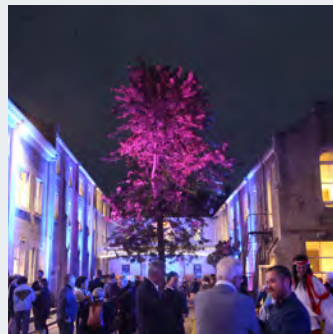
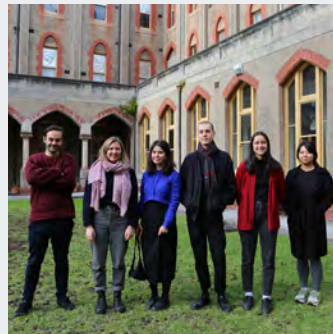


Annual Review 17/18





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Cover: Sacred Heart Opening.
 Opposite images from left to right, top to bottom: *A Decade of Lingering Gestures* by c3 Projects, Sarah crowEST and c3 Volunteers ; *Tangle* by Polyglot Theatre; Luke George *Group Action* rehearsal; Sacred Heart courtyard; ButohOUT! Festival; Chaco Kato; Wurundjeri Elders Aunty Gail Smith and Aunty Julieanne Axford; Ghost Wares; c3 Volunteers; Liquid Architecture *Polyphonic Social* photo by Keelan O’Hehir; Design Space; Sacred Heart Opening.

Vision

Purpose

To be renowned for stimulating engagement and cultural exchange through the wonderful and unexpected curiosities of our people and our place.

To transform people's lives through diverse cultural experiences and the striking landscape of our place.

A Message from the Chair



Victoria Marles

We celebrated the opening with a grand party in the Sacred Heart Courtyard. The building and grounds were brought to life by wonderful performances, delicious food from Bursaria Fine Foods and studios opened by our creative community. These activations showcased the stunning work from project architects Kerstin Thompson Architects and builders FDC Construction & Fitout. The adaptability of the Sacred Heart spaces has attracted a diverse range of creatives to our thriving community. The ACF now has the highest number of active tenancies in its history – with 123 tenants now at the precinct. The new members of our community support the long-term sustainability and continued development of the Convent and provide wonderful new opportunities for collaboration and activation with our community.

We have had little time to rest on this major achievement. Our restoration story continues, with Stage 1 works on the Convent's Magdalen Laundries set to commence in late 2018. The conservation and preservation of the Laundries was particularly critical to our inscription on the National Heritage List as they are one of the most intact examples of their type in the world. This prestigious recognition has unlocked federal funding which we have secured for a revision of our site-wide conservation management plan and the commissioning of a new conditions report for the Convent for delivery in 2019.

Another wonderful moment was the reopening of the rotunda in our stunning Heritage Gardens. The rotunda had been closed to the public for two years due to dilapidation, and over two months we undertook a like-for-like restoration. This important piece of history was brought back to life with the guidance of original Abbotsford Convent Coalition member and heritage architect Nigel Lewis. The restoration was made possible thanks to public donations from over 100 individual donors, alongside generous support from our Major Partner, the Copland Foundation, and investment from our Supporting Partner, Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund.

I thank everyone who contributed to the Convent's success in this milestone year of development, and sincerely welcome everyone who has joined our community – whether as new tenants, hirers of our beautiful venues, new donors, or visitors to our glorious green spaces and events. I look forward to the future as we build on our foundation and grow this thriving, nationally unique and dynamic arts, cultural and learning precinct.

As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that 2017/18 was a milestone year for the Abbotsford Convent Foundation (ACF). I am thrilled to see progress towards our strategic priorities of activation, place, viability and good governance. The inscription of the site on the National Heritage List and the completion of the Sacred Heart restoration in March 2018 could not have been achieved without many years of effort, planning and advocacy.

This was a significant year for the Convent as 2017 marked 20 years since a group of local community members came together around Abbotsford resident Sue Bannerman's kitchen table, determined that plans to turn the Convent into a residential development would not proceed. And what better way to mark our coming of age than the completion of the Sacred Heart restoration – our largest capital works project since restorations began more than a decade ago.

Years of fundraising by the community combined with an extremely generous donation of \$2 million from the Dara Foundation was matched by a Federal Government challenge grant of \$2.681 million from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF). The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP also provided essential support in the final stages of the build. Together we achieved the philanthropic, government and public funding which we worked so hard for.

A Message from the CEO



Collette Brennan

Our plans for Convent Live will expand with the forthcoming Magdalen Laundries restoration set to provide Melbourne with a new and uniquely atmospheric performance space.

We have also focused on increasing our precinct activation and audience engagement through existing partnerships with Melbourne Fringe and Next Wave Festival, and established new partnerships with Midsumma Festival and Dancehouse. These diverse partnerships bring new artists and collaborations to the Convent that grow and delight our audiences. In 2017/2018, the Convent curated and partnered programs reached over 36,000 audience members, involving just under 500 artists who produced over 1,000 works.

We continue to develop our curatorial vision through our onsite galleries. In its tenth year, the Convent's c3 Contemporary Art Space welcomed over 21,000 visitors, supported the creation of 283 new artworks and delivered its inaugural Professional Development and Mentorship program for emerging artists.

Another exciting development this year was the establishment of the Convent's new Studio Residency Program, which will support two artists annually to create new site-responsive works. The first two artists announced were Melbourne's renowned choreographer Luke George and innovative visual artist Minna Gilligan.

The diverse and creatively rich community at the Convent is an incredible asset and makes an impact on the quality of life of all who work at, visit and support the precinct. And the community is growing. This growth – whether through restoration projects that extend our footprint, more sustainable practices to maintain and expand our stunning gardens and grounds, or through our deeper partnerships with artists and creatives to deliver unique projects for our community – is grounded in our vision to transform the lives of everyone who engages with the Convent.

I would like to sincerely thank our Chair Victoria Marles and Board Directors for their tireless support, my team for their values and drive, our creative community for their commitment to excellence, and our supporters who walk with us every step of the way. I look forward to the next 12 months as we embark on an equally thrilling year of restorations, activations and community engagement.

What an incredible year of growth for the Convent! Sacred Heart and the rotunda have both been restored, the Convent now sits on the National Heritage List, and our community continues to grow.

This year, as part of our vision to deliver distinctive arts and cultural experiences for our community, we launched two new programs – Convent Kids and Convent Live. This curatorial approach establishes our reputation as a leading engine room for creativity by supporting independent artists and creatives across diverse practices. Convent Kids supported 48 independent artists to create new work for children and families. Our visitors really embraced these programs, with over 6,400 children and their families discovering new ways to create, make and play at the Convent. In the summer holidays alone, more than 4,700 people attended *Sensory Art Lab*, delivered in partnership with Slow Art Collective. These programs have been very well received by our community and lay the foundation for ongoing work with children and the grownups who love and care for them.

In early 2018, we also introduced our Convent Live series, unifying the Convent's diverse performing arts offering under one umbrella. From intimate performances to our annual classical music event *Music in the Round*, the Convent Live series demonstrates the versatility of our spaces and the awe-inspiring array of artists in our community.

