, James Dwyer, Hoang Nguyen, Anne Harris, Maria Weaver (we love your cooking!), Kath Melbourne. Elena Vereker.

**"THE POETIC NATURE OF THE FINAL PLAY. THE BRAVE PERFORMANCES FROM MANY OF THE CAST. THE FACT THAT THE STORIES CAME FROM THE CAST – AMAZING STORIES"**

(Audience Feedback 'Broken Pieces' SCRAYP '06)

### Chicks Theatre Lab '06

Yumi Umimare, Caroline Lee, Jerril Rechter, Thy Nguyen, Elena Vereker, Vanessa Pigrum, and Aneeta Krishna

### SCRAYP '06

Sam Hoffman, 'Kay Headland, Wendy Hill, Louise Holley, Deb Stone, Stuart Andrews, Michael O'Brien, Mark Ryan, Terese Healey, Kate Donelan, Angela O'Brien.

Western Edge work in 2006 was photographed by John Somes and Carla Gottgens. Promotional design for shows during 2006 was created by Hoang Nguyen. This report has been designed by Rachel Madden.

### Western Edge Youth Arts

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