



CONTENTS

About Midsumma	4
Who Are Our Audiences?	6
Chair's Report	8
2023 Midsumma Festival Highlights	10
2023 Economic Overview	12
Our Partners	13
2023 Midsumma Festival Overview and Highlights	14
- Midsumma Carnival	18
- Midsumma Pride March	22
- Victoria's Pride	24
- Regional Activation Program	28
- Midsumma X Ignite Melbourne	30
- Midsumma Presents	32
- Open Access Program	44
Midsumma Pathways	46
Our Reach	48
Treasurer's and Financial Reports	52
Our People & Patrons	68
Appendix	70

Cover image: Artwork by Jack Lee. Image shows: Ayman Kaahe, D Flowers, Shin, Aamer Ahmed, Jenna Lee, Marisa Mu and Thihoa Gill.

Image left: SINK - Simona Castricum X Carla Zimbler. Photo by Suzanne Balding

MIDSUMMA

Midsumma is Australia's premier LGBTQIA+ arts organisation, for and by communities who live with shared experiences around diverse gender and sexuality.

Midsumma is passionate about making the many diverse queer communities in Victoria more visible, more effectively interconnected, and to provide a platform for cultural voices and stories that are often not heard otherwise in the broader community. Midsumma intrinsically creates safe and inclusive places for communities, with diversity at its very core. We know when our communities feel safe and supported, they are able to build stronger connections within their own groups and wider communities.

We work year-round to support our diverse queer communities in Victoria, providing artists, social-changers and culture-makers with support and tools to create, present and promote their work.

There are nine strategic focuses that include increasing engagement with First Nation communities, young people, families and seniors, as well as extending our work with disability communities.

Our three-week festival is held in summer each year, with an explosion of queer events that centre around hidden and mainstream queer culture, involving local, interstate, and international artists. Our festival program comprises a curated Midsumma Presents line-up plus the community-driven Open Access stream, to share with you the lived experiences of

those voices at the margins, the expression of queer history, and the celebration of new ideas and stories that come to life through world-class art and performance. Each year, the program is made up of diverse art forms and genres, including visual arts, live music, theatre, spoken word, cabaret, film, parties, sport, social events, and public forums.

A clear curatorial vision underpins all Midsumma's programming, with a focus on defined strategic priorities and a goal to strengthen the creative voices of LGBTQIA+ communities whilst developing our leadership position.

Because of this, Midsumma has two clear objectives:

- **To be the leadership arts organisation cultivating queer arts culture unique to Australia with local, national and international engagement, leading LGBTQIA+ cultural conversations.**
- **To be an artistic powerhouse investing in diverse LGBTQIA+ artistic voices to develop powerful new work, across disciplines, that inspire, share unique stories, and build meaningful connections spanning all cultures, age/generations, gender/sexual identities and disability.**

It is the aim of Midsumma that the activities we undertake and events we produce will have long-term cultural and industry impact beyond immediate KPIs and outcomes.

Image: Lemon Tree on Dreg Street by Amy May Nunn.
Photo by Tan McCulloch



WHO ARE OUR AUDIENCES?

Sexuality Diversity

Gay	33%
Heterosexual	17%
Queer	13%
Lesbian (up 8% on 2022 results)	12%
Bisexual (up 8% on 2022 results)	11%
Pansexual	5%
Asexual	3%
Other/prefer not to say	6%

Gender Diversity

Female (up 19% on 2022 results)	44%
Male	41%
Gender non-binary	9%
Transgender (up 50% on 2022 results)	3%
Prefer not to say	1%
Agender/No gender	<1%
Other	1%

Diversity (other than sexuality or gender)

35% of those surveyed also answered the following questions. Of them:

23%	15%	35%	17%	2%
living with a mental health issue	autistic/neurodiverse	identifying as disabled, Deaf/hard of hearing or neurodiverse.	culturally diverse or Person of Colour	of audiences identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, First Nations, Bla(c)k, Indigenous

Household Structure

35%	33%	14%	18%
Partnered	Single	Share house	Family

Age

31%	22%	16%	12%
25-34 year olds	35-44 year olds	45-54 year olds	18-24 year olds

8%	2%	3%	3%
55-64 year olds	65 and over	12-17 year olds	0-11 year olds

Income (per annum)*

55%	19%	11%
\$80,000+	\$40,000 – \$80,000	Under \$40,000

Residence

85%	8%	4%	3%
Melbourne	Outside Metro Melbourne	Interstate	International

\$22.16 million

Economic impact for the state of Victoria. According to independent analysis the festival provided a direct economic impact of \$22.16 million, with the broader gross economic impact of the 2023 festival to the State's economy estimated at \$62.71 million.

CHAIR'S REPORT

In my remarks for Midsumma's Annual Report in 2022, I expressed optimism about the future of Midsumma with our newly invigorated Board, and the success of the 2022 Festival and our year-round programs.

The results of the past year have greatly justified and extended that optimism, and it is to be hoped that the particular program delivery difficulties faced by Midsumma as result of the COVID-19 pandemic are now behind us. There is so much to celebrate and to be proud of.

Midsumma's strategic decision to expand its footprint around the State to encourage artists and audiences in rural and regional areas to celebrate with their urban counterparts, has resulted in collaborations with local creatives and event producers all over the State, which has led to the delivery of local LGBTQIA+ festivals and events in places where such celebrations had never been seen.

Pathways, Midsumma's year-round mentorship program for artists and creatives living with a disability, is now 6 years old, and many of its alumni are working professionally in mainstream theatre, music and other art forms. Midsumma can be rightly proud of these programs, which nourish LGBTQIA+ arts, and produce artists confident in presenting their works to both queer and mainstream audiences.

After three years of COVID restrictions and the caution and wariness that followed, in 2023 our community responded by coming out (pun intended) in huge numbers to shake off their blues and ready to party!

The 2023 Midsumma Festival broke records in almost every department: we had the largest ever attendance at Midsumma Carnival; record numbers of participants at Midsumma Pride March, in terms of numbers of groups marching, numbers of people marching overall, and those watching the parade as it purposefully and joyously wandered down Fitzroy Street St Kilda, culminating in a hugely successful concert in Catani Gardens. In addition, more tickets to shows and exhibitions were sold than in any previous year, with many artists and producers enjoying sellout seasons.

Midsumma's own signature program for the festival, A Safe(R) Space, was hugely successful, with artists from all branches of the arts writing, performing, curating and producing works delivered to highly appreciative audiences, some performances receiving 5 star reviews in mainstream city media.

The festival ended with a free street party in Fitzroy/Collingwood, again funded by the Victorian Government and now called Victoria's Pride. This year built on the first event in 2022 (previously named Melbourne Pride), with more diverse performers, and participants in the tens of thousands. It was a thrilling experience to stand on the Smith Street stage and look down Smith Street unable to see the end of the crowd. It is also thrilling to have the Victorian Government join with Midsumma to produce Victoria's Pride until at least 2026.

In addition to the usual annual awards presented during the Festival, such as the Midsumma and Australia Post Art Award, and Queer Playwriting Award in partnership with Gasworks, a new prize, co-sponsored with the wonderful Homophonic!, was for

music composition, meaning that LGBTQIA+ artists and creatives in most fields of the arts will now be recognised for their expertise and professionalism, and will occupy spaces where their works will be seen, watched, heard and otherwise experienced.

Midsumma's success would not be possible without the support of our many sponsors, the Victorian Government, City of Melbourne, Creative Victoria and NAB; our seemingly indefatigable staff and volunteers led by our CEO, Karen Bryant, and of course the amazing work of the LGBTQIA+ arts community supported by audiences and participants from every kind of intersectional background imaginable. On behalf of Midsumma's Board, I thank you all for helping to make Midsumma Australia's leading LGBTQIA+ arts organisation. I await the next year with great excitement and eager anticipation!

Judy Small AM
Midsumma Board Chair



2023 MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our Audiences

306,820

recorded attendance for Midsumma Festival. Rebounding from COVID stronger than ever with an overall growth of 66% since 2017 and 46% return to growth since lowest COVID-impacted numbers. Midsumma consistently records one of the highest attendances each year for festivals in Victoria, averaging more than 261,000 attendees per year for the last three years.

68%

returning audiences; 32% new audiences. On average in 2023, attendees went to 3 shows each during Midsumma Festival. 8% of attendees attended 6-9 shows on average, and 4% attended 10 or more shows over the festival period.

\$191

average spend per person at the Festival and in the local area (14.4% increase on 2022 results).

12%

of 2023 audiences identify as transgender/gender diverse (increase of 50% since 2021) and 2% identify as intersex.

65%

growth over two years in audiences that identify as having a disability. 35% of total attendees in 2023 self-identified as having a disability, being neurodiverse, or Deaf/hard of hearing. A further 4% of audiences identified as carers for people with disability.

74%

of attendees said they had an excellent experience at Midsumma, with 98% rating their experience at Midsumma as either Good or Excellent.

Midsumma Carnival 2022.

Our 2023 Program

240 Events

Total events held within Midsumma Festival 2023, a 24% increase over our previous largest-ever festival.

31.7%

of events were free to attend or participate in. Over the past four festivals Midsumma has averaged 35.6% of events being free to participate in or attend. This has resulted in an increase of attendance in audiences with lower income.

Box Office

Record ticket sales/box office income achieved in 2023 with an increase of 96% since 2017. 100% of income goes back into the hands of artists and producers.

\$29.30 120%

Average ticket price

Auslan/AD

increase in direct Auslan interpretation and audio description services over the past six years.

Our Online Communities

3,134,530

total social media reach (168% increase on 2022 results). 61,835 total followers across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tik Tok and LinkedIn (13.5% increase since 2022).

20.34%

increase in social media engagement for 2023. 329% increase since 2019.

1,384,548

page views on the Midsumma Festival website; from 311,777 separate users, during Midsumma Festival 2023. This is a 76% increase of page views since 2022.

40,589,813 media circulation

across various platforms (recorded by external PR agency) - with 1,132 media hits (234.9% increase on 2022 results).

Our Communities' Commitment

460 volunteers

registered for Midsumma Festival 2023. 161% increase on 2022 volunteer numbers and 118% increase in volunteer numbers over five years. Our youngest volunteer was 17 and the oldest was 79 years of age.

1,800 hours

on average, donated by volunteers over 23 days of the Festival.

2023 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

14% ▲

increase in average spend per person attending Midsumma Festival and local areas.

Total income increase of

116% ▲

over 2 years. 31% increase since 2022.

329% ▲

increase in gross box office ticket sales from 2022, 95.7% increase since 2017 and 28% above the highest ever box office income recorded.

759% ▲

increase in earned event income over 2 years. 42% increase since 2022.

45% ▲

increase in donations from the previous year.

117% ▲

increase in corporate sponsorship over 2 years. 30% increase since 2022.

203 FTEs equivalent created

across tourism, transport, retail, food and beverage sectors.

OUR PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



LEGAL PARTNER



PROGRAM PARTNERS



COMMUNITY MEDIA PARTNER

MEDIA PARTNERS





MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 2023

Midsumma Festival took place from 21 January to 12 February 2023.

The Midsumma Festival 2023 program saw 240 separate events occurring over the festival period, the largest number of individual events recorded - **57% increase** on last year's COVID impacted festival and a **24% increase** over our previous largest-ever festival. 34 events from the program were Midsumma-commissioned events in regional areas of Victoria attracting attendances of **40,012** people - a **34.6% increase** on attendance for our regional commissioned events from 2022 figures.

Attendances at the major outdoor events Midsumma Carnival and Victoria's Pride both achieved attendance numbers above previous years. Participants at Midsumma Pride March totaled **14,523** from **349** separate marching groups - the previous highest recorded formally was 10,607 (with 224 groups).

Midsumma Festival had reached record ticket sales (the greatest number of tickets ever sold) before reaching the halfway point of the festival, with **15% of total events sold out** or were at capacity.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Midsumma Festival 2023 saw total attendance of 306,820 people.

Midsumma is a festival that intrinsically creates safe and inclusive places for communities, with diversity at its very core. We know that when our communities feel safe and supported, they can build stronger connections within their own groups and then with other groups they interact with.

Further evidence of our success in meeting objectives from our current strategic plan were particularly evident in the following key performance areas:

Continued significant **growth in audiences** with record attendance in 2023 of **306,820**, patrons, rebounding from COVID impacts

stronger than ever with an overall **growth of 66% since 2017** and 46% return to growth since lowest COVID-impacted number. Midsumma Festival consistently records one of the highest attendances each year for festivals in Victoria, averaging 256,000 attendance per year for the last four years (despite COVID impacts).

Increased presentations of commissioned work in regional and rural areas of Victoria over the last two years. Recorded regional attendances for Midsumma commissioned events totalled 40,012 people - a **34.6% increase** on 2022 figures (the inaugural regional program).

- **Attracting new audiences whilst maintaining ongoing audience loyalty.** The attendance survey data results across multiple years show that Midsumma Festival successfully attracts and then retains new audiences. In 2021, 29% of attendees were new to Midsumma Festival, and 25% in 2022; and for

Midsumma Festival 2023 32% were attending their first Midsumma Festival. In 2023, 40% of attendees went to **an average of 3-5 events** across the festival. 8% of attendees went to an average of 6-9 events. 4% of attendees attended 10 or more events over the period of the festival (increase from previous years).

- **12% of 2023 audiences** identify as transgender/gender-diverse representation (increased from 11% in 2022 and 8% in 2021) and 2% identified as Intersex.
- **17% of 2023 audiences** identify as culturally diverse or a person of colour.
- **Increased attendance by disabled audiences. Over 35% of attendees in 2023 identified as disabled, neurodiverse, or Deaf/hard of hearing** with a further 4% of audiences identifying as carers for people with disability. 15% identified as Autistic/neurodiverse in 2023 and 5% as Deaf/hard of hearing.



Midsumma has recorded a **65% increase** in audiences with a disability over the past three years. Disability access and engagement initiatives continued to be a priority with many new initiatives offered for the first time this year. Midsumma increased its direct Auslan interpretation and audio description services by 120% over the past six years. Midsumma Festival's program guide was provided in multiple formats to maximise accessibility, in collaboration with a range of experienced disability groups and services, delivering multi-layered access and engagement initiatives. See specific access section of this report for further details.

- Significant presence/participation in the festival program from queer disabled artists, PoC, and First Nation artists.
- **Midsumma Festival remains highly accessible.** In 2023, **31.7%** of events were free to attend or participate in. Over the past four festivals, Midsumma has averaged **35.6%** of events being free to participate in or attend. Our audiences survey results also show a significant increase in attendance from low-income community members/families and an overall reduction in annual income from survey representatives.
- Midsumma continued its commitment to commissioning and producing major projects within our festival that are led by disabled, Deaf/hard of hearing artists and communities.
- Consistently increasing social media reach; recording a **13.5% increase in social followers for the 2023 festival period** and an overall **increase of 20.3% in social media engagement** (total activity for festival period of 3,134,530); following a 74 % increase in 2022, and an 85% increase in 2021.

- Culture Counts research recorded that 91% of respondents felt that attending Midsumma helped them feel safe and welcome and 85% said that participation in Midsumma helped them feel more connected to community. 83% said that attending Midsumma had a direct positive impact on their personal well-being. This year's scores indicate that Midsumma Festival events had a strong positive impact on attendees, including vulnerable communities, across a range of important areas. 74% of attendees said they had an excellent experience at Midsumma, with 98% rating their experience at Midsumma as either Good or Excellent.
- Significant economic impact for the state through both visitation of attendees from outside the state and local attendee event spend. 2023 saw a **43% increase on economic impact** from 2022 Midsumma Festival despite limited available financial investment in marketing the event outside of Melbourne. Direct economic impact of the festival for Melbourne was **\$22.16 Million** and broader economic impact of the festival on local economies independently estimated at over **\$62.71 million**.
- Midsumma Festival directly generated an additional 143.1 FTE jobs, including 129 FTEs in the retail, food and beverage and accommodation sectors supported by the spending of attendees in the local area. Culture Counts further states that direct employment figures can be multiplied by the ABS-derived employment multipliers to arrive at the multiplied employment figure created by the impact of the Midsumma Festival of **203 FTEs**. The multiplier reflects employment flow-on effects in the economy from spending that support employment in other event and creative sector areas.



MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL

Midsumma Carnival is the iconic outdoor celebration that opens the three-week festival each year. Carnival has become one of the biggest highlights in Melbourne's LGBTQIA+ annual calendar (absent in 2021 due to COVID-19 and operated at a smaller scale in 2022). In 2023, Carnival was held on **Sunday 22 January**, a huge single day celebration running from 11am until 10pm in Alexandra Gardens in Melbourne's CBD. Midsumma Carnival attracts a broad attendance across age ranges and demographics, seven precincts are located inside the event footprint to cater for diverse audiences: Main and Picnic stage areas; Sports, Youth, and Family precincts.