Key Highlights



30,000+

People attended markets at the Convent



21,000+

People engaged with c3 exhibitions



6,407

People attended Convent Kids programs

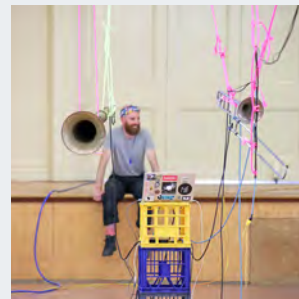
20,682

People follow us on Facebook
↑ 18%



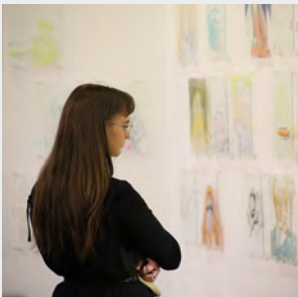
718

Artworks exhibited at c3



754

People joined a Social History Tour



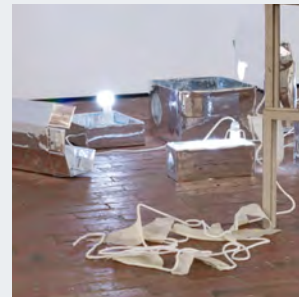
10,712

People attended programs by our onsite community



2.5+ million

Litres of rainwater were harvested

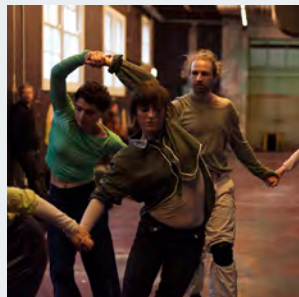


1,390m²

Additional tenancy space in Sacred Heart

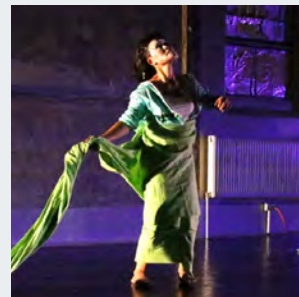
1,858

Hours of work donated by volunteers



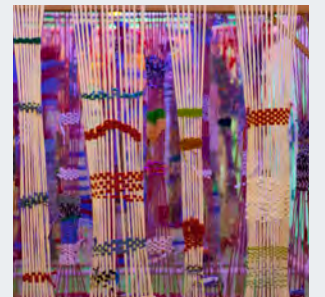
22,000

People attended meetings and conferences



\$80,000+

Raised to restore the balcony and tiled walkways



Images from left to right, top to bottom: ButohOUT! Festival, image by Brig Bree; install at St Heliers Street Gallery; detail from *The Space Between* at c3; *Daydreamer Wolf* by Elyas Alavi; *Instro-Experimento* by Playable Streets; *Future City Inflatable* by Ellen Davies and Alice Heyward, image by Jacqui Shelton.

Images from left to right, top to bottom: *Tangle* by Polyplot Theatre, image by Theresa Harrison; *Group Action* by Luke George rehearsal; *Your Story Garden* by Kids' Own Publishing; work by Lauren Burrow, Aoden Madden and Isabel Mallet at c3; Yumi Umiumare at ButohOUT! Festival, image by Mifumi Obata; *Sensory Art Lab* by Slow Art Collective at c3.

Abbotsford Convent Studio Residency Program

"My 2018 Studio Residency at Abbotsford Convent provided me with stability for my practice: a space to work from, to incubate, to launch and pursue ideas and projects. I was able to connect to all the different communities of people who visit or work at the Convent, all with different backgrounds, interests and reasons for being here.

My residency provoked me to re-engage with my interest in artistic social engagement and how people choose to engage in art, public space and with each other. The Convent was the perfect place for me to develop my new project *A Call To Actions*. I'm very happy to be continuing my partnership with the Convent towards further projects. I now feel like I'm part of the Convent community."

Luke George, Abbotsford Convent Artist-in-Residence

A Call to Actions

A Call To Actions by Luke George invited people to take part in a series of intimate and organic performances across the Convent precinct. The program is part of a triptych entitled *Public Action*, which investigates how groups of people negotiate shared space and cultivate a community that allows for risk.

A Call to Actions was proudly supported by the Abbotsford Convent Foundation



Programs

Key Programs

From public movements and sonic archery...

As an engine room of creativity, the Convent is committed to sharing the practice of making and creating by directly connecting audiences with artists.

In September 2018, the Convent launched its new Studio Residency Program, supporting two artists annually to create new site-responsive works.

Inaugural artist-in-residence, choreographer and dancer Luke George invited Convent visitors to join him in a series of public actions, exploring new methods of performance and connecting performers, audiences and environment.

The Convent was proud to present TerryandTheCuz's *SK!N*, a bold and immersive work of participatory theatre which saw 445 people transported inside a 40-foot shipping container. The Convent served as a creative incubator for the company's new touring work, *Thicker than Water*, a cross-cultural collaboration featuring artists from Australia, Malaysia and the USA. The company are taking their boundary-breaking work to the world – from historic Abbotsford Convent to the bright lights of New York City!

The January launch of Convent Kids supported 48 independent artists from diverse arts practices to create new work for children and families to enjoy. From weaving to experimental music making, participatory theatre to classical music concerts – over 6,407 children and their families discovered new ways to create, make and play at the Convent.

The smash hit of the summer was *Sensory Art Lab* delivered in partnership with Slow Art Collective. For two weeks in January, the lab ignited imaginations with a large-scale woven installation, sonic archery room and audible touch space. This was the first time the Convent's c3 gallery was 'taken over' by children, with more than 4,776 people joining in the fun – an average of 85 visitors per hour.

...to world-class classical music and an Indigenous sound trail

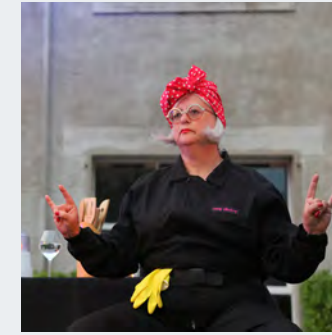
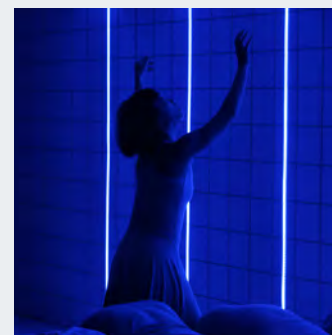
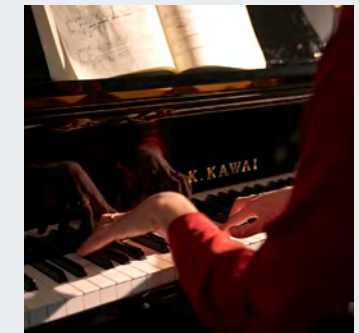
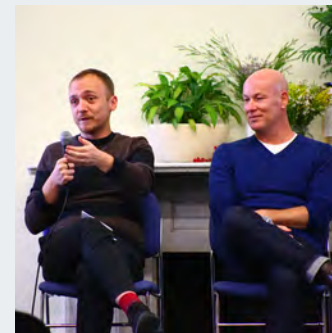
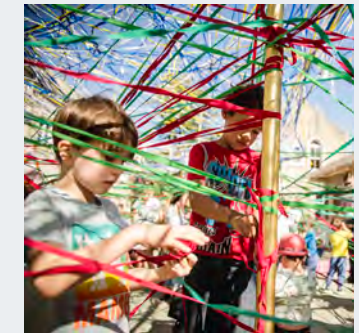
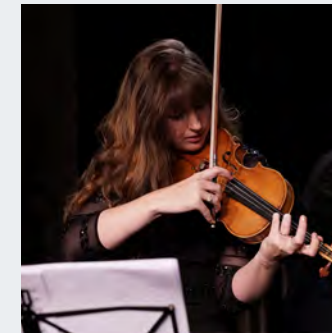
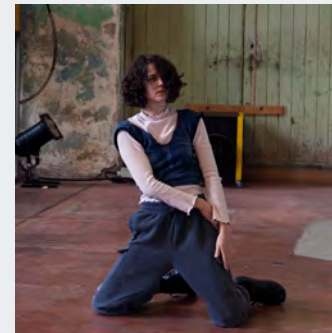
The Convent Live series launched in 2018, unifying the Convent's diverse performing arts offering under one umbrella. Over 300 people enjoyed intimate performances by Arcadia Winds, Melbourne Piano Trio, and Rose Riebl and Grace Ferguson. Our annual classical music event Music in the Round showcased the Convent, with musicians performing 18 concerts for a discerning crowd of classical music aficionados.

