

Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Annual Review 15/16

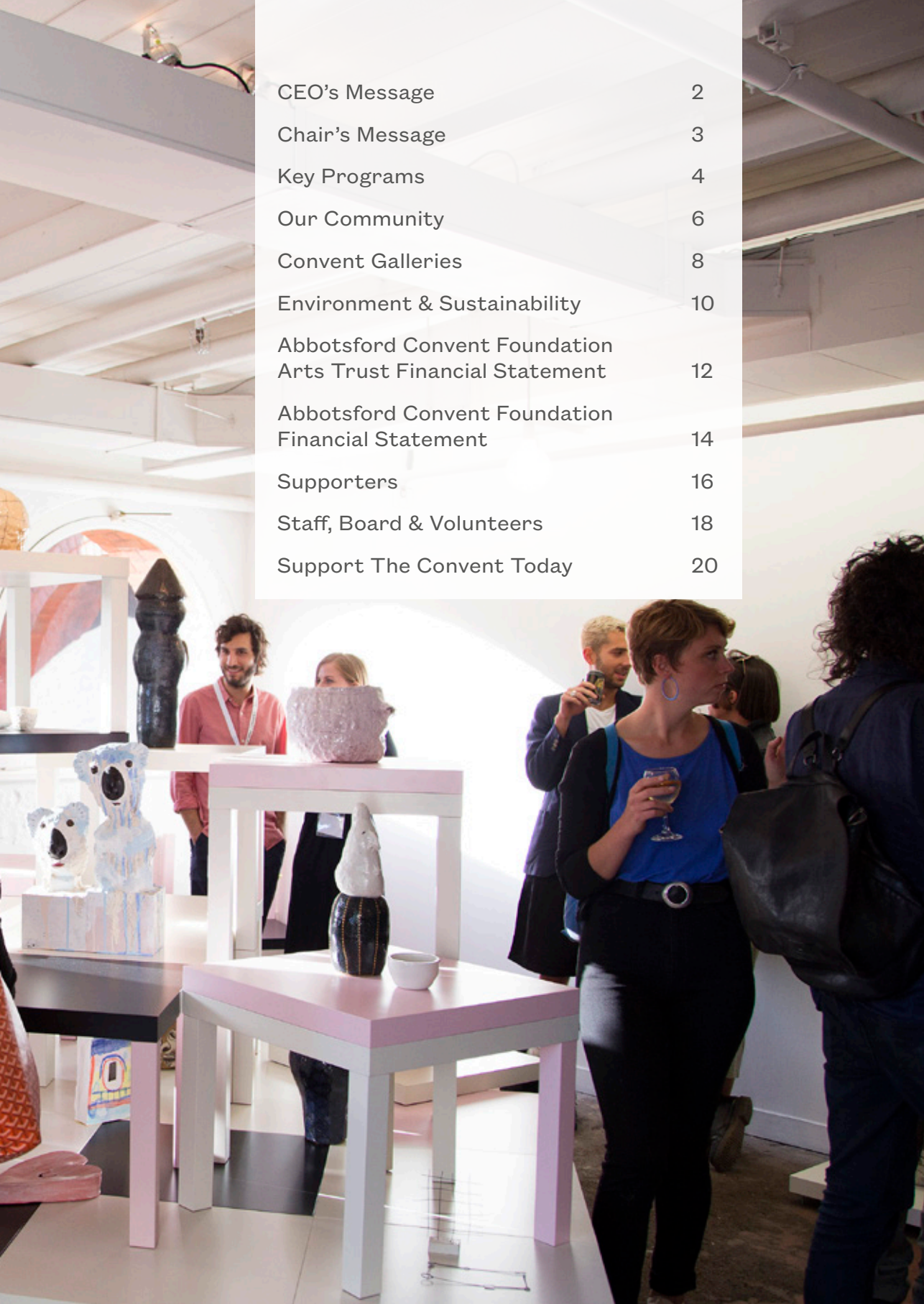
Abbotsford
Convent



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A note from the CEO, Maggie Maguire

Numbers and statistics and amounts of things – the Abbotsford Convent’s world is full of them, so this year we’re sharing some hard numbers to show how much we’ve achieved.

However, the Convent is also full of quirky facts and figures, so I’m sharing some of my own. After 11 years, this will be the last Annual Review I deliver to the Convent community. In that time, I attended 122 Board meetings and sat at the front gate on 114 mornings to collect donations at the Slow Food Farmers’ Markets. On average, I send 200 emails a day, and receive about 150 (obviously I ‘talk’ more than most).

Numbers aside, my role as CEO (or the cheeky Mother Superior) has been about people, relationships, partnerships and the community. I often talk about the community within the Convent’s walls, as well as our communities just beyond; ever expanding like the layers of an onion. Without the Good Shepherd Sisters’ community, this astonishing site wouldn’t exist, and without the Abbotsford Convent Coalition, the site would have been converted into a bunch of apartments.

Just 12 years in, we’ve secured funding to refurbish all of the site’s major buildings, and the Abbotsford Convent is soon to join the National Heritage List. We’ve achieved an astonishing amount. There will always be more to do, but I now feel that “my job is done,” so it’s time to hand over to a new CEO.