Daytime programming on both stages was offered to artists and events that registered for the Midsumma Festival's Open Access program, the event spots enabled local artists and producers to promote their Midsumma Festival events to audiences of up to 121,000 people across the day. Performances ran between 5 and 15 minutes each.

Midsumma engaged guest programmer Aamer Ahmed to curate the night time Carnival program on both stages in addition to the selection of emcees across the day. Aamer's ongoing engagement with gender diverse, PoC and BIPOC communities and artists resulted in an extremely high level of representation on both stages at Carnival.

Artists showcased on both stages across Midsumma Carnival:

- 28 Gender Diverse artists
- 3 Trans artists
- 22 PoC artists
- 8 BIPOC artists
- 40 female identifying
- 38 male identifying
- 5 artists with disability

Midsumma Carnival 2023. Image by Nikki Russian Photography

Carnival Main Stage program:

- 11:00am: DJ Tinika
- 12:30pm: Emcee Dandrogyny (A Composting Cabaret)
- 12:40pm: Jinkies, Belial B'Zarr, Randy Roy, The Birthday Girl (DICE - just a taste)
- 12:55pm: Le Freak
- 1:20pm: Melbourne Rainbow Band (MRB @ Pride Centre)
- 1:40pm: Official Proceedings including Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin
- 2:40pm: Homophonic
- 3:00pm: DJ Gay Roberto
- 3:05pm: The Shanties Choir presents: Wet and Wild
- 3:15pm: Brenda Bressed! (An Evening with Brenda)
- 3:30pm: Emcee Lucy Best (Lucy Best Presents Queer Comedy)
- 3:35pm: Nina Ferro (JUDY • AUSTRALIA • 1964)
- 4:05pm: Abril LaTrene (The Big D and Drag Roast'n'Rave)
- 4:20pm: Andy Balloch and Justin Porter (Gays of Our Lives)
- 4:40pm: Peppy Smears (Bowie Ball)
- 5:05pm: Josh Sanders - Le Jazz Hot (Ziegfeld Boy)
- 5:25pm: Max Lawrence (Fountain)
- 5:45pm: Bae Marie (Queer-aoke)
- Emcees: 2Joocee and Nic Holas
- 6:05pm: Adam Noviello and LYNDON
- 6:20pm: Robert Baxter - performer / singer
- 6:35pm: DJ NayNay
- 7:30pm: D Flowers - performer / drag royalty
- 7:40pm: DJ Stereogamous
- 8:35pm: Tilly Capulet and SILK - performers / drag royalty

- 8:45pm: House of Devine - ballroom and JULAI - performer / singer
- 9:00pm: DJ AYEBATONYE
- 9:45pm: Emcees: 2Joocee and Nic Holas
- 9:50pm: Stage closes

The official proceedings commenced at 1.40pm on the Main Stage. Official proceedings included: Chair of the board, Judy Small AM followed by speakers Nina Taylor MP- Representing the Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos, Sally Capp, Lord Mayor, City of Melbourne, and Lance Thornswood, Chief Design Officer from NAB (Principal Corporate Partner of Midsumma Festival).

A Welcome to Country was held on stage by Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin.

Carnival Picnic Stage program:

- 11:00am: Onyx
- 12:35pm: Christopher Fieldus (Devastating Beauty)
- 12:55pm: Darby James (Spunk Daddy)
- 1:10pm: The Rainbow Tree by Fat Fruit
- 1:30pm: S.E. Grummett (Something in the Water)
- 1:45pm: Bella Nitrate (Woman of SALT)
- 2:00pm: Jayden Masciulli, Simon Hawkings and Allen Dorsey (Am I Doing This Right?)
- 2:15pm: Mystic Moira - A Taste of Fruit Cake (Fruit Cake Comedy)
- 3:00pm: Midsumma Dog Show with DJ Mon Franco
- 4:35pm: Kitty Obsidian - NAIDOC Pride Winner 2022
- 4:45pm: Milo Hartill
- 5:00pm: Lip Sync Limelight - hosted by Frock Hudson (Frock Hudson's Storytime Sing-A-Long and Dean Arcuri is Out of this World!)
- 5:45pm: DJ Mon Franco
- 6pm: Emcees: Lazy Susan and Zelda Moon

Midsumma Festival

- 6:05pm: KHYA aka **Mamacity** - performer / singer
- 6:20pm: Jandruze
- 7:20pm: Free Entertainment - performers / band
- 7:45pm: DJ Aqueerius
- 8:40pm: DJ DAWS
- 9:25pm: Emcees: Lazy Susan and Zelda Moon
- 9:30pm: Stage closes

Roving performers:

- 2:10pm-2:40pm: Hazel Bock - circus performance
- 2:50pm-3:20pm: NICA circus workshop
- 3:10pm-3:40pm: Hazel Bock - circus performance
- 3:50pm-4:20pm: NICA circus workshop
- Movement Décor performers around the Midsumma Carnival precinct between 5pm and 8:30pm.

Family Precinct Programming:

YMCA Skate Park

- 12:00pm: 1 hour skateboarding lesson for families
- 12:30pm: 1 hour skateboarding lesson for families
- 1:00pm: 1 hour skateboarding lesson for families
- 1:30pm: 1 hour skateboarding lesson for families
- 2:30pm: lessons finish - staff remain on site until 4pm

Family Precinct Stage -Emcee: PO PO MO CO

- 1:30pm: PO PO MO CO performance and games
- 1:40pm: Em Chandler: fairytale storytelling
- 1:55pm: Liz Reed: Auslan storytime
- 2:13pm: Em Chandler: fairytale storytelling

- 2:28pm: PO PO MO CO performance and games
- 2:38pm: Hazel Bock - circus performance (juggling)
- 2:51pm: The Rainbow Tree - performance
- 2:57pm: Liz Reed: Auslan storytime
- 3:14pm: Em Chandler: fairytale storytelling
- 3:30pm: PO PO MO CO performance and games
- 3:41pm: Hazel Bock - circus performance (juggling)
- 3:55pm: Liz Reed: Auslan storytime
- 4:11pm: PO PO MO CO performance, games, milk dance
- 4:30pm: Family precinct programming ends

The iconic Community Dog Show again took place on the Picnic Stage drawing the largest crowds of the day. Guest Judges for the event were Judy Small AM (Midsumma Board Chair), Todd Fernando (Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities) and community representative Gail Veal.

186 stalls made up the community stalls precinct (109 stalls took part in 2022). Full list of stalls in appendix.

Over **250 volunteers** assisted on the day at Carnival, with a total of 461 volunteers taking part over the three weeks of the festival. The volunteers contributed more than **1,800 hours** over the three weeks of Midsumma.

Marketing and Media Reach for Midsumma Carnival:

PR activity specifically for Midsumma Carnival saw 82 media clips, a PR value of \$662,904, reaching an audience of 1,049,145.

- Total attendances = **121,000** (up 91.3% on 2022 results)
- Total social media reach on the day: **706,000** (up 359% on 2022 results)
- Total inbound social messages: **1,608** (up 101% on 2022 results)
- Total new social media followers on the day: **844** (up 330% on 2022 results)



Image: Photo by Suzanne Balding

MIDSUMMA PRIDE MARCH

Midsumma Pride March is the second major event in the Midsumma Festival calendar. In 2023, Pride March was held on **Sunday 5 February**. This important annual event was in its 28th year and brought together members of the community from across Melbourne and beyond.

Without COVID impacts or limitations, no participant number restrictions, or vaccination certificates, were needed for this year.

The event reached record numbers of both groups registered and total individual march numbers.

The event achieved estimated attendance of participants of 34,523, of these 14,523 being marchers, plus an estimated 20,000 watching along the march route.

Previously the highest number of marchers recorded and verified was 10,607 in 2020 (pre COVID) with numbers dropping to 5,718 in 2021 and 7,792 in 2022 due to COVID impacts. 2023 result was an **86% increase** on last year's participation and a **37% increase** over our highest previous record.

349 separate marching groups took part. The previous highest number of groups registered was 224.

The march is preceded by Dykes on Bikes as per international pride march traditions. Midsumma Pride March itself is led by the Boon Wurrung Elders, Rainbow Aboriginal Float, along with the Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews, and Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities, Todd Fernando.

Groups of young people, often amongst the most vulnerable within our communities, were once again placed towards the front of the march as a positive and strong affirmation for LGBTQIA+ youth. This is a deliberate empowerment strategy employed by Midsumma that signals to other young people they are not alone.

For the third year, Yarra Tram's Pride Tram took part in the march (this tram was also out and about across a variety of tram routes across Melbourne). This was the first year that Midsumma and Yarra Trams collaborated on an artist's public art competition for the design of the Pride Tram 2023.

The onstage post march official proceedings and staged performances were as follows:

For the sixth year Midsumma continued the Midsumma Pride March Awards, intended to encourage colourful and innovative contributions from march participants and for the third year, as part of this, the Most Significant Message Award honoured the memory of Peter Dewildt, Pride March Victoria's first president, who passed away in 2019.

This year's judging panel was made up of Brenton Geyer (community elder and past president of Midsumma), Olly Lawrence (Program Manager Motley Bauhaus, Crystal Nguyen (Current Midsumma Pathways mentorship participant) and Jinkies.

The 2023 Pride March Award winners were:

Most Fabulous:

- WINNER: Pride of our Footscray

Most Innovative:

- WINNER: Liberty Disability Services

Peter Dewildt Award - Most Significant Message:

- WINNER: Union Pride



At the conclusion of the March, parade participants made their way into Catani Gardens for an afternoon of celebration. The Beryls (Laura Trenerry & Patrick Dwyer) were Emcees for the staged proceedings, and they were joined by DJ Alex Morris from 11.40am. Alex played while the march participants entered the gardens until 1.30pm. At 1.30pm, the official proceedings commenced with N'Arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs leading the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony.

N'Arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs was joined by the City of Port Phillip Mayor, Cr Heather Cunsolo.

Cr Cunsolo welcomed everyone to Catani Gardens and wished everyone a happy Pride celebration. Afterwards, The Deputy Mayor, The Melbourne Gay & Lesbian choir took to the stage for a 15-minute set of crowd favourites.

The announcements and presentations of the Midsumma Pride March Awards took place next on stage, after which DJ Jarvis played for 20 minutes. This was followed by a 15-minute set by festival favourite, Milo Hartill and DJ Jarvis returned to the decks to play out the afternoon. The stage closed just after 4pm.

Image: Midsumma Pride March 2023.
Photo by Tan McCulloch

Midsumma Pride March stage performances were comprised of the following:

- 7 gender-diverse artists
- 7 PoC artists
- 12 female identifying
- 12 male identifying
- 3 artists with disability

Marketing and Media Reach for Midsumma Pride March:

Media coverage for Midsumma Pride March was once again very strong, especially from commercial TV stations with evening news coverage on all stations (and multiple-day coverage on SBS online), strong print media and radio coverage and international coverage also.

- Total attendances = 34,523 (90% increase on 2022 results)
- Total social media post reach across the day at Midsumma Pride March (5 Feb 2023) saw 277,000 across Midsumma owned profiles platforms – an increase of 186.84% from 2022 results.
- Total inbound social messages: 1,608 (101% increase on 2022 results)
- Total new social media followers on the day: 365 (155% increase on 2022 results)

VICTORIA'S PRIDE

Victoria's Pride (previously Melbourne Pride) is a Victorian State Government event originally designed to mark the 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality within the state in an effort to support and celebrate Victoria's diverse rainbow communities.

Recognised as an opportunity to build on the State Government's LGBTIQ+ strategy, which guides continued efforts towards achieving equality through legislative reform, policy and inclusive programs, Victoria's Pride continues to build on the success of the first event, by celebrating the vibrance of queer communities beyond the anniversary, with an emphasis on State-wide participation and access. Falling under the Equality portfolio managed by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) Midsumma is delivering Victoria's Pride in partnership with the Victorian State Government for 4 years.

Formally kicking off in November 2022 with a series of lead up activities supported by the Regional Activation Program arm of the project, the festivities culminated in a large-scale, outdoor street party situated within the Ngár-go/Fitzroy and Yálla-birr-ang/Collingwood precinct, on **Sunday 12 February 2023** on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Eastern Kulin Nations.

With a footprint spanning over 1km, the street party event highlights the culturally significant Smith, Gertrude and Peel

Streets and involves multiple outdoor stages that host up to 10 hours of free, live entertainment including music, comedy, guest speakers, circus, drag and art installations.

Welcome to Country

Throughout planning, Midsumma worked closely with Yalinguth, and via the Elders Advisory Board, had arranged for the respected Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Colin Hunter to conduct the Welcome to Country and offer a smoking ceremony at Victoria's Pride. Unfortunately, on the day, Uncle Colin fell ill and was unable to attend. Gunditjmara, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta, Aunty Denise McGuiness.

Victoria's Pride Arts Street Party

Committed to delivering a program that celebrates creative diversity and elevates visibility through broad cultural representation, the 2023 event included more than 250 artists and participants, with many engaged through collaborations or projects commissioned by Midsumma for Victoria's Pride. Headlining artists **Keiynan Lonsdale** and Gumbaynggirr/Dunghutti woman **Casey Donovan** were supported by a wide and multigenerational array of performers comprising local community groups, emerging artists and established practitioners.

SMITH STAGE MCs

- 11:00AM - 3:30PM **Brihony Dawson & Frankie Mazzone** (VicPride Youth Ambassador)
- 3:30PM - 9:15PM **Kween Kong**



Program

- 11:30AM **The Lost Girls***
- 12:40AM **Jess Love - Static Trapeze**
- 1:00PM **Casey Donovan**
- 1:45AM **Adam Malone - Washington Trapeze**
- 2:00PM **shOUT Youth Chorus**
- 2:15PM **Formal Proceedings inc.** The Hon. Minister for Equality, **Harriet Shing**, Midsumma Chair of the Board, **Judy Small**, Midsumma CEO **Karen Bryant**, Yarra City Mayor, **Claudia Nguyen**, Pathways Alumni and Deaf Artist, **Elvin Lam**, Narungga woman, Deaf Artist and advocate, **Joanna Agius** and Youth Ambassador, **Frankie Mazzone.**
- 2:45PM **Lilikoi Kaos - Hula Hoops**
- 2:50PM **Grumble Boogie**
- 3:25PM **Kween Kong**
- 3:30PM **Ruby Slippers**
- 3:45PM **Open Seen**, ft. DJ Mon Franco, Julai, Robert Baxter, Joyce Liu and Chantal Bala
- 4:15PM **Jaguar Jonze**
- 5:00PM **Adam Malone - Hula Hoops**
- 5:30PM **Reuben Kaye**, ft. special guests Michelle Brasier, Siala, Bettie Bombshell, Milo Harthill, Leo Pentland, Betty Grumble
- 7:15PM **Keiynan Lonsdale**
- 8:15PM **Jawbreakers**, ft. Simone Page Jones and The Huxleys
- 9:15PM **Event close**

GERTRUDE ST STAGE MCs

- 11:00AM-
- 11:30AM **Aunty Denise McGuinness**
- 11:30AM-
- 3:30PM **Cerulean Uwu & 2Joocee**
- 3:30PM-
- 9:15PM **Aysha Buffet**

Image: YUMMY. Victoria's Pride. Photo by Suzanne Balding

Program

11:00AM **Welcome To Country**
 11:30AM **Tribute - Uncle Jack Charles***
 11:45AM **Blak Block Party**, ft. Joshua Taveres, LION, Tavonga, DJ Katalyna, RYMS and more*
 1:00PM **Kokonutz**, ft Lilikoï Kaos, Hope One, Alinta McGrady *
 2:00PM **Siala**
 2:45PM **Jess Love - Hula Hoops**
 3:15PM **Banoffee**
 4:15PM **Alter Boy**
 5:00PM **Tongan Cheek**
 5:15PM **Kaiit**
 6:15PM **Chela**, as part of Cool 2B Queer Tour
 7:00PM **Tavonga**
 7:15PM **Cry Club**
 8:30PM **HONŌUR**, ft Samuel Gaskin, Cerulean, Suri and more*
 9:00PM **Stage Close**

Sideshow and DJ Stages:
Queer Move DJ Truck - Gertude St *
 12:30PM **DJ K-Baby** (Yarra Youth)
 2:00PM **DJ Mystic Pixi** (Yarra Youth)
 3:30PM **DJ Lillith** (Yarra Youth)
 4:30PM **DJ Gaydad** (Independent)
 5:30PM **DJ Alex Morris** (Independent)
 6:30PM **DJ Goat Spokesperson**, rep. Folsom Down Under
 7:30PM **DJ Mabel** - arranged by local traders
 8:30PM **Stage Close**

Caravan Sounds DJs - Peel St & Oxford St *

1:00PM **DJ Bec Bartlett**, representing **'Social Disco'**
 2:00PM **DJ Sugar Plump Fairy**, rep. **UBQ**
 3:00PM **DJ OMG Becky**, rep. **The Fox & Beers for Queers**
 4:00PM **DJ Tali**, rep. **Unicorns**
 5:00PM **DJ Dan**, rep. **Vau d'vile**
 6:00PM **DJ TXanthraxx (Luke Agius)** rep. The 86
 7:00PM **DJ Cherumbimbaby**, rep. **ThursGay**
 8:00PM **DJ Lip Service**, rep. **Closet/Gaytimes**
 9:00PM **Stage Close**

Peel St Pride Patrol Performance Trucks *

11:15AM **Q-Lit Open Mic and Poetry** (part of Regional Activation Program by Scratch Arts)
 12:15PM **Grumble Boogie** - Interactive dance session for kids and families
 Followed by spot performances;
 2:00PM **Scarlett So Hung Son**, rep. **UBQ**
 3:00PM **Randy Roy**, rep. **The Fox**
 4:00PM **Ruby Slippers**
 5:00PM **Jemima Handful**, rep. **Vau d'vile**
 6:00PM **Cerulean**
 7:00PM **Bettie Rosé**, rep. **ThursGay**
 8:00PM **Nerfertiti La Negra**, rep. **Closet/Gaytimes**
 8:30PM **Stage Close**

Pride Windows Pop Up Theatrettes*

4 Locations featuring hourly performances.

Rose Chong's Costumes **ft. Rosie Roulette**
 Crumpler **ft. D Flowers** Oigall Projects,
ft. Moxie Delite Grouse Bar, **ft. Ruby Slippers/Betty Grumble**

Upstairs at Smart Alec Hatter
 Featured **Barb Wire**, independently arranged by the shop owners, and **Mama Alto**.