Our flagship multi-arts event, Open Spaces, was rested in 2017 due to extensive restoration works at Sacred Heart. The event will be reimaged in 2018 as a weekend-long celebration featuring a showcase of musicians, makers, designers, writers and artists from our tenant community and the broader arts community, as well as a preview of the *Ngulu-nganjin (Our Voice)* sound trail.

Funded by Creative Victoria in July 2017, the *Ngulu-nganjin* sound trail is being developed by the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation, in partnership with the Convent. This new platform will provide visitors with the opportunity to learn about Wurundjeri people and culture through music, language and stories.

Our social history tours remain popular, with over 750 people joining our volunteer guides on a wander through history. The inclusion of Wurundjeri voices and narratives in the *Ngulu-nganjin* sound trail will give greater context to the living and ongoing story of the Convent precinct for our communities.

Images from left to right, top to bottom: *SK!N* by TerryandTheCuz; Minna Gilligan at *Your Story Garden* by Kids' Own Publishing; *Daydreamer Wolf* by Elyas Alavi opening event; *Future City Inflatable* by Ellen Davies and Alice Heyward; Melbourne Piano Trio; *Tangle* by Polyglot Theatre; Midsumma panel discussion; *Sensory Art Lab* by Slow Art Collective; *Word Forgotten* with Rose Riebl and Grace Ferguson; *SK!N* by TerryandTheCuz; performance by Sonic Electric; *Polyphonic Social* by Liquid Architecture, photo by Keelan O'Hehir.



New Partnerships and Events

From men shedding tears on film and a three-hour durational dance work...

Cementing our place as one of Victoria's leading arts and culture destinations, the Convent works in partnership with innovative and boundary-pushing arts organisations to support artists and deliver thought-provoking work for our community.

From Japanese dance theatre, to queer art, and emerging contemporary work, the Convent's new and existing partnerships animated the Convent's spaces with a colourful array of daring and diverse programs. The Convent partnered with extraordinary performers Yumi Umiuare and Takashi Takaguchi to present the ButohOUT! Festival. The festival drew 670 people for a series of workshops and performances celebrating the art of Butoh.

This year the Convent hosted Next Wave Festival (five projects). Ranging from a ritual on the banks of the Birrarung, to a three-hour durational dance work, the Next Wave Festival events at the Convent drew audiences of 1,332 and supported 32 artists.

The exhibition *Daydreamer Wolf* by Elyas Alavi, as part of Next Wave Festival, showcased first-hand experiences of conflict, war and displacement, questioning the ways that these stories are staged for a Western audience. The exhibition was complemented by public programs featuring Persian poetry, music and performance. The exhibition drew a total of 955 attendees.

We were delighted to partner with Midsumma Festival to present three programs celebrating queer arts practice.

Over 1,400 people attended Midsumma programs at the Convent, which included a panel discussion on the challenges queer artists navigate, video portraits of men opening up and shedding tears, and an exhibition by Lisa White exploring men's experiences of homosexual law reform at St Heliers Street Gallery.

The Convent's longstanding partnerships, such as those with Melbourne Fringe and Liquid Architecture, also continue to attract and inspire audiences. The Convent is home to Fringe Furniture – the vanguard for iconic, eclectic and cutting-edge industrial design. The 2017 showcase attracted 3,200 design enthusiasts, and included tactile tours for blind or low vision people and two artist talks.

The Convent also hosted five diverse Fringe Festival events spanning puppetry and poetry, to cloud-gazing and Indonesian dance.

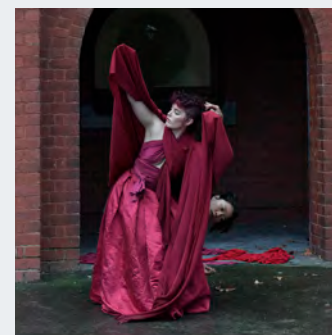
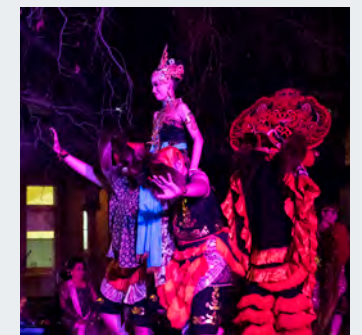
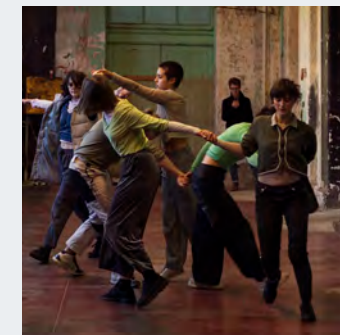
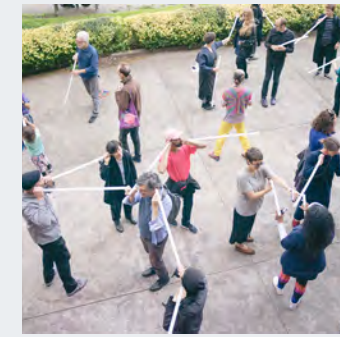
Our partnership with Liquid Architecture this year saw the Convent present *Polyphonic Social*, a two-day event spanning music performances, children's programs and experimental participatory work. The event drew 250 attendees and supported the work of 19 artists.

...to enlivening the precinct with a range of markets

Positioning the Convent as a leading destination for diverse events, and activating the Convent precinct for visitors to enjoy inside and out, is a key priority.

In addition to the Slow Food Farmers' Market, new events this year included Vegan Market of Melbourne, Melbourne Book Market, Westwind Collectors Market and more.

Images from left to right, top to bottom: performance by Guntur Dance Company, image by The Melbourne Critique and Timothy Treasure Photography; *Polyphonic Social* by Liquid Architecture, photo by Keelan O'Hehir; West Wind Collector Market; *Genius* by Amelia Ducker and St Martins Youth Arts Centre, photo by Pier Carthew; ButohOUT! Festival, image by Simon Aubor; Fringe Furniture 3i; Slow Food Farmers' Market; *Future City Inflatable* by Ellen Davies and Alice Heyward; performance by Guntur Dance Company, image by The Melbourne Critique and Timothy Treasure Photography; ButohOUT! Festival, photo by Brig Bree; *Genius* by Amelia Ducker and St Martins Youth Arts Centre, photo by Pier Carthew; work by Libby Harward as part of Liquid Architecture's *Polyphonic Social*.



