

4. South East Arts Region: 2008 achievements and Service Agreement

A brief outline of South East Arts Region (SEAR) organisation's achievements for 2008 and a copy of the 2008/2009 service agreement are provided for information.

Group Manager Community and Relationships

BACKGROUND

10 Since 2001, as part of a consortium of five Councils, Bega Valley Shire Council has provided financial and in-kind support to the South East Arts Region (SEAR) group. The organisation aims to increase the social and economic well-being of the South East region by supporting a dynamic, creative activities and partnerships that foster, strengthen and promote the region's cultural life. The other partner Councils are Bombala, Cooma-Monaro, Eurobodalla and Snowy River.

ISSUES

Policy

20 During 2008, SEAR successfully prepared numerous grants for cultural organisations in the Shire. Most prominent was the significant financial support provided to Fling Physical Theatre, Bega through Arts NSW. Other successful funding applications include Four Winds Festival events, the Far South Coast Living Artist project, NIDA workshops for Spectrum Theatre (from the Mumbulla Foundation). Other key activities included support for the tour of the *Grimstones* (a school age puppet show) and a SEAR managed grant for an indigenous Art Co-ordinator for the region. A weekly arts segment of ABC Radio, regular network meetings and the development of a SEAR website has improved communication and promotion of arts activities in the Shire.

Andrew Gray was appointed the Executive Officer for SEAR in July 2008. He took over from Jen Hunt, the inaugural staff member. The timing of the presentation of the agreement, which was presented to Council in December 2008, relates to the SEAR Board decision to delay a final rewrite of the agreement until Andrew had established a sense of the area and the organisation.

Economic

30 Cultural activities and cultural tourism are potentially a significant contributor to the economic profile of the area. Whilst there is some product development in the cultural industries considerable work still needs to continue to reach the potential. SEAR provides an excellent, low cost opportunity for progressing this

Financial

40 The current triennial funding commitment to SEAR by the State Government through Arts NSW expires in 2009. Council provides a financial contribution of \$20,000pa (pro rata) and in-kind support by the provision of an office for two staff members including telephone, facsimile and computing facilities. The office has recently been moved to the Regional Gallery providing greater co-ordination and public access to the cultural community.

The on-going viability of SEAR is contingent upon continuing funding from this partnership of local and State governments.

Resources (including staff)

The Cultural Services Co-ordinator oversees the relationship with SEAR and with Gallery staff, routinely liaise with SEAR staff on a variety of projects.

Cr Hughes is Council's nominee to the SEAR Board.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

50 SEAR was instrumental in the consultation process for the development of the 2006-2011 Cultural Plan and is a key element of cultural development in Council's Operational Plan.

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the key achievements and directions for the SEAR and recommends that Council note the 2008/09 service agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note South East Arts Region (SEAR) organisation's achievements for 2008 and its 2008/2009 service agreement.

SEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT 2008-2009

60 In delivering the core services to Bega Valley Shire Council during this period, the following duties will be undertaken to the level indicated. It is also noted that in working with the communities of the Bega Valley, Council has also requested that emphasis is given to:

- the development of cultural tourism
- development of community managed facilities
- continued assistance in securing additional financial support from public and private sources.

Specific Services for Bega Valley Shire Council

- 70 1. SEAR will provide promotional support for arts and cultural activities in the Bega Valley Shire through all of our existing avenues, including but not restricted to the SEAR quarterly newsletter, mailout inserts, RANSW arts database, media coverage including the weekly ABC South East Radio arts segment, web calendar updated weekly, email campaigns and promotion to the state arts networks.
2. SEAR will provide project management for the Indigenous Arts Development Project.
3. SEAR will provide a representative to the Gallery Exhibition Sub-committee and provide advice to the assessment process for the Mumbulla Foundation as required.
- 80 4. SEAR General Manager will meet with the Cultural Services Coordinator, on a monthly basis to report on SEAR activities.
5. Advise and assist with the integration of planning within the Social and Cultural Planning review.
7. SEAR will take a leadership role in developing future options for regional performance/training facility.
8. SEAR will present a program of live performance, where possible collaborating with existing networks/ presenters.