Roving Performers

12:00PM **Punk Emu's - PoPoMoCo**
 12:30PM **Drag King Boi Band - BEEF**
 1:00PM **Moist**
 2:00PM **Skate Odyssey**
 2:45PM **Love Heart Dancers - PoPoMoCo**

3CR Open Broadcast - Smith St and Mason St *

12:00PM **Out of the Pan with Sally Goldner**
 1:00PM **In Ya Face with James McKenzie**
 2:00PM **PX Whanau with Marqy Kitione and Sonja Hammer**
 3:00PM **Queering the Air with Jacob Gamble and Sasja Sýdek**
 4:00PM **Pre-recorded music**

Visual Arts

A stronger interest from Traders to activate their shopfronts provided an opportunity for Midsumma to include more content from the visual arts realm.

- Matto Lucas** Displayed at Crumpler, 87 Smith St
- Matto Lucas** Displayed at Sandpit, 118 Smith St
- Marce King** Displayed at Gabrielle deVietri, 188-196 Gertrude St
- LCI Students** Displayed at Bailey and Nelson, 161 Gertrude St
- ENOKI** Displayed at Rollie Nation, 225-227 Gertrude St
- ENOKI** Displayed at Peel St Projection Wall, 8:30PM - 1:30AM (until Mar 19) *
- Queer-Ways** Displayed at 82 Smith St

* Indicates collaborations or projects commissioned by Midsumma for Victoria's Pride

Marketing and Media Reach for Victoria's Pride:

- Total attendances at Victoria's Pride Street Party = 49,000 (28.9% increase on 2022 attendance figures)
- Total web traffic (campaign period): 45,686 page views (19.1% increase on 2022 results)
- Total social media reach on the day: 387,000 (72.52% increase on 2022 results)
- Total inbound social messages: 891 (14.67% increase on 2022 results)
- Total new social media followers on the day: 232 (321.82% increase on 2022 results)

REGIONAL ACTIVATION PROGRAM OF VICTORIA'S PRIDE

The regional component involved **17 separate projects with 34 individual events** across regional Victoria. Between November 2022 and February 2023, the Midsumma Community Engagement team developed and maintained 20 organisational partnerships to deliver this program, engaging with a broad range of regional, rural and remote communities and individuals. Attendance/participation numbers achieved from regional projects was **40,012**.

As part of the Victoria's Pride broader state-wide program, a series of commissioned projects across Victoria led to public events being held as part of Midsumma Festival 2023. The Regional Activation Program (RAP) is now an all-year-round initiative building capacity within LGBTQIA+ communities all across Victoria for artists and audiences.

During September 2022, the RAP program received 22 expressions of interest for commissions of projects culminating in public events between December 2022 and end of Feb 2023. 68% of these were first-time applicants and 31% returned based on their success during our first year of our RAP program in 2021/2022.

Projects included:

- **Ballarat Frolic Festival presents Summer Frolic**
When: 9 - 12 Feb 2023
Where: At various locations across Ballarat.
By: Ballarat Frolic Festival

- **Gippsland Pride Festival**
When: 12 Jan - 12 Feb 2023
Where: Gippsland (across 6 shires - Latrobe City, Baw Baw, Bass Coast, South Gippsland, East Gippsland, Wellington)
By: Gippsland Pride Initiative Inc
- **Gippsland's Day Out**
When: 11 Feb 2023 12-7pm
Where: Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, Traralgon
By: Gippsland Pride Initiative Inc
- **Greater Shepparton's Road to Pride and Inaugural Pride Ball**
When: 11 Nov 2022 (launch event) - 11 Feb 2023 (Pride Ball & Exhibit)
Where: Shepparton - Shepparton Art Museum (launch), GOTAFE, Greater Shepparton City Council, Library & MEAC (exhibit), The Woolshed @ Emerald Bank (Rainbow Bal)
By: Goulburn Valley Pride Inc
- **IDo Love Queer Disability**
When: 10 Feb - 3 Mar 2023 | 10am-2pm or by appointment
Where: Morwell (PollyannaR Gallery Studio, 211 Commercial Road)
- **My Self: Portrait Series**
When: December 2022 (workshop sessions) - 12 Feb 2023 (exhibition)
Where: Wangaratta (LINE Wangaratta Pride Hub, 18 Textile Ave)
By: LINE Wangaratta Inc.
- **Pop Up Pride 2022**
When: 3 December 2022 11am-4pm
Where: Bendigo (Town Hall, Library, Library Gardens)
By: Bendigo Pride Festival
- **Pride Across the Ages Podcast Season 2**
When: 9 Feb 2023 5:30pm (podcast launch event)
Where: Castlemaine - Goldfields Library (launch event). Access podcast on streaming services.
By: Queer and Now on Main FM 94.9

- **Q-Lit**
Dates: 15 Jan (Ballarat), 21 Jan (Shepparton), 22 Jan (Traralgon) & 12 Feb 2023 (Fitzroy/Collingwood)
Times: 10am-12pm (Primary and high school-aged workshops), 1pm-4pm (Adult and VCE-ages masterclasses), 6pm-9:30pm (Showcase and social mixer)
Where: Ballarat (Sebastapol Library & Ballarat Piano Bar), Shepparton (Shepparton Library & The Aussie Hotel), Traralgon (Traralgon Library) and Fitzroy/Collingwood (Victoria's Pride Street Party)
By: Scratch Arts
- **Queer-ways: Retracing Regional Footprints**
When: Begins Oct 2022, to be presented at Victoria's Pride (12 Feb 2023)
Where: Wodonga, Daylesford, Mildura and Fitzroy/Collingwood (Victoria's Pride Street Party)
By: Queer-ways
- **Queer & Koorie: A Showcase of First Nations LGBTQIA+ Mob**
When: 11 Feb 2023 12-7pm
Where: Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, Traralgon
By: Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
- **Self Created Celebration**
When: 10 Feb 2023 7pm
Where: Dart and Marlin
By: Brophy Family & Youth Services
- **That's Soo Gay!**
When: 26 Jan - 12 Feb 2023
Where: Kyneton (The Old Auction House, 52-56 Mollison Street)
By: Macedon Ranges Accessible Arts Inc
- **The Regional LGBTIQ+ Condition**
When: 25 Nov 2022 9pm
Where: Digital event (broadcast from LaNCE TV Studios, Ballarat)
By: LaNCE TV

- **Trans and Gender Diverse Clothing Swap by TGD Bendigo & Beyond.**
When: 12 Feb 2023
Where: Victoria's Pride Street Party
By: Transgender Victoria
- **Switchboard Travel Bursaries**
When: 5 Feb 2023
Where: Midsumma Pride March
By: Switchboard Victoria
- **Pridefinder: The Rainbow Road Trip**
Where: Across Victoria
By: Helene Thomas & The Wayfinder

Pridefinder Podcast: The Rainbow Road Trip

The Rainbow Road Trip toured to communities within regional and rural Victoria to collect stories about the LGBTQIA+ experience.

The Wayfinder, a mobile touring studio developed by Helene Thomas, met Midsumma and became the "Pridefinder".

In the 45 part series, listeners hear first-hand the successes, hopes, dreams, fears and struggles of diverse members of the community.

The Pridefinder Podcast launched during Pride Month on Friday 2nd June 2023 and is being released on Tuesdays and Fridays in the lead-up to the 2024 festival season.

Photo Essay Project

Midsumma received approval to retain surplus funds from 2022 to be used towards a Photo Essay project documenting venues and events throughout 2022/2023 that have shaped queer performance culture in Melbourne. This material will be used to better profile pre-existing and long-standing events and venues in the leadup and during Victoria's Pride in 2024.



MIDSUMMA X IGNITE MELBOURNE

Midsumma x Ignite Melbourne was a new, once of program for 2023. The program was made possible through the Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund, a partnership between the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne. Ignite Melbourne amplifies Melbourne's best festivals and is a collaboration between Melbourne Fringe, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Melbourne International Jazz Festival, Melbourne Writers Festival and Midsumma.

In 2023, Midsumma X Ignite Melbourne was a wave of large scale interactive public artworks and installations combined with music, performance, and culture across iconic locations in Melbourne CBD, including the lawns of the State Library Main Square, Federation Square, Bourke Street Mall, Alexandra Gardens and Testing Grounds. The new Midsumma X Ignite Melbourne program saw Midsumma host six productions from 11 January – 11 February, running alongside the annual Midsumma Festival.

Midsumma commissioned Melbourne based artists to devise works specifically for public spaces and public engagement - combining a performative element with highly visual public art design.

Projects captivated audiences from a distance, drawing people into engagement with the spaces and encouraging audiences to connect with Melbourne city, after their distance between 2020 – 2022.

Midsumma X Ignite Melbourne program was made up 6 Productions, 13 events, 6 Venues, and 34 artists. The events featured in this program included:

The Valerie Hexhibition – an exhibition of 20 costumes from the dynamic and long-term collaboration between drag artist Valerie Hex and costume designer Tristan Seeborn. **11 Jan at Testing Grounds and 15 Jan at Federation Square - Main Square.**

The Huxleys: Places of Worship – a visual and performance-based installation bringing to life the surreal, glamorous art of The Huxleys. **25 Jan at Testing Ground and 27 Jan at State Library Victoria - forecourt.**

House of Fast Fashun – Participants were invited to create new outfits out of clothing made from textile waste. Craft materials are supplied and designers are on hand to help. Participants were then encouraged to showcase their outfit on the Midsumma Carnival runway which happens every hour on the hour. **22 Jan at Midsumma Carnival - Alexandra Gardens and 14 Jan at Testing Grounds.**

Boi Band Battle Royale – Brunswick East Entertainment Festival's iconic drag king boy bands - Front St Bois and OuttaSYNC - popping up to dance-battle it out for the title of Supreme Boy Band. **24 Jan at Bourke St Mall and 7 Feb at Federation Square - Main Square.**

Snuff Puppets presents Cochlear – a 14-metre inflatable performance installation, Cochlear invites audiences to 'whisper loudly' into the inner ear of the public. **10 and 11 February at Alexandra Gardens.**

When the Human Engine Waits – Award-winning theatre company Rawcus collaborate with renowned projection artist Yandell Walton to bring a new live artwork performed on Melbourne's streets at night to a score played by a live cellist. Expect a deep dive into the fantasies of everyday people encountered on the street. **3 & 4 Feb at State Library Victoria - forecourt.**

Midsumma X Ignite Melbourne's PR campaign was active from Nov 2022 to Feb 2023, with a total of 15 media clips across TV, radio, print and online reaching 148,278 people.

Image: Cochlear by Snuff Puppets. Midsumma X Ignite Melbourne. Photo by Nick Robertson

MIDSUMMA PRESENTS PROGRAM

Midsumma's strategic goals ensure diverse artistic representation and development are central to all the work that we do. Curatorially, a clear artistic vision underpins all of Midsumma's programming, with a focus on our defined strategic priorities, and a goal to both strengthen the creative voices of LGBTQIA+ communities, whilst developing our leadership position at the forefront of LGBTQIA+ artistic development in our region of the world.

Every year Midsumma continues to seek to improve the depth, quality and variety of our own curated program Midsumma Presents, responding to the broad range of our artistic communities and audience demographics and ensuring we play a leadership role in the development of a uniquely Australian queer artists and arts practise nationally.

As a key strategy, recent years have seen Midsumma develop a signature program each year that focuses on the commissioning of a suite of connected new works, and exciting collaborations based around key intersectional areas of our artistic communities which otherwise would not often be part of central artistic conversations.

These leadership projects, alongside all our Midsumma Presents programming, aim to break new artistic ground nationally in the development and profile of diverse artistic expression, focusing on often underrepresented artists and arts practice.

It is the aim of Midsumma that the activities we undertake, and events we produce, have long- term cultural and industry impact beyond just immediate KPIs and outcomes.

This year's signature program **A Safe(R) Space**, brought together all elements of the strategic priority areas of past signature programs across recent years, to reflect on the artistic expression of community and safer spaces (physical, online and emotional) after the significant impacts of COVID years and rising right-wing sentiments against diverse communities.

A SAFE(R) SPACE

Against a backdrop of increasing intersectional tensions within diverse LGBTQIA+ and broader communities, the cumulative impacts of COVID and rising right-wing attacks on our communities, A Safe(R) Space, commissioned and produced by Midsumma, explored artists' perspectives on what defines a safe space for artists and communities.

The following projects formed the program for A Safe(R) Space 2023:

The Body Is More Than This – Midsumma major commission for A Safe(R) Space. Presented by Midsumma Festival, Immigration Museum and Kin Francis. This exhibition showed visual narratives from six artists who identify as gender diverse and nonbinary.

The projected objectives were to:

- create new work from queer, trans and gender-diverse, First Nations people, and PoC (acknowledging that these communities intersect and have been severely affected by the pandemic; they felt the need to come together to create)
- reframe artistic excellence by uplifting community practices into resourced artistic outcomes (presenting an artist-led program focusing on community expectations and goals rather than Western aesthetics)
- focus on recovery, long-term relationship building, peer-to-peer learning and career development.



The exhibition was held at Immigration Museum, and ran from 21 January to 12 February, and was free to attend. The *Body is More Than This* exhibited the following artists:

- **Elijah Money** - a queer Wiradjuri brotherboy who was raised on Kulin Nations where he continues to reside.
- **Caleb Thaiday** - from the Eastern Torres Strait Islands of Mer and Erub and grew up on Yidinji country in Cairns.
- **Indra Liusuari** - a conceptual artist and a student of architecture whose interdisciplinary practice includes audiovisual media, recorded performances, and installations.
- **Luce Nguyễn-Hunt** - an emerging artist and curator with a persisting interest in healing personal and community traumas through a predominantly lens-based installation practice.
- **Ari Tampubolon** - an emerging artist working across filmmaking, performance, and writing.
- **Kin Francis** - an independent artist exploring queer futurity and disobedience through the various lenses of their work as a creative producer, writer, events organiser and DJ.

- **Shin** - an activist, DJ and community storyteller who is passionate about creating a dialogue around intersectional identities that are often overlooked.

Boundless – An arts party held at the Immigration Museum on 25 January to celebrate the launch of the exhibition *The Body is More Than This*. Presented by Midsumma Festival, Immigration Museum and Kin Francis. Performances were by:

- **Cerulean** - the current reigning Miss First Nation 2021.
- **Mora Money** - Trans Wiradjuri babe, serving camp clown chaos.
- **Miss Cairo** – cabaret artist and founding Director of The People of Cabaret.
- **KSMBA** - Naarm based classical musician turned DJ.
- **Tinika** - Naarm-based DJ with distinctive taste and adventurous track selection.

Stranger Than Usual – New major work commissioned 2020-2023 by Midsumma. This project has been in creative development over three years and throughout COVID. Presented and produced by Midsumma Festival and Abbotsford Convent, *Stranger Than Usual* is a new, ground-breaking theatre/music work by Deaf artist **Asphyxia** and **Fat Fruit**. The production included a live band featuring **Sarah Ward**, **Bec Matthews** and **Erica Pringle**.