Galleries

From spirit telephones and hybrid transportation at c3...

Sculptures made from laundry soap, a barbecue constructed entirely from Bunnings materials, a 13m long collaborative installation involving 21 artists... In its tenth year, the Convent's c3 Contemporary Art Space reached new heights to deliver risk-taking contemporary art.

c3 supported the creation of 283 new artworks and welcomed over 21,000 visitors this year, including 800 attendees for public programs.

This year saw c3 celebrate its first decade, with a special project to mark the dedication and passion of the c3 community. *A Decade of Lingering Gestures* featured contributions by Sarah crowEST, c3 volunteers, Behn Woods, Adam Cruickshank, Jon Butt and Torie Nimmervoll, and involved paintings on the surface of gallery dropsheets, a commemorative poster and text accompaniment, and pewter fillings in the heritage brick floor by artist Torie Nimmervoll and c3 Projects.

Before Taking Any Action, with contributions from Arini Byng and Hannah Donnelly, saw c3 make its mark among Australia's top visual arts organisations as part of Hobiennale 2017 and MEL&NYC 2018.

This year, with the support of generous funding from Creative Victoria and City of Yarra, c3 delivered its highest number of in-house curated projects.

In *Gardening is not a rational act*, well-known artist, curator and member of the c3 board, Tai Snaithe, curated a large-scale exhibition including work by Eugene Howard that involved the contents of his garden scattered as mulch over the gallery floor.

Continuing its mission to support emerging artists, c3 delivered its inaugural Professional Development and Mentorship program, which supported the creation of 12 projects delivered by 25 featured artists.

The gallery also recognised Honours graduate Amalia Lindo with its inaugural new graduate award, presented in collaboration with MADA Monash.

A major highlight was c3's fundraising initiative, *c3 + Art is not an object it is an exchange*, which featured 150 works by 63 artists. Proceeds from sold works were split evenly between the gallery, lowering artist fees for next year, and the artists.

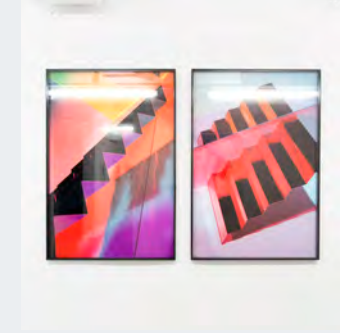
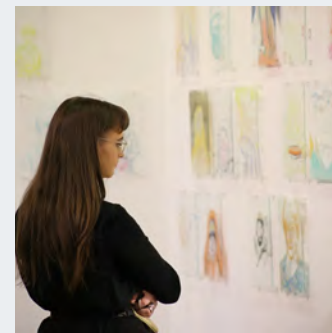
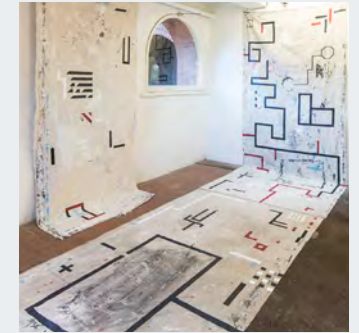
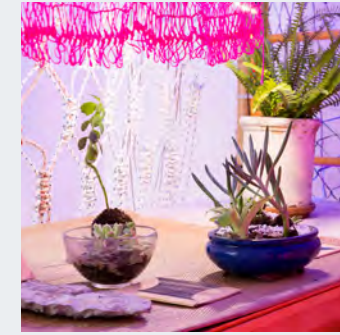
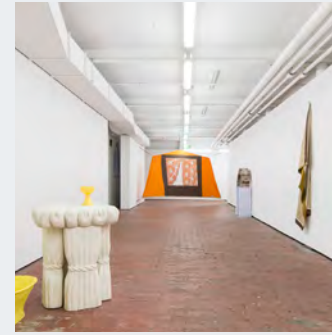
The *News Network Project* was a large-scale exhibition that featured artists from Australia and New Zealand including Alison Alder, Marian Crawford, BaT & Emboss, Neil Emmerson, Richard Harding, Marion Wassenaar, and Trent Walter. For this exhibition, artists responded to current events and explored how the fields of news, current events, print and contemporary art intersect.

...to Persian poetry and symbols of protection at St Heliers Street Gallery

The Convent's Saint Heliers Street Gallery delivered a year-round program of 14 exhibitions by 94 artists, eight artist talks and five performances. Exhibitions by Convent-based artists and makers included illustrations from Tony Wilson's children's books, typology by Old School New School, sculptural and video works by Linda Oy Ho and more.

A highlight from the gallery program was group show *How Much Can a Koala Bear* in March 2018, as part of Melbourne Design Week. Co-curated by Convent tenant Eugenie Kawabata and Felicity Mark, the exhibition invited 16 established and emerging designers to respond to the notion of 'Australianness'. Jewellery designer and Convent tenant Katheryn Leopoldseder also presented pieces as part of the exhibition.

Images from left to right, top to bottom: *The Space Between* at c3; *Gardening is not a rational act* at c3; Burchill/McCamley; Meredith Turnbull; Ben Burgess; *A Decade of Lingering Gestures* at c3; c3 Projects with Jon Butt + Arini Byng; Elyas Alavi; Linda Oy Ho; Elyas Alavi; Liesl Pfeffer; *Gardening is not a rational act* at c3.



Celebrating the Traditional Owners of the Land, the Wurundjeri People

“For us, the Wurundjeri people, the natural world is also a cultural world. We have a cultural duty to preserve and maintain our culture and cultural practices, cultural objects and heritage (both tangible and intangible).

As a traditional meeting place of our people, the site on which the Abbotsford Convent stands today is of great historical and cultural significance.

This site is enclosed in a natural amphitheatre which for millennia provided our people with a sheltered and resource-rich camping area, while the river flats and deep fresh water of the Birrarung were plentiful for hunting, fishing and eeling. The associated river lands were actively farmed for murnong, or yam daisy, one of our traditional staple root vegetables.

The nearby confluence of the Merri Creek and Birrarung at Dights Falls continues to be an important meeting place for our people. It's a place where we continue to actively practice our culture.

We proudly maintain our connection to the Convent site today, with our offices being based here.”

Statement from the Council

Pictured: Wurundjeri Elders, Aunty Gail Smith and Aunty Julieanne Axford.

People



Creative Onsite Community

Creative Convent-based Community

Our tenant community is the creative heart of the Convent. Abbotsford Convent hosts over 120 creatives, organisations and wellbeing practitioners in studios, transforming the site into a bustling hive of activity. We are committed to developing the Convent's reputation as a thriving creative hub, and our tenant community is key to this.

Many of our tenants conduct classes, workshops and events, sharing their skills and passions to enrich the fabric of the Convent community. From knitting circles and painting classes to writers' workshops and improvisation classes, the Convent's tenants delivered 539 programs to over 10,700 people.

The Convent is committed to nurturing and showcasing our talented community. Delivered in partnership with Cam's café, St Heliers Street Gallery gives tenants the opportunity to exhibit their work to visitors in a bustling environment. This year eight tenants were featured in exhibitions in this space including Linda Oy Ho, Old School New School Typography, Lauren Dunn, Samantha Sommariva and more.

Sacred Heart

This year, our creative community grew significantly with the arrival of a whole host of artists and creatives, animating our newly-restored Sacred Heart building.

Ink & Spindle transformed their first floor studio into a printmaking and textiles wonderland. Adopting a community approach, Ink & Spindle share their space with two other local printmakers. The space has been used to conduct a number of screen printing workshops and demonstrations, welcoming new visitors and enlivening the precinct.

Polyglot Theatre is one of a number of child-focused tenants in Sacred Heart. With a customised fit out and plenty of inspiring performance and rehearsal venues onsite, Polyglot feels at home at the Convent.

The Convent collaborated with Polyglot to present *Tangle* as part of our Convent Kids program. The activation involved a 400m² weaving installation in the Sacred Heart Courtyard, which drew 827 attendees to the Convent in April 2018.

Fostering Excellence

We strive to foster excellence, and this year saw a number of tenants recognised for prestigious awards. Kate Ryan's novella *The Mourning Dress* won the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards 2017, Micheline Lee's novel *The Healing Party* was recognised in the Dobbie Literary Award shortlist, and Roslyn Oades was nominated for Best Regional Touring Program at the Helpmann Awards for her production *Hello, Goodbye and Happy Birthday* with Performing Lines.

Honouring our Traditional Owners' past, present and future

The Convent is proudly home to the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation, the peak body representing the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of Melbourne and surrounding territories.

Highlights for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung included the passing of the historic Wilip-gin Birrarung Murron (Yarra River Protection) Act, celebrated with a tree planting at the Convent. Following this, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community developed a formal policy response to the Act in a document titled *Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung* (Ancient Spirit and Lore of the Yarra). This policy was co-launched with the Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision in May 2018 on the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra).

Images from left to right, top to bottom: Ink & Spindle; Leah Muddle; Linda Oy Ho; Bill Moulden and Jordan Smith from Wurundjeri Council's Water Unit; Ghost Wares; Eugenie Kawabata; Studio 5; French tête-à-tête; Kathryn Leopoldseder, Print Safari; Cone 11 Ceramics; Kids' Own Publishing.



Volunteer and Online Communities

Growing our valued volunteer community

This year, 89 community volunteers generously donated 1,858 hours to the Convent. According to Victorian Government volunteer research, this equates to an incredible \$51,017 in donated labour. Of course, we can't simplify the impact of our volunteers into a dollar figure – our volunteers are an essential part of the Convent community. Volunteers provide a welcoming face for thousands of visitors every year. They play a critical role in protecting our gardens, assisting in our galleries and delivering our year-round programs and events.

Helping our gardens grow

With just two part-time gardeners to manage 6.8 hectares of green space, a dedicated group of volunteer gardening assistants are needed to protect, nurture and grow our heritage gardens. A team of 19 volunteers provided extra hands and enthusiasm to plant, prune, weed, and water, keeping our gardens healthy and beautiful. The Convent also hosted four preschool groups and a group of corporate volunteers who helped in our gardens.

Gallery assistance and professional development

This year, c3 Contemporary Art Space celebrated its 10 year anniversary. The gallery would not be the success it is today without the support of our volunteers and student interns.

In addition to learning event management skills at opening night events, volunteers in the Convent's c3 Contemporary Art Space Volunteer Program are offered a range of professional development opportunities, including curatorial practice, installation and gallery administration. Volunteers join the program to extend their creative networks, be part of a supportive artistic community and develop transferable skills for careers in the arts and creative industries. This year ten volunteers took part in the program, donating 385 hours, and learning professional skills along the way.

Sharing our history

Sharing the Convent's unique history remains a key pillar of our audience engagement. With the help of our seven highly experienced volunteer tour guides, we're ensuring that the Convent's history continues to be shared. Collectively, our volunteers provided 91 hours of tour guiding, helping over 750 visitors learn more about the Convent's social and architectural history, contemporary preservation and thriving creative community.

Our volunteer guides come from a range of professional backgrounds – be they an architect, academic, historian, professional artist or onsite practitioner – lending unique perspectives to the Convent story. In addition to our regular public tours, our volunteer guides assist with specialised tours such as Meet the Maker creative studio tours, contemporary art and design tours for tertiary students, and architecture walks for Heritage Week.

Delivering year-round events

From stage managing and ushering at Convent Live performances, to welcoming little ones at Convent Kids events, the Convent's event volunteers provided support on a range of arts and cultural programs. Volunteers who assisted with Convent Kids programs were provided with specialised professional development to build their skills in working with children through the arts.

Online community

As our onsite creative community grows and develops, so too does our online community. This year our social media following continued to grow, with 20,682 followers on Facebook and 13,739 on Instagram, an increase of 18% on both platforms. Our e-news subscriber base also grew by 31%. The Convent's website was visited more than 244,000 times, from all corners of the world, including United States of America, United Kingdom and Singapore.

Pictured: c3 Volunteers with Katie Paine, c3 Gallery Manager



Protecting Our Place With A Long-term Vision

On Thursday 31 August 2017, the Abbotsford Convent joined iconic landmarks including the Royal Exhibition Building, Sydney Opera House and the Melbourne Cricket Ground in achieving the country's highest level of heritage recognition.

Becoming the 111th site added to the National Heritage List, the Abbotsford Convent has been recognised for demonstrating Australia's social and welfare history through the lens of a religious and charitable institution. The Magdalen Laundries and asylum buildings are an important physical record for those Australians and their families known as the Forgotten Australians. The harm of institutionalisation and the trauma experienced by many residents is acknowledged as part of the Convent's history.

The Convent's place on the National Heritage List will help protect the site's precious heritage fabric for generations to come, while honouring those who were affected by its past. The listing is a significant milestone in a long community campaign (led by the Abbotsford Convent Coalition) to protect the Convent – a landmark 7-year campaign that began in the late 1990s when more than 6,000 objection letters, \$3 million in pledges and countless volunteer hours helped save the site from developers.



Place

A Place to Meet

With its sprawling heritage gardens and range of unique spaces, the Convent is a charming setting for a range of events, workshops, seminars, performances, rehearsals and much more. Each year the precinct plays host to hundreds of events, bringing new and regular visitors to the Convent.

The Convent's ongoing events saw a marked increase in visitation this year. Now in its third year, Brewers Feast welcomed 2,200 attendees, an increase of 47% on last year. The Boite Singers Festival saw a 50% increase in attendance as they welcomed 1,500 people to the festival this year.

In total, this year saw over 94,000 people visit the Convent for markets, exhibitions, weddings, rehearsals, development days, performance, and workshops.

A place for supporting local growers and makers

This year, the Convent welcomed over 30,000 market-goers to our diverse offering spanning fresh produce, unique books, vegan goods, and artisan wares. From September 2017, the Vegan Market of Melbourne made the Convent their new home, attracting around 400 visitors each month. The West Wind Collector Market also made their Convent debut in 2017, showcasing independent makers and artisans in the Industrial School.