The work was written in Auslan, with the music specifically created for Deaf/hard of hearing audiences. Asphyxia's songs explore the need for environmentalism and sustainable living, and the economic and bureaucratic barriers that can prevent people with disability, and economically disadvantaged people, from being able to live sustainably.

The principles of access and inclusion were incorporated from this project's inception. 40% of audience members were from Deaf/hard of hearing communities.

The event was held at Abbotsford Convent over three performances between 2 and 4 February in the Magdalen North Laundry.

Turbulence - Produced by Dr Catherine Barrett and Presented by Midsumma Festival and Celebrate Ageing; Turbulence documented the stories of five older LGBTQIA+ people, through video, about the turbulence of ageing and how human connection helped to restore their hope, safety, and wellbeing. Younger LGBTQIA+ collaborators responded to the digital stories with messages online about the power of shared lived experience in the queer community. The stories exhibited in Turbulence were:

- **Story 1: Dorothy and Jac** - Dorothy married the love of her life two years after Marriage Equality was achieved and 45 years after they fell in love. Jac was a campaigner for marriage equality.
- **Story 2: Max and James** - Max survived 180 days of isolation thanks to the food, medical supplies and emotional support provided by James, his neighbour.
- **Story 3: David and Beau** - David is a survivor of HIV/AIDS from the 1980s and writes with Beau to create a virtual community of support for people living positive.

- **Story 4: Kaye** - a respected teacher picked upon by a community member suggesting she should not have contact with children (because she is a lesbian).
- **Story 5: Kathy and Jay** - Kathy's later life transition in a small country town was complicated. Kathy explores her emotional transition and her sense of self.

The series of films were free to watch and launched on 21 January.

MIDSUMMA MATTERS

A suite of panel discussions on queer topics shaping arts, queer culture and our spaces.

Midsumma Matters - A Panel on Queer performance. Facilitated by Dr Alyson Campbell and presented by Midsumma Festival, Fed Square, University of Melbourne and UNSW Sydney. The panel discussed the release of a collection of writings on queer performance titled *Special Issue of Australasian Drama Studies Journal (ADS Journal)* - an intersectional collection of essays, interviews and recollection-reflections and focussed on queer performance across Aotearoa, Australia, Pasifika and the Asia Pacific. The discussion traced the LGBTQIA+ desire-lines, linking artists and audiences; crossing social, cultural, political and regional boundaries and reaching out queerly across time and place.

The panellists on 4 February at The Edge Fed Square included: Alyson Campbell (ADS Journal editor) - facilitator, Liza-Mare Syron and Jonathan Bollen (ADS Journal editors, Peta Murray and Ian Ramirez (journal chapter contributors

Midsumma Matters - The Future of Queer Art. A free panel discussion presented by Midsumma Festival and Fed Square, held at The Edge, Fed Square on 4 February. The panel discussed a variety of topics including Queer Identity and how it informs arts practice, the new National Arts Policy, the new Melbourne Arts Precinct as a major

infrastructure investment into independent arts in Melbourne, and the place of queer artists and art practice within these landscapes.

Facilitated by Midsumma CEO, Karen Bryant, the panel featured:

- **Adena Jacobs** - award-winning theatre director.
- **Daniel Santangeli** - Artist Director of Footscray Community Arts Centre
- **Jo Clifford** - Trans Scottish Playwright and performer, international guest of Midsumma
- **Kath Duncan** - Disabled queer writer and performer, and
- **Wesley Enoch AM** - First Nations theatre director and writer and previous Artistic Director of Sydney Festival and of Queensland Theatre Company and Sydney Theatre Company productions.

Fountain - Presented by Midsumma Festival, Forest Collective and Abbotsford Convent as part of Convent Live. Conceived and produced by Evan Lawson, musical director of Forest Collective and developed with guest musician, Max Lawrence. Fountain is an orchestrated performance about approaching the world and the self with fluidity, and how such a shift can be revolutionary. An arrangement of Max Lawrence's music, performed with Forest Collective at Abbotsford Convent, Oratory; 3-5 February.

The Creatives and Musicians involved in the project included the following:

- **Max Lawrence** as singer and songwriter
- **Evan J Lawson** - orchestrations & music director
- **Rino Darusman** - Synths (guest musician)
- **Robert Downie** - Synths (guest musician)
- **Soda** - DJ
- **Kim Tan** - Flutes

- **Helen Bower** - Violin, Electric Violin
- **Ali Fyffe** - Saxophones
- **Ryan Lynch** - Clarinets, Saxophones
- **Zela Papageorgiou** - Percussion
- **Trea Hindley** - Trombone
- **Phoebe Smithies** - Horn
- **Ian Crossfield** - Double Bass
- **Ryan Williams** - Recorders
- **Alex MacDonald** - Viola
- **Tom Sinclair** - Cello (guest musician)

Midsumma X Incinerator - Three exhibitions held across Incinerator Gallery that explore queer themes, from 3 February to 6 April. Presented by Midsumma Festival and Incinerator Gallery.

The exhibitions were:

- **Infinite Pleasures:** Kieran Butler, Real Real Love, 2023, design for wall mural.
- **The Sentimentality of Something Unseen:** J Davies, My Bed, After, 2020, analogue photograph.
- **Knot Locked:** Debris Facility, CVIC-LEVEL (detail), 2022, plaster, cyanotype, chainmail, steel, perfume, and lasers.

Musical Storytime: Introducing Teddy - Presented by Midsumma Festival, Orchestra Victoria and Melbourne Recital Centre, in association with The Wheeler Centre. Introducing Teddy is a musical interpretation of author Jessica Walton's and illustrator Dougal MacPherson's children's book on Trans identity. Jessica Walton is a queer, disabled writer, teacher and musician. The book started as a self-published Kickstarter project but was published worldwide in English by Bloomsbury in 2016. It has now been

translated into 9 different languages. This new work by composer Christine Pan brings Jessica Walton's charming picture book to life. Initially presented at the State Library in 2022. In 2023 it presented at The Primrose Potter Salon at the Melbourne Recital Centre on 24 January and The Bendigo Bank Theatre on 28 January in Bendigo. The work was narrated and hosted by Melbourne sensation Dandrogyn.

SINK. Simona Castricum X Carla Zimble

– Presented by Midsumma Festival and Melbourne Recital Centre, SINK is a re-imagining of stadium techno as an intimate, immersive experience. Simona Castricum combined her talents with the light and projection of Carla Zimble to create a live sonic/visual experience. Presented twice daily in the Primrose Potter Salon at the Melbourne Recital Centre on 27 and 28 January.

Transmansplaining – Presented by: Midsumma Festival & Trans Script.

Transmansplaining is an original one-man stage show based on the experiences of Ben Macellen, a self-described “short, balding, bearded, gay, trans man”. Ben is a trans artist currently participating in the Midsumma Pathways program. The show presented at the **Victorian** Pride Centre theatre on 25 & 26 January.

Cherry – In the words of writer/performer Sarah Carroll, *‘It’s a little bit cabaret, a little bit comedy and a whole lot of Katy Perry.’* Sarah Carroll is a graduate of the 2021/2022 Midsumma Pathways program. This production was developed out of Sarah’s Pathways mentorship with Midsumma and then premiered at Melbourne Fringe and Sydney Fringe. Remounted for the Midsumma Presents program, *Cherry* hilariously and insightfully celebrates the

power of music to transform and enlighten in this one woman’s thank you card to her idol. Showed at The Butterfly Club, 8-11 February.

Cheers, Queers/Crafty Queens/Spill the

Tea: Three new events at the Victorian Pride Centre, curated and produced by Thomas Jaspers. Presented by Midsumma Festival and the Victorian Pride Centre.

Cheers, Queers – an all-queer comedy night held at the Victorian Pride Centre across 27 January – 3 February. Each night is hosted by a selection of queer identities in Melbourne including Charlie Lewin, Tina Del Twist, Alex Ward and Aysha Buffet. The comedians featured Aurelia St Clair, Dolly Diamond, Woah, Alyssa, Dazza & Keif, Charlie Lewin, Scout Boxall, Bobbie Macumber, Alex Hines, Aurelia St Clair, Hot Department, Annie Louey, Tina Del Twist and Brenda Bressed.

Crafty Queers – a series of art and craft tutorials, all focus on differing art forms, across 23 January – 6 February. Presented by Midsumma Festival and The Victorian Pride Centre. The sessions included:

- **23rd Jan – Gay Life Drawing with Jean-Luc Syndikas**
- **30th Jan – Get Ready: Live drag makeup tutorial with Ruby Slippers**
- **Feb 6 – Cork & Chroma: paint your inner queen with Sasha Starr**

Spill the Tea – a free event exploring and discussing the treasures of the Australian Queer Archives in addition to local queer writing from the iconic queer bookshop Hares & Hyenas as well as queer visual arts exhibitions throughout the Victorian Pride Centre, held 29 January. Presented by Midsumma Festival, The Victorian Pride Centre & JOY Media.

Polite Mammals – Presented by Midsumma Festival, The Wholesome Hour, and ArtPlay. Held at ArtPlay Friday to Sunday between 21-29 January. The work was co-created with children where the songs, costumes and characters were all inspired and developed with children. The work was aimed at Rainbow Families for children between 5-10 years of age. This work was so warmly received and saw sold-out sessions across the season with four performances and the Saturday 28 January 2pm session was a Sensory Friendly Performance. The work was written and performed by The Wholesome Hour (Lily Fish, Eli Sachs, Sunanda Sachatrakul, Kimberley Twiner). Other artists included the following:

- Director – **Rinske Ginsberg**
- Lighting Designer – **Lisa Mibus**
- Composer – **Jack Lewis**
- Costume Designer – **Kimberley Twiner**
- Puppetsmith – **Lily Fish**

AUNTY – Presented by Midsumma Festival and Beat Entertainment. Hosted by The Beat Entertainment & RECKÖNING SOUNDS team, AUNTY is a celebration of Music, Black Women, Queer Icons, Indigenous Royalty and everything FABULOUS in between. AUNTY is a First Nations-produced queer arts party that centres around the QTBIPOC community. The team held their inaugural AUNTY at the start of August 2023 and this Midsumma collaboration was the second iteration. The night featured a wide range of artists, DJs and pop-up cross artform performances, at Fringe Common Rooms, 11 February.

ROPETIMES – Presented by Midsumma Festival & Convent Live. ROPETIMES returned to Midsumma after a sell-out workshop at Abbotsford Convent in 2022. Facilitated by acclaimed artist and ropeworker, Luke George - an introductory rope bondage class for beginners and anyone who wants to learn, practice and play.

Night at the Museum:

Minus18 Youth Party – Midsumma, Immigration Museum and Minus18 developed and presented the showcased of 10 young LGBTQIA+ performers of diverse identities, ages and backgrounds. The event had over 500 attendees with around 160 on a waiting list. 44% of the attendees were attending an LGBTQIA+ event for the first time and 91% stated this event made them feel more connected and 88% of responders felt more positive about themselves and their identity. **Becoming You** – an exhibition previously developed through a Midsumma Presents commission that is currently permanent within the Museum, and was open for attendees to experience featuring the Minus18 event. The Immigration Museum’s immersive exhibition, *Becoming You* focuses on coming-of-age moments by more than 70 real-life contributors and included people from the LGBTQIA+ community such as performance artist and writer Andreja Pejic, model Adolfo Aranjuez, Nevo Zisin, actor Noel Tovey, Karen from Finance, disability activist Jax Jacki Brown and Frances Cannon. Their personal experiences traverse landscapes of time, gender, orientation, culture, age, and distance, reflecting Immigration Museum’s commitment to celebrating our shared humanity.

Attendees of Minus18 Youth Party were split as follows:

- 14% between 12 and 13 years of age
- 59% between 14 and 16 years and
- 26% between 17 and 19 years of age.

Attendee Identities

- Deaf or hard of hearing – 4%
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander – 4%
- Person of colour – 8%
- Culturally and linguistically diverse – 8%
- Person of faith – 5%
- Person with disability – 27%
- Rural or regional – 12%
- Neurodivergent – 66%
- Experiences anxiety or mental ill health – 76%

There is an extremely high percentage of individuals that attend these events that live with neurodivergence or experience anxiety of mental ill health. The statistics gathered from attendee surveys shows that events of this nature help individuals to feel connected which in turn improves overall health and happiness outcomes.

A Safe(R) Space Outdoor Exhibition: Metro Tunnel Creative Project – The Metro Tunnel Creative Program partnered with Midsumma Festival and delivered *The Safe(R) Space Outdoor Exhibition*; responding to the festival's signature project for 2023. The five artists selected explored the intersectional identity between different facets of Queer communities inside the theme of "Safe Spaces" and artistic expression of 'what defines a safe space' for artists and communities. The works were exhibited in the Franklin Street Frames on the hoardings on the laneway that runs down the southern side of Melbourne City Baths between 20 January and early March. Participating artists:

- **Emiko Artemis** - a visual artist living and working in South Australia. Her work examines the intersection of bodily movement and space.
- **Zoë Bastin** - an artist and choreographer committed to the capacities of dance for personal and political expressive transformation. These images were created in collaboration with Bri Hammond.
- **Kim Leutwyler** - works in a variety of media including painting, installation, ceramics, printmedia and drawing.
- **J. Rosenbaum** - a Melbourne based AI artist working with 3D modelling, artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence and exploring the intersection of technology and art.
- **Wet and Free** - a fluid collective of LGBTQBIQ+ and POC, culturally diverse artists committed to drawing as a mode of free expression and connectivity.

Big Thick Energy – *Big Thick Energy* is the brainchild of performance artist and booty manipulator **Demon Derriere** who curated the event to promote body positivity and liberation through movement, creativity and community. Held over 10-11 February at Malthouse Outdoor stage the event celebrated all bodies. Presented by Midsumma Festival and Malthouse, and featured performances and workshops by the following artists:

- Tinika – DJ Set from 7pm on Friday 10 February
- Raceraage
- Tanzer
- Freida Commitment
- Chica Boom Boom
- Mum
- Jesse Dean
- Ugliest Hottie

- DJ Smilez – DJ Set from 3pm on Saturday 11 February
- Mama Alto
- Krayola
- Natali Caro
- Domino De Jour
- Bettie Rose
- Sadiva
- Krista Herrington
- Demon Derriere

The Future Is Bi+ – Produced by Dr. Sally Goldner, The Bisexual Alliance and presented in partnership with Midsumma Festival. The Future is Bi+ aimed to raise the profile of Bi+ people and develop connections across the state. Held at Harehole Melbourne on 24 January. Through this event, The Bisexual Alliance aimed to achieve A Safe(R) Space, exploring the discrimination faced by Bi+ communities from both broader society and also elements within rainbow communities.

OTHER MIDSUMMA PRESENTS EVENTS

Midsumma Extravaganza – The event in 2023 was held at Sidney Myer Music Bowl on Midsumma eve 21 January. Presented by Arts Centre Melbourne, Midsumma Festival and Thomas Jaspers. The event was curated by **Thomas Jaspers** and hosted by queer comedian **Joel Creasey** and RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under favourite **Kween Kong**.

Other comedians on the night included **Nina Oyama, Kirsty Webeck** and **Scout Boxall** alongside musical performances from **Courtney Act, Kira Puru, Mama Alto, Dolly Diamond, Tash York, Tina Del Twist, Jordan Raskopoulos, Lou Wall, Brendan Maclean** and the hilarious **Steven Oliver**. All acts were accompanied by an incredible house band under the guidance of musical director **James Simpson**.

In addition to this programming there was also a tribute to the legendary **Miss Candee** who was a regular drag performer on the Victorian scene for the past five decades called **Night Of A Thousand Candees**. 23 Drag artists including **Art Simone, Philmah Bocks, Jojo Zaho, Sue Ridge, Fifi Bardot, Millie Minogue, Nova China, Laura Gravity, Taylor Made, Amena Jay Alura, Miss Jay, Fashion Couture, Ruby Slippers, Tequila Mockingbird, Polly Filla, Justin Teliquire, Freddie Merkin, Lexi Gaga, Leasa Mann, Bella Nitrate** and **Granny Bingo** took to the stage to recreate some of Miss Candee's most iconic performance moments in a medley of her favourite songs.

Midsumma and Australia Post Arts Award

– Now in its eighth year, the Midsumma and Australia Post Arts Award showcases submissions from LGBTQIA+ visual arts in any medium, from across the country. Finalists were exhibited at No Vacancy Gallery, in Melbourne's CBD from 31 January to 12 February. The award continues to gather strength and notoriety as one of the region's leading and most important visual art awards for LGBTQIA+ identifying individuals. Following a call out to artists, Midsumma received 110 submissions. These were shortlisted to 14 finalists by a small professional industry assessment panel comprised of:

- **Meg Slater** - Curator, International Exhibition Projects department at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)
- **Brendan McCleary** - Curator at Photo Australia and Producer for PHOTO 2024 and the Queer Festival of Photography to be held in 2024.
- **Jason May** - Australia Post's representative on the Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize judging panel.

14 finalists were chosen, of these nine identified as male, with two identifying as female and three identifying as gender diverse. Three of the finalists also identified as People of Colour. The exhibition was coordinated by Amer Ahmed. An opening night VIP event was held for industry, artists, and the public.

The three award winners announced during the exhibition were:

- **Leonie Rhodes – Main award winner, with a Prize total of \$6000.** This category was awarded to Leonie Rhodes for their submission 'National Treasure.' This was a small solid silver sculpture measuring around 10 centimetres and was a full figure representation of the legendary, and now sadly deceased, Aboriginal elder and respected Bunerong, Boon Wurrung, Yorta Yorta, Palawa, Wurundjeri, Tungerong man Uncle Jack Charles.
- **Logan Mucha – Bundoora Art Prize Award** winner with a paid artist development opportunity at Bundoora Art Centre in Bundoora. This category was awarded to Logan Mucha for their work Single Channel Video, Sound. This video artwork documented a fragmented yet communal memory of queer venues and their historical role in forging community.
- **Vince Partington – People's Choice Award** winner with a \$1,000 cash prize provided by Australia Post. This award was won by Vince Partington work *Timber & Resin Sculptures*.

Midsumma Presents: The Homophonic! Pride Prize (Annual Composers Award)

– Homophonic, led by Artistic Director, Miranda Hill has become an annual concert within the Midsumma Festival Open Access program. However, for this year, and as part of Midsumma's broader commitment to development of artists and new work across art forms, Midsumma and Homophonic

partnered for the first time on the The Homophonic! Pride Prize, an award for a new orchestral composition of experimental orchestral music. The Homophonic! Pride Prize receives \$2,500 to compose a work with a chosen musician.

In 2023, the winner of the Pride Prize was James Rushford and they worked with Oboist Ben Opie, Co-Artistic Director of Inventi Ensemble and Artistic Director of the Peninsula Festival to develop the new work and premier it as part of the Homophonic concert within Midsumma Festival 2023, held at La Mama Courthouse 27 & 28 January. Around 20 queer musicians and singers delivered a wonderful series of chamber music and received wonderful feedback for James and Ben's work.

Pride and Joy – Presented by Orchestra Victoria, Melbourne Recital Centre and Midsumma Festival, Pride and Joy is a musical celebration of queer composers across time and space. The event was cancelled last minute in 2022 but was able to successfully feature in the Midsumma Presents program in Midsumma Festival 2023.

Artists:

Orchestra Victoria

Simon Bruckard - *Conductor*

Program:

Deborah Cheetham AO - *Gulaga*

Aaron Copland - *Quiet City*

Caroline Shaw - *Limestone and Felt*

Naima Fine Fine - *Crystal Ruth Bell: We Keep Going*

Pytor Ilych Tchaikovsky - *Serenade for Strings*

The Rainbow Tree: by Fat Fruit – Presented by Midsumma Festival, Arts Centre Melbourne and Performing Lines. The Rainbow Tree is a theatrical music work originally commissioned by Midsumma Festival and ArtPlay as the major commission within Midsumma's signature program PRISM in 2021 – focusing on developing new work for rainbow families. For the 2023 the work was remounted and on tour with various dates:

- Midsumma Festival in the Playhouse Rehearsal Room at Arts Centre Melbourne on 24, 25, 27 & 28 January at 11 and 2pm with all sessions Auslan Interpreted
- Bunjil Place on 14 & 15 January
- Geelong on 19 & 20 January with two presentations on each day
- Bendigo on 11 February
- Darlinghurst Theatre Company on 18 & 19 February &
- A presentation at The Memo, Healesville supported by the Yarra Ranges Council on 22 April

The work was led by Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews from production powerhouse Fat Fruit which is a Fat Fruit is a Melbourne based independent arts company creating queer and body positive performances. The work was commissioned to provide increased diverse content for children and Rainbow families. Sarah Ward who was a co-creator and actor playing the part of ZaZa and Bec Mathews was a Co-Creator, Sound Designer & Performer who played the role of Aunty Bear. The work was developed and co-written with seven children from Rainbow Families.

Queer Playwriting Award Showcase (QPAS)

– With the aim of identifying, nurturing, and profiling professional queer playwrights across Australia, Midsumma Festival partnered with Gasworks Arts Park in 2023 for an eighth year to present our annual program of staged play readings

on 23 January. The purpose of this project is to identify new works in early stages of development and provide a range of staged development processes for these playwrights and their new works. Initial submissions were shortlisted down to eight works which were provided with development support to realise 15-minute excerpts ready for public readings and feedback. Four works were selected by the industry panel and invited to present at Gasworks Arts Park as part of Midsumma Festival. In 2023 the finalists included:

- **Ramona Glasgow** by Ellis Austin Finnie
- **HELL FIRE, mortal boys** by Henry Kelly
- **Numa & Karl: Extraordinary Man That He Was** by Em Chandler
- **Waterfowl** by Callum Mackay

The winner of the QPAS award for 2023 was Waterfowl by Callum MacKay.

The selected winner receives further ongoing support and development with a view to becoming a full-scale work to be presented in Midsumma Festival 2024 or beyond. The objective of the Queer Playwriting Award is to tour the work nationally to expose it to a wide range of metropolitan, regional and rural audiences.

Code of Conduct: 2022 Queer Playwriting Award Winner

– new theatre work written by Rory Godbold; the winner of 2022 QPAS. A full production and Code of Conduct became part of Midsumma Festival's 2023 Open Access Program, presented by Gasworks Arts Park across 7-11 February in a sold out season.

Feral Queer Camp – As part of a growing commitment to the inclusion of literature and of the development of quality contextual critical appraisal for queer art, Midsumma Festival partnered for the third time with WreckedAllpods, a cohort of industry professionals, to again present *Feral Queer Camp* (previously presented *Outburst Queer Arts Festival, Belfast (2018, 2019) and Midsumma Festival (2020 and 2021)*). Feral Queer Camp Participants were selected from applications of queer artists, writers and academics interested in critical dialogue/writing for queer performance, who then attended a range of Midsumma events across the festival. Attendees also participated in a series of workshops throughout the program, exploring how queer identities shape artistic practise, how we talk about queer arts practise, how we review and support it. This process aimed to develop greater depth in critical dialogue, arising from an increased understanding of queer arts ecology, and how we can better place discussion of works when seen in context with queer performance history and current development arts practise. The workshops and overall program were facilitated by director and dramaturg Alyson Campbell and Steve Farrier.

Across the Bridge – Presented by: Midsumma Festival, SIGNAL and Story is Connection,

Signal is a creative studio for young people 14 to 25 years and is located on the North bank of Melbourne. Signal offers young people the opportunity to work alongside professional artists in a collaborative way and through multi-artform workshops and mentoring. In June 2021, SIGNAL sought expressions of interest from LGBTQIA+ artists of all disciplines aged 18 to 25 to collaborate with international students. Over 6 months, 5 collaborative pairs participated in creative storytelling workshops with experienced community cultural development practitioner, Catherine Simmonds OAM. During lockdowns, they

met regularly via Zoom to share their works in development. The result is 5 new artworks and enduring friendships. These works had only previously been available online. The works were available to view live during Midsumma Festival between 3 and 12 February.

Mini Beast Disco – Following a sold out 2022 Midsumma season, Mini Beast Disco was developed for kids aged 3 – 9 and their families. Sitting between performance and workshop, Mini Beast Disco reframes ideas of ‘us’ and ‘community’ to include the biosphere. Flying in the face of anthropocentric domination, Proud and Queer underground artists Betty Grumble and Dandrogyny encourage an expansive view of the natural world to foster deep empathy, understanding and a sense of awe. Mini Beast Disco was staged outside on the Convent’s Heritage Garden with the DJ (Hip Hop Ho) located in the garden’s rotunda.

Mini Beast Disco was presented as part of Pivot, Abbotsford Convent’s short-term residency program supported by the Australia Council for the Arts and Creative Victoria.

A Composting Cabaret – a party for grown-ups inspired by Mini Beast Disco’s research play in 2022. Held on 28 January at Abbotsford Covent, the concept was devised and developed by Betty Grumble & Dandrogyny.

The Pier Festival – After the success of the Pier Festival in the 2021 and as part of Midsumma’s investment in female and gender-diverse music artists, Midsumma again presented the event in partnership with April Hollywood. The event was held in Williamstown at Seaworks on 28 January, and saw over 2000 people attend and included International, national and local artists, bands and DJs in addition to burlesque performance, roving entertainment, food trucks and market stalls.

The line-up included the following artists:

- Harper Bloom
- MzRizk
- Juan Roberts
- Taryne Flechter
- CINDA
- The Grandfather Paradox

Additional performances were by Frankie Valentine (Burlesque) & Justin Teliquire (Drag King) and hosted by comedian Bobby Macumber.

NGV (National Gallery of Victoria)

X MIDSUMMA – After a successful collaboration in 2022, Midsumma and NGV came together again to co-present a series of community-centred programs drawing on art and design at the NGV to explore a rich array of stories and experiences for all ages through tours, conversations and workshops.

These tours were complemented by programs presented in conjunction with the NGV’s major summer exhibition, *Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse*, including a panel discussion dedicated to McQueen’s inherently queer approach to fashion design.

The tours were:

- **NGV Teens: Drop by and Make | Fashion Atelier with Erik Yvon**
Wed 25 Jan 12–3pm
- **Gumnut Bling with Paul McCann**
Wed 25 Jan 12–3pm
- **Queer Collection Tours**
Sat 28 Jan 11am–12pm & 1–2pm
- **Queering Fashion Through the Lens of Alexander McQueen**
Sat 4 Feb 2–3pm

While Midsumma was heavily involved in the curation and programming elements of the activations, Midsumma did not make any financial contribution to the venue or events listed.

ACMI X MIDSUMMA – A wonderful array of curated contemporary and classic queer cinema at ACMI. There was a total of 17 sessions across 13 days that spanned 21 January to 11 February.

These were:

- Moonage Daydream (M)
- Flee (M)
- Stranger By The Lake (R18+)
- Joyland (15+)
- Loving Highsmith (M)
- You Won’t be Alone (MA15+)
- Xanadu (G)

NOCTURNAL X MIDSUMMA – Melbourne Museum runs a series of Nocturnal events throughout the year where the Museum comes to life with music, pop up bars, workshops, badge making, expert talks and opportunities to explore the galleries. The Nocturnal x Midsumma event, held on 10 February, showcased headliner artist Kaiit. Kaiit was joined by international DJ sensation, DJ Kitty Glitter who alternated with Kaiit and played two sets across the night.

Rainbow Storytime – Rainbow Storytime was presented in the Pauline Gandel Children’s quarter at the State Library on 30 January and 6 February. The events were celebrating LGBTQIA+ rainbow families through children’s picture storybooks.

MQFF @ The Drive-In – Melbourne Queer Film Festival partnered with Midsumma to present MQFF @ The Drive-In. The films included Hedwig and the Angry Inch and The Inspection. Both films were screened at Village Cinemas Coburg Drive-In on 3 February at alternate screens within the complex.

OPEN ACCESS PROGRAM

157 total events made up the 2023 registered Open Access program, representing a variety of vital cultural conversations taking place amongst local and interstate LGBTQIA+ communities by extraordinary artists and culture-makers and showcased to diverse audiences in increasing numbers.

All producers and venues registered as part of the festival receive a range of support services from Midsumma ranging from co-presentations to marketing, ticketing, and producer capacity-building support.

As Midsumma has repositioned itself artistically over the past few years and invested year-round in a much higher level in the development of LGBTQIA+ artists and event producers and new work, it has become apparent that the depth, breadth, and quality of the open-access program has also increased.

MIDSUMMA HUBS

The 8 Midsumma Hub Venues in 2023 provided audiences with a diverse showcase of events across the festival period, 21 January – 11 February, to enrich the audiences experience with something to do or see every night.

In 2023, Midsumma supported the following hubs:

- **Theatre Works**, 7 events
- **Victorian Pride Centre**, 24 events
- **Gasworks Arts Park**, 9 events
- **Abbotsford Convent**, 6 events
- **The Butterfly Club**, 12 events

- **The Motley Bauhaus**, 10 events
- **Midsumma Westside** (a collaboration of Melbourne's western region councils), 14 events
- **Pride of Our Footscray Community Bar**, 6 events

2023 Festival Access Initiatives and Activities

Midsumma is proud to be a national leader in disability access and engagement initiatives. We are committed to ongoing improvements to ensure our events and programs are as accessible and inclusive as they can be.

Midsumma is working at multiple levels of organisational structure, programming, audience and artist development and event delivery to improve accessibility and inclusion for artists, audiences, staff, crew, and volunteers year on year.

Midsumma recognises the importance of intersectional spaces that are designed specifically for disabled artists without pressure to deliver performance-based outcomes. Midsumma is proud to be in the **third year** of Midsumma Pathways, our **career (replace skill)** development and mentorship program for **queer disabled artists**.

At our major events: Midsumma Carnival, Pride March and Victoria's Pride, we offer service provisions that make these environments more accessible and inclusive. We work with service providers including Auslan Stage Left, Break a Finger and Expression Australia to ensure our events are accessible to Deaf community. We

work with Vitae Veritas to deepen our engagement with Blind and Low Vision audiences and to offer Audio Description and Tactile Tours of event sites. Following the success of a low sensory space offered at Victoria's Pride in 2022 in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS), in 2023, we deepened our engagement with autistic/neurodiverse audiences and artists, consulting with them to understand how we could provide low sensory spaces at Midsumma Pride March and Midsumma Carnival.

2023 was a year of "firsts", with Midsumma Carnival and Victoria's Pride making significant improvements in service provision so that more of our community members could have more access to our events. For the first time in 2023, all Midsumma Programming was interpreted across both stages and the Families Precinct. Stages were interpreted by Auslan Stage Left, and the Families Precinct was interpreted by Expression Australia.

Expression Australia also provided roving interpreters in the stalls area. Victoria's Pride had teams of Deaf and hearing interpreters across both stages for all programming. The two teams were led by Auslan Stage Left and Break a Finger.

Victoria's Pride offered a Touch Tour of the event for Blind and Low Vision community members which was led by Dolly Diamond and Vitae Veritas.

Midsumma is working alongside Vitae Veritas, who has provided an accessibility audit for Midsumma and Midsumma Festival events, making recommendations for the 2024 Festival.

This work will support the drafting process of Midsumma's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan which will ensure benchmark accessibility measures are embedded across the organisation and Festival delivery.

FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

Midsumma acknowledges that Indigenous Australians are the first peoples of these lands. We pay our respects to all Indigenous Australians, past and present, and we recognise their continuing spiritual and cultural connection to the land.

Midsumma Festival takes place between High Summer and Late Summer according to the Wurundjeri calendar of seasons, on whose land much of this Festival is taking place.

Midsumma continued to build upon the strong and meaningful engagement with LGBTQIA+ Aboriginal and First Nations communities for the 2023 festival and throughout the year.

This was amplified and celebrated through (formerly mentioned Midsumma Presents events):

- AUNTY as part of the signature program A Safe(R) Space
- Midsumma Matters: A Panel on Queer Performance was held at The Edge, Fed Square
- Midsumma Matters – The Future of Queer Arts.
- The winning piece of the 2023 Midsumma and Australia Post Art Award - solid silver sculpture by Leonie Rhodes titled 'National Treasure' (Uncle Jack Charles).

Craig Holloway was again engaged in the role of Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator for Midsumma Festival 2023. This was the seventh year Midsumma funded the role which is responsible for vital work in engaging Aboriginal communities, organising the Rainbow Aboriginal contingent at Midsumma Pride March and arranging cultural ceremonies for our major events.

Formal Welcome to Country ceremonies were held at all key Midsumma presented events including the 2023 Midsumma Festival program launch at Fed Square, Midsumma Carnival, Midsumma Pride March, and Victoria's Pride.



MIDSUMMA PATHWAYS

Midsumma recognises the importance of intersectional spaces that are designed specifically for disabled artists without pressure to deliver performance-based outcomes. Midsumma is proud to be in the third year of Midsumma Pathways, our skill development and mentorship program.

Each year we work with up to 14 creative LGBTQIA+ members of the community who also identify as living with disability and/or neurodiversity, chronic illness, or are blind/low vision or Deaf/Hard of hearing. We are committed to building capacity within the industry to ensure that we continue to see more disabled artists programmed at venues and festivals around the country and overseas.

The workshop program is co-designed with the participants to feature a mix of topics and skills spanning artistic practice and the intersections of queerness, disability and the arts, including topics and speakers identified as priorities by Pathways artists and by Midsumma.