A place for centre-stage moments

This year saw a significant growth in the number of performances held in the Convent's uniquely atmospheric spaces. Ranging from classical music, to contemporary dance and world music, 99 performances graced the Convent's stages, welcoming over 4,500 audiences members.

The Convent is proud to have hosted the unique contemporary music of Forest Collective for the last five years, presenting 15 of their concerts in our atmospheric performance spaces, including eight in the last year.

A place to strike a pose

With its raw interiors, grand facades and lush gardens, the Convent is picture-perfect for film and photoshoots. This year, the Convent starred as a stunning backdrop to 58 film and photoshoots, including those by *Family Food Fight*, Frank Body, Princess Highway, *Married at First Sight* and more.

A place for personal and professional development

From improvisation, writing and dance, to yoga, Feldenkrais and qigong, the Convent hosted over 1,000 classes and workshops, and 9,000 people learnt new skills and improved their wellbeing.

Increasingly, organisations right across the corporate spectrum are looking to the Convent as an inspiring setting for their staff to meet, plan, learn and grow. This year, we welcomed 22,000 people to the precinct for meetings, conferences and training seminars, an increase of 56%. This year, the Convent also hosted 52 weekend intensives, welcoming over 2,840 people for programs ranging from yoga and mindfulness to business and writing.

A place of ever-expanding opportunities

The opening of the newly-restored Sacred Heart building presents an expanded opportunity for the Convent to host a diverse range of events in its new spaces which include a purpose-built art space and a meeting room.

With the restoration of the North side of the Magdalen Laundries underway, the Convent is looking forward to offering new evocative spaces for hire, including a performance and event space, that will delight our community.

Pictured: Design Space at Open Spaces.



Protecting Our Precious Place

The Convent's strategic priority of 'place' mandates the ongoing conservation and enhancement of our site's natural and built form to deliver a vibrant mix of cultural and community activities for all to enjoy.

With the Convent recently inscribed on the National Heritage List, the Australian Government has awarded funding towards a complete revision of our site-wide Conservation Management Plan. Much has changed at the Convent since the original plan was written in 2004 and a new overarching report will guide the next chapter of the Convent's history, ensuring our precious heritage assets are preserved and protected for future generations.

Sacred Heart and the Laundries

After more than four years of planning and eight months of works, the restoration of the Sacred Heart building was completed in March 2018, marking the Convent's largest capital works program since original restorations commenced more than a decade ago.

Undertaken by an expert team including Kerstin Thompson Architects (KTA) and FDC Construction & Fitout, and overseen by Heritage Victoria, the Sacred Heart precinct now offers fit-for-purpose studios, offices, retail spaces and venues for hire.

Work is now underway on the Convent's next major building project, the Stage 1 restoration of the Magdalen Laundries; a project made possible through funding support from Heritage Victoria, JT Reid Charitable Trusts, and other valued partners. These extraordinary spaces are expected to be ready for contemporary performance and presentation in 2019, and the Convent will continue advocating for more resources to complete restorations of the spectacular and significant Laundries.

Gardens and Grounds

The 2017 Keep it Green: The Water Story fundraising appeal raised vital funds to install new water tanks and plumbing infrastructure to capture an additional 2 million litres of rainwater from our rooftops each year.

The Providence building lawn near the site's main entrance was also given a refresh with new turf and irrigation systems installed. Our gardeners and garden volunteers also planted 45 new trees as part of our growing biodiversity planting program.

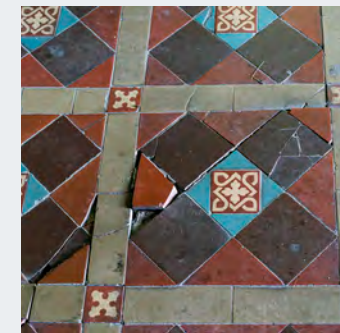
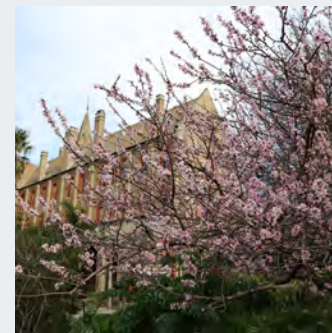
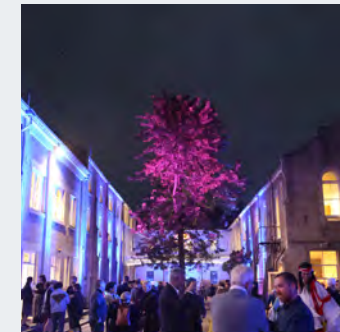
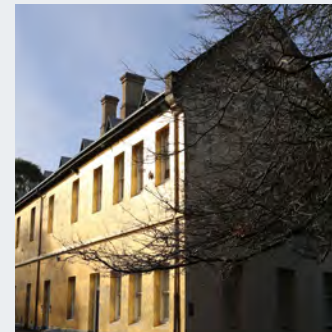
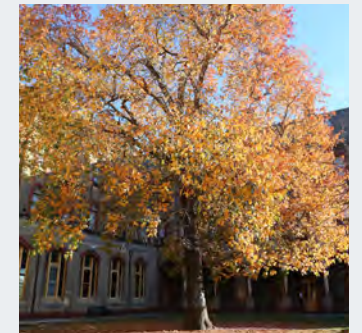
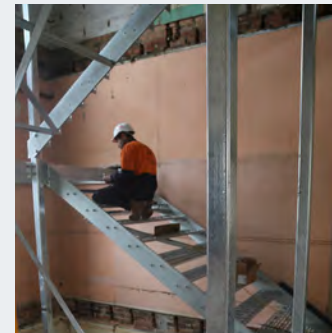
New solar-powered LED lights have been installed on the path leading to the Sophia Mundi Steiner School, improving security in this area of the precinct. The new lights require no in-ground electrical supply and are motion-activated to save power. The costs saved from this energy initiative are being reinvested into protecting the Convent's gardens and grounds.

Rotunda restoration

The Convent's heritage-listed rotunda underwent a complete suite of restoration works to secure and protect its structure, and to reopen this special space for arts and cultural initiatives for the community. This project was made possible thanks to the generous support of our major funding partner, The Copland Foundation, our supporting partner, Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund, and a generous group of more than 100 individual donors.

Walk With Us

This year we turned our attention to two striking features of the Convent building in need of urgent remedial works – the heritage balcony overlooking the Convent's gardens (a space never before opened to the community) and the 110+ year old tessellated tiles lining our public walkways. A record number of individual donors 'walked with us' to exceed our fundraising goal, with our partners at FDC Construction & Fitout generously matching all donations up to \$40,000.



Abbotsford Convent Foundation Arts Trust

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Donations	98,273	552,692
Grants Received	78,000	56,000
Interest Income	12,718	35,822
TOTAL REVENUE	188,991	644,514
EXPENDITURE		
Donations to Abbotsford Convent Foundation	2,277,158	78,000
Other Donations	2,000	-
Bank Charges and Fees	1,392	952
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,280,550	78,952
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE TAX	(2,091,559)	565,562
Income Tax Expense	-	-
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(2,091,559)	565,562
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	(2,091,559)	565,562

Notes to Financial Statements

Abridged financial statements: These abridged financial statements are prepared from the full audited financial statements. The Abbotsford Convent Foundation (ACF) is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. The company owns and manages the property at Abbotsford. The company also acts as trustee of the Abbotsford Convent Foundation Arts Trust. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Corporations Act 2001. The statements are audited by Deloitte and lodged with the ACNC. The ACF has tax-exempt status and is the trustee of the Abbotsford Convent Foundation Arts Trust, which is a Deductible Gift Recipient listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations. Donations over \$2 to the Abbotsford Convent Foundation Arts Trust are tax deductible. A complete set of financial statements is published at abbotsfordconvent.com.au

Abbotsford Convent Foundation Arts Trust

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	199,090	1,134,206
Term Deposit	159,050	1,315,317
Trade and Other Receivables	3,755	6,149
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	361,895	2,455,672
TOTAL ASSETS	361,895	2,455,672
LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payables	-	2,218
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	2,218
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	2,218
NET ASSETS	361,895	2,453,454
Settlement Amount	100	100
Retained Income	361,795	2,453,354
TOTAL EQUITY	361,895	2,453,454

Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
OPERATING REVENUE		
Car Park Income	1,025,551	962,102
Events	124,178	117,889
Grant Income for Operating Activities	276,721	122,000
Room Hire	572,005	595,647
Rental Income	1,515,705	1,440,328
Recoveries of Outgoings	112,815	91,215
Other Revenue	18,862	30,241
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	3,645,837	3,359,422
Interest Income	16,969	12,461
	3,662,806	3,371,883
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		
Administration	26,999	26,059
Advertising and Marketing	29,369	33,494
Bank Charges	9,770	4,610
Car Parking	232,334	189,895
Fundraising	10,537	11,232
Insurance	113,736	117,748
Programming	196,949	152,624
Rates and Taxes	63,986	62,099
Site Operating Costs	757,797	809,000
Staff and Employee Expenses	1,851,653	1,799,012
Other Expenses	161,051	92,661
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	3,454,181	3,298,434
Operating Result Before Depreciation	208,625	73,449
Depreciation	601,811	551,100
OPERATING RESULT AFTER DEPRECIATION	(393,186)	(477,651)
CAPITAL GRANTS AND DONATIONS		
Grant Income for Capital Projects	5,527,782	1,095,000
Donations	8,431	23,006
TOTAL GRANTS, DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP	5,536,213	1,118,006
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	5,143,027	640,355
Income Tax Expense	-	-
Surplus for the Year	5,143,027	640,355
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS	5,143,027	640,355

Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,478,694	1,312,414
Term Deposits	-	211,293
Tenant Bond Deposits	276,366	247,824
Trade and Other Receivables	605,327	177,630
Prepayments	115,160	116,003
Security Deposits	30,693	30,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,506,240	2,095,164
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment	17,036,483	12,044,145
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	17,036,483	12,044,145
TOTAL ASSETS	19,542,723	14,139,309
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payables	736,274	475,299
Deferred Income	46,062	57,585
Rental Bonds and Deposits	281,764	248,809
Employee Benefits	130,762	146,502
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,194,862	928,195
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee Benefits	27,259	33,539
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	27,259	33,539
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,222,121	961,734
NET ASSETS	18,320,602	13,177,575
Equity	18,320,602	13,177,575
TOTAL EQUITY	18,320,602	13,177,575

Supporters

The ACF acknowledges the financial and philanthropic support of the following people and organisations who contributed to the ACF and the Abbotsford Convent Foundation Arts Trust in 2017/2018.

We also acknowledge the vision of the Abbotsford Convent Coalition whose members campaigned for seven years to secure this precinct. This success would not have been achieved without their commitment, and that of many others. Over the years, the Convent project has also been greatly assisted by a vast number of individuals and organisations who have contributed their time, energy, skills and financial support. The ACF is extremely grateful to all those who have provided support.

Principal Donors

Ms Krystyna Campbell-Pretty
Mr Peter Griffin AM
& Ms Terry Swann
Ms Anne Kantor AO
& Dr Milan Kantor OAM
Mr Baillieu Myer AC
& Mrs Sarah Myer
Ms Sally Romanes
Mr Jeff Thompson
& Ms Kathryn Culley

Major Donors

Mr Marc Besen AC
& Mrs Eva Besen AO
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Ms Diana Heggie

Mr Hans Henkell
& Mrs Petra Henkell
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Mr Graeme Johnson OAM
& Mrs Joan Johnson
Mr Ronald Alan Jones
& Ms Georgina Whitehead
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& Mr Quincy McLean
Ms Victoria Marles
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& Mrs Paula McLeod
Prof Peter McPhee AM
& Ms Charlotte Allen
Ms Margaret McVey
Ms Ann E. Miller
Ms Patricia O'Donnell
Mr Bruce Parncutt AO
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Mr Gregory Shalit
& Ms Miriam Faine
Mr Phillip Schudmak
Mr & Mrs Terence Teo
Mrs Moyna Wilson

Key Supporters

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Mr Anthony Cullen
Ms Suzanne Davies
Mr Robert Dimattina
Ms Alison Duncan
Mr Robert Hocking
Ms Ruth Jones
Dr Stuart Kells
Mr Peter Kelly
Mrs Judy Matear
Ms Pamela McLure
Mr Alasdair Norton

Ms Sara O'Callaghan
Mr Alex Patton, Ms Anna Lucas
& Ava Patton
Mr Michael Sokulski
Lady Marigold Southey AC
Dr Bob Sullivan
Mr Peter van der Kraan
Mrs Judy Williams
& Mr Peter Williams
Anonymous (1)

Friends

Dr Christopher Baker
Ms Joanne Bechaz
Mr David Baile
Ms Nicole Beyer
Prof Catherin Bull AM
Mr Bruce Butler
Mrs Sue Campbell
Mrs Suzy Chandler
Ms Michaela Coventry
A J Daley
Ms Sandie de Wolf AM
Mrs Faye Deane
Mr John Di Natale
Mr Bruno Doring
Ms Anne Dowling
Ms Lesley Dunton
Mrs Robyn Dwyer
& Mr Dennis Dwyer
Mr Anthony Felettigh
Mr Aaron Foo
Prof David Forrest
Mr Jesse Fulton
Dr Steven Gaff
Mr Nicholas Garnham
Mr David I. Gibbs
Mr Stephen Gow
& Mrs Mary Gow
Ms Meredith Greenwood
& Prof Peter Rendell
Dr Nicholas Gruen
Mrs Jean Hedges

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Mr Roger Harrop
Mrs Sheila Heys
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The Hon. Brian Howe AO
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Mr Christopher Howlett
Mr Walter Kane
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Ms Karen Large
Mr James Lesh
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Ms Emily Lin
Ms Joanne Luciani
Ms Jessica Luu
Mrs Margaret McNaughton
Prof David Morritz de Kretser AC
Ms Judy Morton
Ms Leah Muddle
Ms Alexandra Murphy
Ms Lou Oppenheim
Mrs Lynette Payne
Slow Food Farmers' Market
Mr Emilio Raviola
Mr Tom Rendell
Mr Warren Rixon
Ms Janey Runci
Mrs Pamela Saunders
Mrs Rosalind Smallwood
Mr Mike Smith
Ms Antonia Syme
Mrs Patricia Tooth
Ms Barbara Trauer
Mrs Maggie Vaiopoulos
Ms Naomi Velaphi
Mrs Charma Voller
Ms Libby Ward-Christie
Mr George Willcox
Dr Jin Woo
Anonymous (7)