Pathways partners with a range of organisations and individual leaders and advocates within the disability/arts sector and engages with external access providers to provide access and support where required.

The program actively increases the profile for disabled LGBTQIA+ creatives. As well as providing capacity building through artistic and professional development, Midsumma Pathways amplifies the achievements and artistic practices of our participating Artists, Mentors, Workshop Facilitators and other partners.

Image: Crystal Nguyen. Midsummica.
Photo by Darren Gill

Midsumma Pathways Participants and their Mentors 2022-23:

- Alex Creece - Mentor: Paul Yore
- Amy May Nunn - Mentor: Morgan Rose
- Angelita Biscotti - Mentor: Luke George
- Ben MacEllen - Mentor: Kate Mulvany
- Caitlin Dear - Mentors: Philipa Rothfield & Danni Zuvela
- Crystal Nguyen - Mentor: Sam Fox
- Cynthia Sobraty - Mentor: Tommi Parrish
- Em Tambree - Mentor: Clemence Williams
- Jessie Ngaio - Mentor: Betty Grumble
- Kip Mac - Producer Support: Rhen Soggee
- Rhen Soggee - Mentors: River Lin
- Sar Fegan - Mentor: Morgan Rose
- Teague Leigh - Mentor: Luke David
- Vivien Triantafillo - Mentor: Alice Dixon

In addition to this, participants from our Midsumma Pathways year-round mentorship program were engaged with the festival and all its activities in a much deeper way than ever achieved before:

- Of the current mentorship program participants, 11 of the 14 artists were directly engaged in the 2023 Midsumma Festival. Some artists were involved multiple times across several projects.
- Marketing and Artist Development worked closely to devise cross-promotion opportunities for artists. 4 Pathways Artists were offered paid marketing opportunities in the lead up to and during Midsumma Festival 2023.
- Specific and targeted marketing support was offered to Pathways Artists' projects that were programmed in the Midsumma Festival.

- Festival involvement is not a requirement of Midsumma Pathways however 5 artists had productions in the 2023 Festival program and were involved as Curators, Writers, Performers (music and theatre) and Producers.
- 3 Pathways Alumni also performed in seasons at Midsumma Festival 2023.
- 1 Pathways Alumni was a sound technician on a performance at the Melbourne Recital centre.
- 1 Pathways Alumni was part of the Midsumma staff team as the Pathways Program Coordinator and contributed to improving the overall accessibility for the festival by compiling social stories for 2 of our Signature events.
- 1 Pathways Artist took up an Artist Residency at the Abbotsford Convent during the 2023 Midsumma Festival. As part of this residency, they developed a script for presentation in the 2024 Midsumma Festival.
- 1 Pathways Artist co-presented a queer tour of the NGV as part of the NGV x Midsumma partnership. This was a first for this artist and a career highlight. They were well supported by the NGV team.
- 1 Pathways Artist and 1 Pathways Alumni were invited to a Masterclass with international trans icon, Jo Clifford.
- 1 Pathways artist was a volunteer photographer for the 2023 Festival and will move into a paid role for the 2024 Midsumma Festival. This has been a goal for over 7 years for this artist, and they were thrilled to be part of the team.
- 2 artists flew from interstate to be part of the Midsumma Festival while 2 travelled from Regional Victoria.
- 1 Pathways Alumni is in a paid role, creating a documentary film about Pathways artists.

OUR REACH

Midsumma launched the 2023 Festival marketing campaign on 30 November 2022 (following the program launch) and concluded the campaign on 12 February 2023 (at the conclusion of the festival).

SURVEYING ATTENDEES

Each year Midsumma conducts an audience survey (through external analysis partner Culture Counts) to understand media consumption and brand recognition of Midsumma from festival attendees.

The Midsumma marketing campaign encompasses the following marketing methods, in order of success:

- Social Media (44%)
- PR/Word of Mouth (30%)
- Midsumma Printed Program Guide (20%)
- I've always attended (19%)
- eNews (10%)
- What's On Melbourne (9%)
- Outdoor Advertising (7%)
- Don't remember (6%)
- Print Ads (5%)
- Google Ads (5%)
- Radio (3%)
- Midsumma Blog (1%)
- Other (12%)

SOCIAL MEDIA

We recorded a significant increase in social media activity across the festival for 2023. Total activity across platforms was 3,134,530 (75% increase on 2022 results).

Midsumma's social media followers for 2023 were calculated at 61,835 (13.52% increase on 2022 results, and 39% increase over 4 years).

GOOGLE ADS

In Nov 2018 Midsumma Festival secured a Google Ad grant. Google Ad Grants works just like Google Ads online advertising, by displaying your message to people who are searching for related events. As a qualifying nonprofit, Midsumma receives up to \$10,000 USD in Google Ads advertising every month. **The Google Ads** were successful in 2023 in driving over **97,241** new users to the Midsumma website with an average CTR (Click Through Rate) of **39%**, a 45% increase on 2022 results, and 57% increase over four years (average expected CTR on Google Ads is 1.91%).

PR / WORD OF MOUTH

Midsumma again engaged an external PR firm, Zilla and Brook, to work with us on our Media and PR outreach.

Midsumma's PR campaign was active from Nov 2022 to Feb 2023, with a total of 1132 media clips (**234% increase on 2022 results**) across TV, radio, print and online, reaching **40,589,813 audiences**.

PR activity specifically for Midsumma Carnival saw 82 media clips, a PR value of \$662,904, reaching 1,049,145 audiences.

The quality of coverage this festival was exceptional, with key coverage highlights including:

- TV coverage for Midsumma Carnival on 7NEWS Melbourne, ABC, 9 News Melbourne, 10 News First National, WIN Shepparton, Gippsland, Ballarat, Bendigo and Mildura and SBS World News



- International interest and interview by Eurosport (3 min coverage)
- Front page editorial piece in The Age (as well as multiple articles throughout the festival)
- Particular increased interest from Regional Victoria newsrooms
- Increased National coverage.

For a third year, Midsumma partnered with Yarra Trams for a Midsumma #ALLABOARD tram that was active around Melbourne's tram tracks before and during Midsumma Festival across 12 weeks, promoting the festival dates and Midsumma and reaching 560,100 people at an average frequency of 2.9 times.

Image: Ruby Slippers. Victoria's Pride. Photo by Suzanne Balding

PRINTED PROGRAM

35,000 printed copies of the Midsumma Festival Program Guide are distributed around interstate outlets in Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra, as well as 900 venues receiving copies in Melbourne and wider Victoria. The guide is also available to view or download from midsumma.org.au in a variety of accessible formats.

ENEWS

The Midsumma Festival eNews was able to feature every open access and Midsumma Presents event during the campaign period by strategic clustering "like" events leading up to, and during, the 2023 festival.

- Total number of (main) subscribers: **9,832** (24% increase on 2022 results)
- Average open rate = **39%** (44% increase on 2022) - Entertainment/Events industry average is 20.41%
- Average click rate = **3.33%** (56% increase on 2022 results) - Entertainment/Events industry average is 2.19%

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

During Nov 2022 to Feb 2023, 1000 Midsumma Festival Promotional Posters were distributed around Melbourne's cafes, cultural hotspots, 75 event venues and five Midsumma Hubs. During this time, 5 Midsumma Billboard Posters were displayed in Melbourne inner city, South, East, West, North and the Monash Freeway - all posters had customised copy for geographic targeting.

For 4 weeks from 16 Jan 2023, Midsumma's promotional video was seen across 65 network screens in Melbourne event venues, hotels, cafes, shops, health care foyers and universities.

- Max potential reach = 522,368
- Impressions frequency = 265,760
- Total display time = 2,214 hours

Midsumma held digital billboard spots across 6 Melbourne locations, for 6 weeks from 2 Jan 2023 with an average of 11,178 daily spots. The locations included: Collingwood, Port Melbourne, Swanston St, South Yarra and Chapel St Windsor.

WEBSITE

From program launch (Nov 2022) to the end of Midsumma Festival 2023 the Midsumma website saw:

- 311,777 users (64% increase on 2022 results)
- 1,384,548 page views (76% increase on 2022 results)
- 79% new visitors
- 21% returning

RISK MANAGEMENT

Midsumma Festival employs an external and highly experienced risk management consultant Frank Martinuzzo of Public Safety Australia. This is in line with current best practise for all major events. Public Safety Australia undertake risk assessments and management at events of scale all over Australia. This had become increasingly vital even pre COVID as external environmental pressures and event permit requirements became more complex for any events of scale/large public gatherings and has been even more critical for festivals in the last few years.

All strategies identified to ensure the safety of participants, volunteers, staff and attendees were put in place. All event documentation is treated as 'living' documents, continually refined as required right up until the event to address any changing environmental impacts.

Image: The Huxleys: Places of Worship.
Photo by J Forsyth





TREASURER'S REPORT

2023 has been a strong year for Midsumma, building on the post-pandemic recovery we saw in 2022, with the financial success of the organisation leading to an amazing year-round schedule of events and programs. We ended the year with a net surplus of \$173,409, which puts us in a good position this year as we see significant increases in the cost of delivering the festival, other programs, and office rent.

Festival income, corporate funding, and sponsorships are now all above pre-pandemic levels, along with the continued support of Governments at all levels, saw our activities grow and a range of other new programs launched. Under the guidance of our amazing CEO and team, Midsumma's total income now sits at over \$4 million dollars (almost triple where we were in 2019 when I joined the board).

This growth doesn't happen in a vacuum and is a direct response from all our stakeholders seeing the value that Midsumma brings to them and their communities. Without this trust from, Midsumma wouldn't be able to go from strength to strength.

As we start this new year, I thank all of you for your ongoing support, which ensures that Midsumma can continue to operate sustainably into the future and keep delivering such wonderful experiences and opportunities for our communities.

Michael Fuller-Smith
Treasurer, Midsumma Festival Inc.

Statement of Profit or loss and other Comprehensive Income

Midsumma Festival Inc For the year ended 30 June 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
Income			
Members Fees		745	809
Festival Income	2	470,950	367,441
Donations & Patron Support		82,792	57,241
Public Funding & Grand - Federal, State & Local	2	3,057,288	2,384,663
Corporate Funding & Sponsorships		532,660	409,573
Total Income		4,144,436	3,219,727
Gross Surplus		4,144,436	3,219,727
Other Income			
Interest Income		31,626	23
Other Income		31,339	23,134
Consultancy Fee Income		300	-
Rebates and Refunds		-	6,972
Total Other Income		63,265	30,129
Expenditure			
Accounting & Audit		24,175	4,367
Advertising and Promotion		133,494	129,791
Amortization Expenses		8,695	7,240
Bank & Merchant Fees		3,631	3,526
Board Amenities		3,502	612
Cleaning/ Rubbish Removal		102,287	95,147
Computer Expenses		57,938	49,040
Consultants Fess		67,636	44,820
Contract Payments		53,432	40,209
Festival Expenses		1,676,782	1,329,313
Hire Plant & Equipment		54,222	65,982
Insurance		28,369	20,284
Office Expenses		11,419	7,219
Production Expenses		111,952	88,326
Rent on Land & Buildings		39,628	37,143
Replacement		10,504	11,229
Research & Development		17,000	16,000
Security		96,973	92,322
Staff Recruitment		8,446	2,712
Superannuation		131,915	102,856
Telephone		26,113	21,754
Travel & Accommodation Expense		11,507	9,418
Employee Expenditure		1,342,167	1,057,767
Workcover		12,503	11,896
Total Expenditure		4,034,292	3,248,973
Net Profit Attributable to the Association		173,409	882

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Statement of Financial Position

Midsumma Festival Inc As at 30 June 2023

	NOTES	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	1,300,662	1,075,856
Trade and Other Receivables	4	4,208	71,091
Other Current Assets	5	497	568
Total Current Assets		1,305,368	1,147,514
Non-Current Assets			
Intangibles	7	10,554	19,249
Other Non-Current Assets		-	12,050
Total Non-Current Assets		10,554	31,299
Total Assets		1,315,923	1,178,813
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	8	62,144	(590)
Tax Liabilities	9	38,856	65,066
Deferred Income	10	532,453	640,530
Provisions	11	139,125	98,866
Employee Entitlements	12	632	5,639
Other Current Liabilities	13	46,303	46,303
Total Current Liabilities		819,513	855,813
Total Liabilities		819,513	855,813
Net Assets		496,410	323,001
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		496,410	323,001
Total Member's Funds		496,410	323,001

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Statement of Cash Flows

Midsumma Festival Inc For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	517,101	407,025
Receipts from grants	3,091,218	2,118,498
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,378,136)	(1,109,402)
Interest received	31,626	23
GST	(237,846)	(152,322)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	747,277	564,622
Cash payments from other operating activities	(2,778,197)	(2,322,149)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(6,957)	(493,706)
Investing Activities		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	3,763
Payment for property, plant and equipment	-	(3,763)
Other cash items from investing activities	14,386	(15,017)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	14,386	(15,017)
Financing Activities		
Other cash items from financing activities	(3,086)	(854)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	(3,086)	(854)
Other Activities		
Other activities	220,464	50,000
Net Cash Flows from Other Activities	220,464	50,000
Net Cash Flows	224,807	(459,577)
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,075,856	1,535,432
Net change in cash for period	224,807	(459,577)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	1,300,662	1,075,856

Statement of Changes in Equity

Midsumma Festival Inc
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Equity		
Opening Balance	323,001	322,119
Increases		
Profit for the Period	173,409	882
Total Increases	173,409	882
Total Equity	496,410	323,001

Notes to the Financial Statements

Midsumma Festival Inc
For the year ended 30 June 2023

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue and Other Income

Contributed assets

The Entity receives assets from the government and other parties for nil or nominal consideration in order to further its objectives. These assets are recognised in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (eg AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116, AASB 1058 and AASB 138).

On initial recognition of an asset, the Entity recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer)

The Entity recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

Operating grants, donations and bequests

When the Entity receives operating grants, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Entity

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement; and
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Entity:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (eg AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138);
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount, the Entity recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Capital grants

When the Entity receives a capital grant, it recognises a liability for the excess of the initial carrying amount of the financial asset received over any related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer) recognised under other Australian Accounting Standards.

The Entity recognises income in profit or loss when or as the Entity satisfies its obligations under the terms of the grant.

Interest income

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method

Dividend income

The Entity recognises dividends in profit or loss only when the Entity's right to receive payment of the dividend is established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

(b) Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost

Inventories acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration are measured at the current replacement cost as at the date of acquisition.

(c) Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The Entity measures some of its assets and liabilities at fair value on either a recurring or non-recurring basis, depending on the requirements of the applicable Accounting Standard.

Fair value is the price the Entity would receive to sell an asset or would have to pay to transfer a liability in an orderly (ie unforced) transaction between independent, knowledgeable and willing market participants at the measurement date.

As fair value is a market-based measure, the closest equivalent observable market pricing information is used to determine fair value. Adjustments to market values may be made having regard to the characteristics of the specific asset or liability. The fair values of assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data.

To the extent possible, market information is extracted from either the principal market for the asset or liability (ie the market with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset or liability) or, in the absence of such a market, the most advantageous market available to the entity at the end of the reporting period (ie the market that maximises the receipts from the sale of the asset or minimises the payments made to transfer the liability, after taking into account transaction costs and transport costs).

For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement also takes into account a market participant's ability to use the asset in its highest and best use or to sell it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The fair value of liabilities and the entity's own equity instruments (excluding those related to share-based payment arrangements) may be valued, where there is no observable market price in relation to the transfer of such financial instruments, by reference to observable market information where such instruments are held as assets. Where this information is not available, other valuation techniques are adopted and, where significant, are detailed in the respective note to the financial statements.

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated, less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount and impairment

losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present (refer to Note 1(g) for details of impairment).

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses in profit or loss in the financial period in which they are incurred.

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost or for nominal cost are recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is available for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

(e) Leases

The Entity as lessee

At inception of a contract, the Entity assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Entity where the Entity is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (ie a lease with a remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low-value assets are recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially, the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Entity uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options;
- lease payments under extension options if lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset whichever is the shortest.

Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Entity anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

(f) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in profit or loss.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Where the assets are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows – that is, they are specialised assets held for continuing use of their service capacity – the recoverable amounts are expected to be materially the same as fair value.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued individual asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

(g) Employee Provisions

Short-term employee provisions

A provision is made for the entity’s obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries, sick leave and annual leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

Other long-term employee provisions

Provision is made for employees’ long service leave and annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Upon the remeasurement of obligations for other long-term employee benefits, the net change in the obligation is recognised in profit or loss as part of employee provisions expense.

The entity’s obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current employee provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current employee provisions.

(h) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

(i) Accounts receivable and other debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from customers for goods sold. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets. Accounts receivable are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment. Refer to Note 1(f) for further discussion on the determination of impairment losses.

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities, which are recoverable from or payable to the ATO, are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

(k) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(l) Intangible Assets

Software

Software is recorded at cost. It has a finite life and is carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses. Software has an estimated useful life of between one and three years. It is assessed annually for impairment.

(m) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(n) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements are based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the entity.

Key Judgements

(i) Performance obligations under AASB 15

To identify a performance obligation under AASB 15, the promise must be sufficiently specific to be able to determine when the obligation is satisfied. Management exercises judgement to determine whether the promise is sufficiently specific by taking into account any conditions specified in the arrangement, explicit or implicit, regarding the promised goods or services. In making this assessment, management includes the nature/ type, cost/ value, quantity and the period of transfer related to the goods or services promised.

(ii) Lease term and option to extend under AASB 16

The lease term is defined as the non-cancellable period of a lease together with both periods covered by an option to extend the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option; and also periods covered by an option to terminate the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise that option. The options that are reasonably going to be exercised are a key management judgement that the Entity will make. The Entity determines the likelihood to exercise the options on a lease-by-lease basis looking at various factors such as which assets are strategic and which are key to future strategy of the Entity.

(o) Economic Dependence

The Entity is dependent on the Federal and State Government Departments ('Department') for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report, the Board of Directors has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support the Entity.

(p) New and Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by the Entity

There are no new or amended accounting standards which had an impact on the Entity during this reporting period.

	2023	2022
2. Revenue and Other Income		
Revenue from grants:		
Creative Victoria OIP Multiyear funding	-	(75,000)
Creative Victoria Creative Organisation Creative Enterprises Program 2021	(200,000)	-
Australia Council for the Arts	-	(96,543)
National Disability Insurance Agency	(119,204)	(95,009)

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

	2023	2022
Department of Premier and Cabinet	-	(1,775,661)
Departments of Families, Fairness and Housing	(1,985,621)	-
City of Yarra	(31,050)	(7,950)
City of Port Phillip	(90,000)	(90,000)
City of Melbourne	(147,000)	(147,000)
Creative Victoria - Creative West 2023	(69,413)	-
Creative Victoria - Ignite project	(190,000)	-
Creative Victoria - Sustaining Creative Victoria	(225,000)	(97,500)
Total Revenue from grants:	(3,057,288)	(2,384,663)
Festival Income		
Advertising income in Program Guide	(21,056)	(25,831)
Carnival - Stall Hire Income	(171,562)	(148,497)
Carnival - Additional Equipment	(6,853)	(2,323)
Carnival - Site Power	(3,882)	(5,391)
Event Registrations	(47,222)	(29,783)
Food Trader Revenue	(29,015)	(24,049)
Midsumma Closet	(16,136)	-
Net Bar Revenue	(108,577)	(100,934)
Ticket sales - Commission	(31,220)	(12,490)
Ticket sales - Midsumma Presents	(7,665)	(53)
Ticket transaction fees	(27,764)	(18,089)
Total Festival Income	(470,950)	(367,441)
Total Revenue and Other Income	(3,528,239)	(2,752,104)

Transaction price allocated to the remaining performance obligation

The table below shows the grant revenue expected to be recognised in the future related to the aggregate amount of the transaction price allocated to the performance obligations that are unsatisfied (partially unsatisfied) at the reporting date

Government Grants

The majority of Midsumma Festival Inc's funding is in the form of grants from governmental department bodies. Midsumma Festival Inc's has assessed that the majority of its grant agreements are enforceable and contain sufficiently specific performance obligations. This determination was made on the basis that the funding agreements require the Entity to provide artists, social-changers and culture-makers with support and development, to create, present and promote their work and tell their stories. The Entity therefore recognises funding received under such agreements as Revenue under AASB 15. Revenue is recognised as the Entity delivers the required services, which is on a straight-line basis over the duration of the underlying program.

	2023	2022
3. Cash on Hand		
Debit Card	13,853	17,391
Everyday Mastercard	69	69
Midsumma Donations Account	23,856	130,971
Midsumma Interest Bearing Acct	767,041	107,416
Midsumma Operations Account	489,286	820,010

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Production Debit Card	6,558	-
Total Cash on Hand	1,300,662	1,075,856
	2023	2022

4. Trade and Other Receivables

Trade Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	4,208	69,339
Other Debtors	-	1,752
Total Trade Receivables	4,208	71,091
Total Trade and Other Receivables	4,208	71,091
	2023	2022

5. Other Current Assets

Petty Cash Account	497	568
Total Other Current Assets	497	568
	2023	2022

6. Plant and Equipment, Motor Vehicles

	2023	2022
--	------	------

7. Intangibles

Other Intangibles		
Intangible Assets	39,838	39,838
Amortisation on Intangible Assets	(29,283)	(20,588)
Total Other Intangibles	10,554	19,249
Total Intangibles	10,554	19,249
	2023	2022

8. Trade and Other Payables

Trade Payables		
Accounts Payable	62,144	(590)
Total Trade Payables	62,144	(590)
Total Trade and Other Payables	62,144	(590)

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

	2023	2022
9. Tax Payable		
Tax Payable		
PAYG Withholdings Payable	35,832	22,269
GST	3,024	42,797
Total Tax Payable	38,856	65,066
Total Tax Payable	(38,856)	(65,066)
	2023	2022

10. Deferred Income

Deferred Income Government Grants		
Midsumma Grant received in advance	505,063	551,582
Total Deferred Income Government Grants	505,063	551,582
Other Deferred Income		
Deferred Income	27,390	88,948
Total Other Deferred Income	27,390	88,948
Total Deferred Income	532,453	640,530
	2023	2022

11. Provisions

Accruals	17,350	26,825
Annual Leave Provision	79,623	54,972
LSL Provision	42,152	17,069
Total Provisions	139,125	98,866
	2023	2022

12. Employee Entitlements

Superannuation Payable	-	5,497
Unpaid Expense Claims	632	-
Wages Payable - Payroll	-	141
Total Employee Entitlements	632	5,639
	2023	2022

13. Other Current Liabilities

Current Liability		
Futures Fund	42,752	42,752
Ticket sales clearing account	3,552	3,552
Rounding	-	-
Total Current Liability	46,303	46,303
Total Other Current Liabilities	46,303	46,303

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Auditor's Report

Midsumma Festival Inc For the year ended 30 June 2023

Independent Auditors Report to the members of the Association

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Midsumma Festival Inc (the association), which comprises the committee's report, the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2023, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Midsumma Festival Inc is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation 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 and fair presentation 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 and fair presentation of the financial report, 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 presents fairly, in all material respects (or gives a true and fair view –refer to the applicable state/territory Act), the financial position of Midsumma Festival Inc as at 30 June 2023 and (of) its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Midsumma Festival 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.



Auditor's signature: James Babbage - Auditor # 7215

Auditor's address: Suite 3/191 Riversdale Road Hawthorn VIC 3122

Board members' declaration

Midsumma Festival Inc For the year ended 30 June 2023

The Society Board Members declare that:

- a) in the Board's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Society will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.
- b) in the Board's opinion, the attached financial statement and notes thereto are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including compliance with Australian Accounting Standards and give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Society and the financial statement comply with Australian Accounting Standards.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subs 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

mfm

Treasurer: Michael Fuller -Smith

Dated: 31 / 08 / 23



OUR PEOPLE OUR VOLUNTEERS

The festival is much loved by the Victorian & broader LGBTQIA+ volunteer community, however the last few years have been heavily impacted by COVID. This year saw a record number of volunteers, with **460 volunteers** taking part (up from 176 last year), contributing over **1,800 volunteer hours** to assist in the delivery of events. Our youngest volunteer was 17 and the oldest was 79 years of age.

Volunteer ages	This Year	Occupation	This Year	Gender	This Year
Under 20	9%	Employed	51%	Female	5%
20-29	42%	Retired	8%	Male	38%
30-39	27%	Self-employed	7%	30-39	19%
40-49	8%	Student	18%	40-49	15%
50-59	5%	Unemployed	3%	50-59	13%
60-69	7%	Arts & Culture related field	12%	Over 60	0%
Over 70	2%	Government	10%	Didn't say	11%
		Didn't say	13%		

MIDSUMMA 2022-23 BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Chair
Judy Small AM

Deputy Chair
Michael Parry

Treasurer
Michael Fuller-Smith

Secretary
Rhys Cranney

Ordinary Board Members

Rohan Astley
Jaclyn Booton
Maria Dimopoulos AM
Coby Liew
Rita Nehme
Emily Unity

OUR PEOPLE

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL STAFF

Chief Executive
Karen Bryant

Program Manager
Brendan Cooney

Program Coordinator
Amer Ahmed

Program Administrator
Martin Broadley

Programming Assistant
Gabriel Taburet

Artist Development Manager
Harriet Devlin

Midsumma Pathways Program Coordinator
Ebony Rattle

Head of Production & Operations
Sasha Catalano

Production Coordinator
Connor Jolly

Finance & Administration Manager
Mark Griffiths

Marketing & Communications Manager
Felicity McIntosh

Social Media and Content Coordinator
Emily Rose

Ticketing & Presenter Services Manager
Emily Holland

Volunteers Coordinator
Ida Talback

Administration / Stalls and Vendor Coordinator
Kat Celikaite

IT Applications
Alan Drummond

VICTORIA'S PRIDE STAFF

Production Manager
Siobhan Briggs

Project and Program Manager
Bec Cooen

Community Engagement Manager
Ashlee Hints

Regional Community Engagement Coordinator
Danae Reid

Precinct Liaison & Stalls Coordinator
Helen Adams

SUMMER WORK PLACEMENTS

Programming
Luke Fryer

Programming
Iris Simpson

Programming
Olympia Universe

Production
Laura Darling

Production
Flynn Smeaton

Marketing
Isobel Brownbill

Marketing
Sanduni Jayasekera

Programming & Events
Agnese Perri

Risk Consultant
Public Safety Australia

OUR VALUABLE PATRONS

Diamond Patrons
Anonymous
Rachel Slade

Gold Patrons
Jamal Hakim
Leigh Johns OAM
Kean Mac
Mark Matthews and
Antony Jarvis
Jason May
James Mitchell
Niri Naidoo
Tim Smyth

Tony Egan
Rob Gould
Foundation

Silver Patrons
Liz Austin
Brad Danaher
Mark Meierjohann
David Sellin
Judy Small AM
Gail Veal
Marcus Williams
David Johnston-Bell

Rainbow Patrons
Dennis Altman
Alyson Campbell
Ian Gould and
Graeme Morrison
David Imber
David Johnston-Bell
Kovi Levin
Amity Marantelli
David Marantelli
Mattea Marantelli
Stephen Masterman
Carol Nichols
Garry Oliver
Sam Szwed
Helen Donnard
Henry Ruge-Rojas &
David Owen
Robert Morrison
Tim Casey

Life Members
Ray Arthur
Angela Bailey
Tim Bateson
Claire Beckwith
Dean Bryant
John Caldwell
Scott Campbell
Glyn Cryer
John Cummins
Sasha Cunningham
Michael Dalton
Kris Darmody
Alan Drummond
Jeff Dycer
Peter Edmonds

Sue Fletcher
Luke Gallagher
Brenton Geyer
Ian Gould
Jeffrey Grad
Nigel Higgins
Crusader Hillis
Leigh Johns
Geraldine Kirby
Matto Lucas
Lee Matthews
David Micallef
Letizia Mondello
David Owen
Kaye Sera
Ron Thiele
Rowland Thomson
Danny Vadasz
Tracey Wall
Will Walton
Lisa Watts
Roxy B. Wild

APPENDIX

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CARNIVAL COMMUNITY STALLS PRECINCT

There were two main stall precinct blocks: the Sports Precinct at the St Kilda Rd end of the park and the Main Stalls Village at the other end, in the Picnic Precinct. The stalls are listed alphabetically, and the organisation name is included in brackets when it differs from the stall name:

Alphabetical List of Stalls (as registered)

- G3: ABC Pride (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)
- G0: Adobe
- D1: AGL
- D3: Amnesty International
- E5: Anglicare Victoria
- G3: Animal Justice Party PRIDE Team!
- Sports S5: AO / Tennis Australia
- E4: ARCSHS (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society) + Rainbow Health Australia
- C5: Assisting LGBTIQ+ community in the community legal sector (Southside Justice)
- B4: ASU Pride (Australian Services Union)
- G16: Atomo HIV Self Test (Atomo Diagnostics)
- F16: Aussie Broadband
- Roving: Australia Post
- B5: Australian Asexuals
- B4: Australian Education Union Pride - Vic Branch
- F15: Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA)

- Sports S9: Australian LGBT Ice Hockey
- A4: Australian Queer Archives
- A4: AVI: Australian Volunteers Program
- E6: Berry Street
- C4: Better Health Network (Star Health)
- G11: Better Place Australia
- D4: Beyond Blue
- F4: BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation
- F8: BLONKY SHOP
- F8: BrickNetty
- E11: BuildingPride
- Sports S8: Bulldog Pride
- E9: Calm Pet Vet
- G7: Carer Gateway (Merri Health)
- G6: Carers Victoria
- E7: Chillout Festival Daylesford
- E8: CHRISTALIGNMENT
- H7: City of Melbourne
- H8: City of Port Phillip
- F15: Crime Stoppers Victoria - Community Safety
- G17: CrownPride
- Main Bar: Dan Murphy's
- F10: Danish Blue
- E10: Deaf Community
- F9: Dorky Dragon
- G4: EACH (Pride at EACH)
- D5: Elder Abuse Prevention (North West Aged Care Assessment Service)
- G5: Elizabeth Morgan House + Safe and Equal
- G14: Emergency Management Pride Network Victoria
- G9: Emipeli Design
- E10: Equality Australia

- G8: everyone is welcome at cohealth
- E11: Fiona Patten MP + Reason Victoria
- C5: Gamblers Help (EACH)
- B5: Gay & Lesbian Immigration Task Force (GLITF Vic)
- F16: Gay Ski Week Australia / LGBT+ Cruises & Tours (Points of Difference Travel & Events)
- E7: GIPPSLAND PRIDE INITIATIVE
- H5: Glamazon
- Sports N5: Glamourhead Sharks
- G4: GLOBE Victoria
- Sports S2: Goodlife Health Clubs
- G4: HAAG: Housing for the Aged Action Group
- D4: headspace
- F13: Hidden Lions Pride Store
- G9: Houndsome
- G13: Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC)
- Sports: Info Tent - Main
- A4: Info Tent - Picnic Precinct
- G16: Insignia Financial
- F7: Isadora Nim - Women's Custom Suits
- D5: Jesuit Social Services
- H0: Jetstar
- G1: Joy Media
- E6: Key Assets-Foster Care
- F10: KNOTbound Ltd
- H4: L'Oreal
- F3: La Trobe University
- G15: LGBTIQA+ City of Casey
- G5: LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation
- F14: Liberal Pride with David Davis MP & Senator Jane Hume
- E6: Life Without Barriers - Foster Care
- D6: Lifeline Melbourne
- C4: Lifeview Residential Care
- E5: LivingWorks Australia
- G10: Low Rez Melbourne Male Choir
- G9: MADE TO STAND OUT by MAINE+MARA
- F9: Magic & More: Arborstern Art
- C4: Man Cave | Flourish Girl
- B5: Matrix Guild
- F15: Maurice Blackburn
- F17: Melbourne Airport (Australian Pacific Airports Corporation)
- Sports N9: Melbourne Argonauts Queer Rowing Club
- Sports S11: Melbourne Chargers RUFC
- G4: Melbourne City Mission
- Sports S7: Melbourne Frontrunners
- D6: Melbourne Inclusive Church
- F9: Melbourne IVF
- G10: Melbourne Motorcycle Tourers
- Sports N2: Melbourne Rovers Soccer Club
- Sports S10: Melbourne Smashers Badminton Club
- Sports N4: Melbourne Spectres Basketball Club
- Sports N1: Melbourne Spikers Volleyball
- Sports N6: Melbourne Surge Water Polo
- Sports N10: Melbourne Wranglers Wrestling Club
- F17: Mercer Australia (part of Marsh McLennan)
- G7: Merri Health
- G15: Merri-bek City Council
- E3: Monash Health Gender Clinic
- F5: Monash IVF
- F15: MTA MORTGAGE BROKERS
- H2: NAB
- D4: NCASA (Sexual Assault Services Victoria)
- E4: Neami National
- G17: Nest Legal
- F6: NewGen Families
- F6: Newlife IVF
- C5: NTV (No To Violence)