Corporate Partners

Allens Linklaters
Deloitte
Egon Zehnder
FDC Construction & Fitout
PwC
Studio Round
Williams Boag Architects

Corporate Supporters

Aesop
Art Guide Australia
Australian Writers' Centre
City West Water
Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy
Community Bank Branch of
Bendigo Bank
Colour Factory
Corporate AV
Folk Architects
Gunn & Taylor Printers
Mornington Peninsula Brewery
NAB

Event Partners

3MBS Fine Music Melbourne
Bursaria Fine Foods
Convent Bakery
Kawai
Terrace Gardens Florist

Trusts & Foundations

Principal Partner

The Dara Foundation

Major Partners

The John T Reid Charitable Trusts
The Copland Foundation

Supporting Partners

The Angior Family Foundation
Ballandry (Peter Griffin Family)
Fund (a sub-fund of the Australian
Communities Foundation)
Copyright Agency Cultural Fund
The Henkell Family Fund (a
sub-fund of the Australian
Communities Foundation)
Lord Mayor's Charitable
Foundation
McLeod Family Foundation
The Robert Salzer Foundation
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Victoria's Heritage
Restoration Fund

Principal Government Partners

Australian Government
Department of Environment
and Energy

Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure:
National Stronger Regions Fund

Victorian Government Department
of Environment, Land, Water &
Planning: Living Heritage Fund

Government Supporters

Creative Victoria
City of Yarra
Public Record Office Victoria

Board and Team

Board

Victoria Marles, Chair
Charlotte Allen, Co-Deputy Chair (until 16/10/17)
David Laidlaw, Co-Deputy Chair
Diana Heggie
Ronald Jones
Ruth Jones
Stuart Kells
Sally Romanes (until 16/10/17)
Michael Sokulski
Antonia Syme
Elizabeth Ward-Christie
Judy Williams

Team

Executive

Chief Executive Officer:
Collette Brennan
Chief Operating Officer:
John Di Natale

Administration

Accounts Manager:
Ilona Molyte (from 21/5/18),
Tibo Lazennec (until 16/3/18)
Assistant Accountant (P/T):
Theresa Bernstein
Governance & Operations Officer:
Thomas Rendell
Administrator:
Sherry McLane Alejos (from 23/5/18),
Madeleine Dorevitch (until 4/5/18)
Salesforce Administrator (P/T):
Justin Butler (until 15/5/18)

Buildings & Facilities

Buildings & Facilities Manager:
David Campbell
Facilities Coordinator:
Peter Mandersloot (from 17/7/17)
Head Gardener (P/T):
Simon Taylor
Site Coordinators (P/T & casual):
Paul Blakeney, Reg Gaudon, Jack Hall, Milad Nemati, Ben Steiner (from 7/12/17), Paul Niklas (until 25/10/17), Carl Turney (until 17/4/18), Sara Lammardo (until 30/6/18)

Development & Fundraising

Head of Development:
Alexandra Murphy
Development Coordinator (P/T):
Emily Boyle, Natalie Tizi (maternity leave cover from 1/9/17)

Marketing & Communications

Director Strategic Projects, Marketing and Communications:
Brooke Daly (until 25/5/18)
Marketing & Communications Manager:
Elizabeth Davie (22/11/17 until 23/2/18)
Communications Coordinator:
Laura Bianchi (from 23/5/18),
Huw Cushing (until 15/5/18)

Programming

Producer:
Chloe Weavers
c3 Contemporary Art Space Director:
Jon Butt
c3 Contemporary Art Space Gallery Manager (P/T):
Katie Paine
Community Engagement Coordinator:
Jacqueline Hanlin

Tenancy

Tenancy & Studio Manager:
Leonie Wray (acting from 16/10/17),
Felicity Mark (until 16/11/17)
Studio & Leasing Coordinator:
Catriona Black-Dinham

Venue Hire

Venues Manager:
Renee Daniele (acting from 23/10/17),
Leonie Wray (until 15/11/17)
Venue Hire Coordinator:
Renee Daniele (until 22/10/17)
Venue Hire Administrator:
Nada Čordašić (from 7/8/17),
Maria Coviello

Volunteers

Volunteers

Judith Allen
Madeline Allen
Jade Barnaby
Janet Bennett
Peter Bennett
Deshani Berhardt
Rebecca Berry
Megan Bonny
Chris Bowes
Maggie Brown
Sade Brown
Ciska Burrie
Michelle Buzza
Naomi Callander
Miles Campisi
David Cardamone
Suna Celik
Lydia Connolly-Hiatt
Olivia Corby
Marie-Clare Courtin
Linda Crooper
Anna Cuttance
Ollie Dean
Sandra Del Monaco
Anouk Dijkman
Alexandra Dobson
Peter Dunn

Annabelle Gall
Madonna Grehan
Damien Griffiths
Aurora Harmathy
Matthew Henry
Gabriel Holton
Rachel Huf
Cristal Johnson
Carmel Killin
Rachel King
Georges Klopotoski
Thalia Klugman
James La Spina
Henry Law
Sally Ann Lawford
Sasha Leong
Thalia Livingstone
Jacinta Lombardozzi
Heather Loomes
Harriet Maher
Margaret McVey
Josephine Mead
Jordan Mitchell-Fletcher
Alison Murphy
Darren Naftal
Joel Naughton
Melinda Nicol
Rema O'Neill

Natalia Orel
Nuala O'Sullivan
Tinieka Page
Mary Peacock
Madelyn Pickersgill
Genevieve Pikó
John Price
Liam Rao
Clive Rumney
Yolanda Shaw
Lilith Silva
Ronnie Smith
Annie Song
Julian Stow
Caroline Stuart
Lene Sunter
Sue-Anne Tan
Zoe Taplin
Snhea Varma
Sissi Wang
Yuchen Wang
Bruce Ward
Jennifer Warren
Sally Whiteman
George Willox
Moyna Wilson
Peter Zeidler

Thank You

Your support brings the Convent to life each year

The Abbotsford Convent is owned and operated by a for-purpose, not-for-profit organisation – the Abbotsford Convent Foundation (ACF), which manages the precinct on behalf of the community.

The ACF does not receive any recurrent funding from any level of government. We rely entirely on our own limited means – alongside the support of passionate community-minded individuals, organisations and philanthropic partners that help protect, maintain, and bring the precinct to life each year.

If you enjoy your experiences at the Convent, and feel a connection with this unique inner-urban community retreat, please consider joining our growing community of supporters and making a donation today.

Your generosity is an investment in the Convent's future – helping to support site-wide sustainability initiatives, maintain and protect the Convent's invaluable green open space and its precious heritage buildings, and enable a range of arts and cultural programming throughout the year.

We are passionate about community connectedness, and providing an urban oasis of arts, cultural, learning and wellbeing initiatives – all year round. However, we need your support to do this.

It took a committed community of supporters to save the Convent from commercial development over 14 years ago. It takes a united community of supporters to help keep the Convent protected and activated today – and open for everyone to enjoy, 365 days of the year.

Your personal support will make an important and significant impact. Thank you for walking with us as we restore history for the future.