- F6: No.1 Fertility
- D3: Out for Australia
- F8: Pinbuds
- F7: Pineapple Paige
- E11: Planetdwellers
- G2: Pride Cup
- F7: Pride Foundation Australia
- G7: Pride in Foster Care (MacKillop Family Services)
- F5: Pride in the North (DPV Health)
- Sports N7: Proud 2 Play
- G12: Proudkind
- F5: QEC
- E4: QP @ Pride (Q Psychology)
- E3: Queer Greens
- F16: QUEER QUAKERS (Religious Society of Friends)
- G6: Queerspace - Drummond Street Services
- G17: Quest for Pride (Quest Apartment Hotels)
- F9: Qweer
- B1-C1: RACV (Royal Automobile Club Victoria)
- E10: Rainbow Expression (Expression Australia)
- F7: Rainbow Fertility
- D5: Rainbow Labor (Rainbow Labor Network Victoria)
- G8: Rainbow Rights and Advocacy
- G9: Rainbow Store
- G15: Rainbow Yarra (City of Yarra Council)
- B4: Relationships Australia Victoria
- S3-4: RFC (Richmond Football Club)
- F3: RMIT University
- G10: RUDE RAINBOW
- E7: S.H.A.F.T ! (Australian Apparel Manufacturing)
- F8: Sacred Heart Mission Op Shops
- A1: SEEK
- G12: Sequinpolarbears
- D4: Sexual Assault Services Victoria
- F10: Sexual Health Victoria
- Sports N3: Shuttlecats Badminton Club
- G13: Sick Pay Guarantee (Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions)
- E10: Stalls HQ
- F1: Star Observer
- A4: Switchboard Victoria
- B4: Teachers Health (Teachers Federation Health)
- E4: The Melbourne Clinic
- G6: The Pinnacle Foundation
- E5: The Royal Melbourne Hospital
- F10: The Satanic Temple Australia (TST AU)
- F4: The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
- Sports N8: Thornbury Bowls Club, The Rainbow Chapter
- F11: Thorne Harbour Health
- G2: Toy Kingdom
- E3: Trans Central Station (Seahorse Victoria)
- F2: Travelling with Pride (Department of Transport)
- F17: Turks
- G12: Unboxed Pride
- G11: Uniting AgeWell
- D6: Uniting Vic Tas
- F16: V/Line Corporation
- B5: VicBears Inc
- C5: Victoria Legal Aid
- F14: Victoria Police
- F14: Victoria Police Legacy
- F3: Victoria University, Start strong finish brilliantly
- F4: Victorian Aboriginal Health Service

- G15: Victorian Ombudsman
- G3: Victorian Pride Centre
- C4: VincentCare Victoria
- E6: VMIAC
- F13: Where Love Lives
- E9: Wilderness Society
- H2: Woolworths
- G13: WorkSafe Victoria
- H6: Yarra Trams
- G8: Your Community Health
- G2: Youth Projects

MIDSUMMA PRIDE MARCH 2023 – Registered March Participants, In Order

Wave A1: Pre-March Procession

Pre1: Dykes on Bikes Melbourne

Pre2: Rainbow Riders Victoria

Pre3: Melbourne Motorcycle Tourers

Wave A2: Indigenous Pride & Council Representatives

A1: Indigenous contingent

A2: City Of Port Phillip

Wave B: Youth

B1a: headspace

B1b: Orygen

B2: Minus18 Youth

B3: Rainbow Connections Mornington Peninsula (Celeste de Vis)

B4: Little Dreamers

B5: Thornbury Primary School

B6: Social Justice in Early Childhood

B7: Eastern Diversity Group (Family Access Network)

B8: St.Kilda Park Primary School

B9: St Kilda Primary School

B10: Youth Projects

B11: Swinburne Senior Secondary College

- B12: Carey PRIDE Group (Carey Baptist Grammar PRIDE Group)
- B13: OCGA Pride (Old Carey Grammarians Association)
- B14: Wesley College
- B15: P.E.G.S. (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School)
- B16: SRCS Stand Out Group (Sydney Road Community School)
- B17: Camberwell High School
- B18: Coburg High School Stand Out
- B19: Mentone Girls' Grammar - CHROMA
- B20: Melbourne Grammar School Pride Alliance
- B21: The King David School
- B22: PRIDE WGS (Westbourne Grammar School)
- B23: Strathcona Girls Grammar School
- B24: McK SC Pride Club (McKinnon Secondary College)
- B25: Xavier College
- B26: Eltham High School
- B27: Collingwood High School Proud Parents club
- B28: Collingwood College Pride Club
- B30: Buckley Park College
- B31: Overnewton Anglican Community College
- B32: Virtual School Victoria LGBTQI+ Club
- B33: Scouts Victoria
- B34: Girl Guides Victoria
- B35: Maroondah Youth and Children's Services
- B36: Knox City Council Youth Services
- B37: Baseline for Young People Rainbow Group (City of Whittlesea Youth Services)
- B38: Manningham Youth Services
- B39: Rainbow Alliance Stawell
- B40: Rainbow Playgroup (Kensington)

Wave C: Access & Inclusion

C1: Switchboard
 C2: Liberty Disability Services
 C3: Uniting AgeWell
 C5: Performing Older Women's Circus (POW Circus)
 C6: Matrix Guild of Victoria (A Voice for Lesbians aged 40 and Over)
 C7: Queer south Asians
 C8: Victorian Disability Worker Commission
 C9: 澳紐彩盟 ANTRA Inc (Australia & New Zealand Tongzhi Rainbow Alliance Inc.)
 C10: Pride Of Our Footscray
 C11: Deaf-initely Pride
 C12: Guide Dogs Victoria
 C13: Lifeview Residential Care

Wave D: Queer Community Groups & Organisations

D1: Motafrenz Car Club
 D2: Thorne Harbour Health (Victorian AIDS Council)
 D3: Victorian Pride Centre
 D4: The Pinnacle Foundation
 D5: GLOBE Victoria
 D6: Out for Australia
 D7: MGLC and shOUT (Melbourne Gay and Lesbian Chorus and shOUT Youth Chorus)
 D8: Bisexual Alliance Victoria
 D9: Bi+ Community of Melbourne (Melbourne Bisexual Network)
 D10: Transcend Australia
 D11: Transgender Victoria
 D12: Seahorse Victoria
 D13: The Shed
 D14: Aces+ Melbourne
 D15: Parents of Gender Diverse Children (Meagan Moss)
 D16: Rainbow Dads Victoria
 D17: Bent Twigs Alliance
 D18: Frankston Mornington Peninsula LGBTQIA+ Collaborative

D19: Queer as Foxtrot
 D20: Goulburn Valley Pride
 D21: Castlemaine Pride
 D22: Melbourne Rainbow Band
 D23: VicBears Inc.
 D24: VicPAH (Victorian Pups and Handlers)
 D25: Queerspace (drummond street)
 D26: Spaced Out - Melbourne based LGBTI Science Fiction Group
 D27: Rainbow LARP
 D28: Rainbow Atheists/Humanists Australia
 D29: Australian Rainbow Vets and Allies
 D30: Pride and Pawsome
 D31: Folsom Down Under
 D32: Drag Kings of Melbourne
 D33: Support Melbourne Drag
 D34: Lesbians of Australia Facebook group
 D35: JOY Media
 D36: Athena's Hand Queer Party
 D37: Chillout Daylesford
 D39: Gippsland Pride Initiative Inc
 D41: GROUSE Melbourne

Wave E: Organisations Showing Pride

E1: National Australia Bank
 E3: SEEK
 E4: Proud at Woolworths Group
 E5: Glamazon (Amazon)
 E6: AGL Shine
 E7: Dan Murphy's
 E8: RACV
 E9: PostPride (Australia Post)
 E10: L'Oréal Australia
 E11: Adobe Pride
 E12: Jetstar - Flying with Pride
 E13: Corrs Chambers Westgarth
 E14: Richmond Football Club
 E15: Riff Raff Radical Marching Band and Feminista Melbourne support the LGBTQIA+ community of Iran

Wave F: Cultural and Spiritual Organisations

F1: Jews of Pride
 F2: ACCEPTANCE MELBOURNE
 F3: Melbourne Inclusive Church
 F4: Glam Slammers (Tennis Australia)
 F5: Rainbow Sports Alliance (Proud2Play)
 F6: Queer Sporting Alliance
 F7: The NOMADS Outdoors Group
 F8: Bent Kranks cycling and mountain bike club
 F9: 69ers Tenpin Bowling
 F10: Melbourne Spectres Basketball Club
 F11: Handball Victoria
 F12: Kingston City Rollers
 F13: Melbourne Surge water polo club
 F14: St Kilda Bowls Club
 F15: Melbourne Chargers Rugby Club
 F17: Melbourne Argonauts Rowing Club
 F18: Melbourne Spikers volleyball club
 F19: Melbourne Wranglers
 F20: Melbourne Frontrunners
 F21: Shuttlecats Badminton Club
 F22: Melbourne Smashers Badminton Club
 F23: Glamourhead Sharks
 F24: Gisborne Senior Women's Football Team
 F25: AFL Pride Collective
 F26: AFL - Pride and Allies Group
 F27: Victorian AFL Clubs & Pride Supporter Groups
 F28: South Sea Roller Derby
 F28b: Melbourne Skaters For Pride
 F29: Recreational Rollers Victoria Inc.
 F30: LAHRC - Latin American & Hispanic Rainbow Community

Wave G: Emergency Service and Individuals, Friends & Families

G1a: Emergency Management Victoria
 G1b: Fire Rescue Victoria
 G2: CFA (Country Fire Authority)
 G3: Victoria State Emergency Service
 G4: Life Saving Victoria
 G5: Victoria Police
 G7: Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority
 G8: The GEO Group Australia
 G9: Ambulance Victoria Pipes & Drums
 G10: Ambulance Victoria
 G11: St John Ambulance
 G12: Nunga and Very Impressive Seeking Love (Very Greer Impressive)
 G13: Mornington Peninsula Queers (MPQs)
 G14: Maria Dimopoulos
 G15: Melgudi gays
 G16: Natasha Howell
 G17: Love and Support
 G18: Rebekah Jeffrey
 G19: Rainbow fam
 G20: Rissa Belle
 G21: Mikaela and Simon
 G22: Eileen Lin
 G23: Kelly Gong
 G24: Lw
 G25: Pip Serpentina
 G26: Anthony Cercone
 G27: Annalisa Cercone
 G28: Saffire-Rose Fletcher
 G29: Alex Miles
 G30: Fruity Stackers
 G31: Alicia Baik
 G32: lily
 G33: Tara Akritidis
 G34: Mikayla Mahood
 G35: Kaitlyn Law
 G36: Embrys Yong

G37: Hannah Uren
 G38: The zany family
 G39: Michelle Christian
 G40: Sniggy
 G41: Yasmin Kuluk
 G42: Simon Chitre
 G43: Radioactive
 G44: Michelle Rose
 G45: Aria
 G46: Maggie Clancey
 G47: Hartley Chng
 G48: Luke and Beth
 G49: Abigail O'Connor
 G50: Kai Knight
 G51: Individuals
 G52: Social Butterflies
 G53: Individual
 G54: Bounce for Pride

Wave H: Organisations Showing Pride & Political Representatives

H1: Chemist Warehouse
 H2: Microsoft GLEAM ANZ
 H3: Zoos Victoria
 H4: Amnesty International
 H5: Rotary Club of Prahran
 H6: Australian Retirement Trust
 H7: Rainbow Labor
 H8: United States Consulate Melbourne
 H9: Pride@KPMG
 H10: Ernst & Young
 H11: Norton Rose Fulbright - Pride Network
 H12: Russell Kennedy Lawyers
 H13: Ashurst Australia
 H14: JLL PRIDE
 H16: Liberal Pride
 H17: Pride@OES
 H18: OPEN at Mattel
 H19: Nous Group

H20: Sportsbet Queer Squad
 H21: Telstra Spectrum
 H22: Accenture ANZ
 H23: CPA Australia
 H24: URBNSURF MELBOURNE
 H25: City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band
 H26: Independent and Proud (Zoe Daniel and Monique Ryan)
 H27: Nike
 H28: Pride@Coles Victoria
 H29: Viva Energy Australia

Wave I: Community Care & Healthcare

I2: The Y
 I3: MacKillop Family Services
 I4: Fostering Connections & Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
 I5: Irabina Autism Services
 I7: Neami National
 I8: Candella
 I9: Berry Street
 I10: Better Place Australia
 I11: Society of Australian Sexologists
 I12: Sexual Health Victoria
 I13: Living Positive Victoria
 I14: Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)
 I15: Launch Housing
 I16: Sacred Heart Mission
 I17: Clean and Sober
 I18: NTV Pride (No to Violence)
 I19: Melbourne City Mission
 I20: Anglicare Victoria
 I21: TaskForce Community Agency
 I22: The Salvation Army - Social Mission
 I23: Brotherhood of St Laurence
 I24: VincentCare Victoria & Pride in Place
 I25: Odyssey House Victoria
 I26: Uniting with Pride

Wave J: Educational Institutions & Student Union Groups | Primary Health Care & Community Care

J1: Keypath Education
 J2: Monash University
 J3: Monash University Queer Health Collective
 J4: Victorian Medical Students' Queer Health Collective (MD Queer)
 J5: MSA Queer
 J6: RMIT University
 J7: Deakin University
 J8: Deakin Pride
 J9: Australian Institute of Music
 J10: TAFE Victoria
 J11: Pride at VU (Victoria University)
 J12: Swinburne University of Technology
 J13: SSU (Swinburne Student Union queer collective)
 J14: Swinburne Ally Network
 J15: NICA Students (The National Institute of Circus Arts)
 J16: Burnet Institute
 J17: QueersInScience
 J18: WEHI
 J19: Murdoch Children's Research Institute
 J20: The Royal Children's Hospital
 J21: Royal Melbourne Hospital
 J22: Pride in the North (Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health)
 J23: Women's Emergency Care - The Royal Women's Hospital
 J24: Better Health Network
 J25: Melbourne IVF
 J26: Austin Health
 J27: Northern Health - Pride In The North
 J28: Your Community Health
 J29: St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
 J30: Western Health
 J31: Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
 J32: Cancer Council Victoria

J33: Monash Health
 J34: Pride in the North (DPV Health)
 J35: Pride in the North (Banyule City Council & Banyule Community Health)
 J36: Pride in the North (Whittlesea Community Connections)
 J37: Epworth Pride (Epworth HealthCare)
 J38: Alfred Health
 J39: Nexus Primary Health
 J40: Pride in the North (Kilmore District Health)
 J41: Grampians Health
 J42: Eastern Health Rainbow Community

Wave K: Local Councils | Government Affiliated Organisations & Unions

K1: LGPro
 K1b: Team Melbourne! (City of Melbourne)
 K2: Darebin Pride (City of Darebin Council)
 K3: City of Whittlesea Council
 K4: Nillumbik Shire Council
 K5: Yarra Ranges Council
 K6: Glen Eira City Council
 K7: Kingston City Council
 K8: Pride @Manningham (Manningham Council)
 K9: Maribyrnong City Council
 K10: City of Stonnington
 K11: Bayside City Council
 K12: West for Pride
 K13: Greater Dandenong City Council
 K14: Cardinia Shire Council
 K15: Pride in the North (Hume City Council)
 K16: Monash City Council
 K17: Moonee Valley City Council
 K18: Brimbank City Council
 K18: Merri-bek City Council
 K19: Hobsons Bay City Council
 K20: Bass Coast Shire Council
 K21: NBN Co

Midsumma Festival

K22: Pride in Water
K23: Greater Western Water
K24: Union Pride (Victorian Trades Hall Council)
K25: Australian Education Union
K26: Victorian Public Sector LGBTIQ+ Pride Network
K27: Victorian Ombudsman
K28: Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
K29: Development Victoria
K30: WorkSafe Victoria
K31: Victoria Legal Aid
K32: Respect Victoria
K33: Library Pride (Public Libraries Victoria)
K34: Parks Victoria
K35: V/Line Pride
K36: Metro Trains
K37: Travelling with Pride (Department of Transport)
K38: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
K39: Yarra Trams

Wave L: Organisations Showing Pride & Political Representatives

L1: Ford Australia
L2: John Holland
L3: Symal (Symal infrastructure Pty Ltd)
L4: Queer Greens (Greens Victoria)
L5: AIG
L6: Northern Trust
L7: Nelson Alexander
L8: Kmart
L9: O'Ziriguidum Escola de Samba
L10: Wild Secrets (PHE International)
L11: Fiona Patten's Reason Victoria
L12: Origin Energy

L13: Arup
L14: Jacobs
L15: Elevation Performing Arts
L16: PACCAR Australia
L17: PaperCut Software
L18: bp Pride
L19: OMD
L20: WSP
L21: Kao Australia
L22: Motorola Solutions
L23: Intrepid Travel
L24: The Walt Disney Company
L25: Greyhound Racing Victoria

Wave M: Midsumma Festival

M1: Midsumma Festival

Image: AUNTY. Photo by Kyle Archie Knight