I genuinely thank every philanthropist, Trust & Foundation, individual donor and organisation who has supported the Convent. Many thanks also to each Board and sub-committee member who helped guide this precious place. I also pay tribute to the hundreds of talented tenants, past and current, who call the Convent their place of solace and work. Huge thanks to all volunteers, interns, students and firms for their free or pro bono support. And finally – thanks a glorious bunch to our fabulous staff, both past and present; their never-ending enthusiasm, wit, energy and commitment has made this gig so much easier than it might have been.

Thanks to you all – a million times over. I look forward to watching the Abbotsford Convent continue to develop as a national treasure, holding its own place on the global stage.

Maggie Maguire



A note from the Chair, Victoria Marles

As a thriving and growing arts, cultural and learning precinct, this year we look to numbers to tell the story of who comes to the Abbotsford Convent and why.

Whilst we proudly attract more than 1 million visitors a year – including those attending more than 1,400 year-round events, exhibitions, classes and workshops – many come to the Convent simply to spend time with family and friends in our stunning gardens; furry friends included. Along with hundreds of dogs and a few cats, this year we shared our space with four snakes and even a seal swimming down the Yarra River!

It's this context – as a place to catch your breath – which makes the Convent so special.

But our spectacular site also brings with it challenges. With 6.8 hectares of green open space and 11 heritage-listed buildings, our work in raising funds to restore, protect and maintain the site for the enjoyment of all is ongoing.

On that note, I'd like to highlight some major successes.

With sustainability a key priority, this year the Convent launched its first ever crowdfunding campaign, seeking funds for renewable energy initiatives. With thanks to the generous support of our philanthropic, public, corporate and tenant community, the campaign reached its ambitious target, becoming Australia's

largest crowdfunded solar project, and our most successful fundraising campaign to date.

We also held a fundraising campaign over summer, focused on the sustainability of our gardens, as we work to return to largely self-sufficient horticultural practices used by the Convent's Sisters 100 years ago.

We continue to raise critical funds to restore our precious buildings, and in May we were advised that the State Government would contribute \$2.7 million towards transforming the Convent's Laundries. This meant that in just 12 years the Convent had raised enough funds to restore more than 90 percent of the site's buildings.

The Laundries funding was announced at the farewell of our CEO, Maggie Maguire; a fitting end to a remarkable era under Maggie's leadership. I thank Maggie for her vision, dedication and tireless work over the past 11 years, transforming the Convent from a site of neglect, to one of national and international significance.

Whilst it is indeed sad to say goodbye to Maggie, it is because of her achievements that we can confidently look to a bright future for the Convent. I look forward to working with our community, staff, Board and new CEO, Collette Brennan, to continue our exciting path of growth and development.

Victoria Marles

Key Programs

The number of key programs delivered by the Convent almost doubled this year, reaching more artistic communities via new funding initiatives and commissioned works, and targeting diverse audiences via year-round exhibitions, events, talks and tours.

Alchemy Arts Grants

The launch of the Convent's flagship arts funding program, Alchemy, saw three works commissioned in response to the site's location, architecture and history. The Mural Hall hosted two performance pieces, with *Fallen O'er* drawing on a young woman's experience of liturgical dance at a Catholic girls' school, and *Cross My Heart (and Hope)* exploring hope, resilience and adversity through dance, music and visual arts. *Ecophany* saw the Convent courtyard become a 'sonic ecosystem,' using robotic instruments and synthesis to reference the Convent's flora and fauna.

Convent Conversations

The launch of Convent Conversations saw more than 150 attendees share big ideas with Indigenous visionaries, consider contemporary education models with teachers and social enterprise trainers, and delve into urban design with leading architects, academics and environmental advocates.

Open Spaces 2015

The Convent reimagined its biggest day of the year, with Open Spaces delivering a full day of vibrant arts and cultural programming across the entire site. More than 7,000 visitors attended, with a highlight being an Art Trail of nine works encouraging visitors to explore the Convent inside and out.

Music in the Round 2015

Traversing 300 years of classical and chamber music, Music in the Round saw over 250 attendees enjoy intimate performances by 15 musicians, spanning Brahms to Beethoven.

Studio Start-Up

Supporting emerging artists in their transition from study to professional practice, this year Studio Start-up saw Tania Smith and Briony Galligan spend six months rent-free at the Convent, culminating in a joint exhibition in the Convent's St Heliers Street Gallery.

Tours

Sharing the Convent's unique history remains a key pillar of audience engagement, with 1,213 visitors taking social history, garden and architecture tours with the Convent's expert community of academics, historians, landscape gardeners and in-residence architects.

Alchemy 2016 recipient, Rawcus, perform *Cross My Heart (and Hope)*

A woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a white dress with large yellow floral patterns, stands in a hallway with a black and white checkered floor. She is looking upwards and to the right. In the background, there is a wooden door set within an arched doorway.

7,000+

Visitors explored the Convent
inside and out at Open Spaces

A man in a grey button-down shirt and dark trousers stands by a large window with wooden frames. He is looking out the window and has his hands raised, touching the top of the frame. Sunlight streams in from the window.

250

Classical music lovers
experienced Music in
the Round

150

Attendees shared big
ideas with thought-
leaders at Convent
Conversations

Convent Community

Complementing its core creative, learning, wellbeing and artistic in-residence community, the Convent continues to create new ways to engage visitors and volunteers, attracting more than 1 million people to the site each year.

In-residence Community

The Convent's in-residence community is its life-blood. Australia's largest multi-arts precinct, the Convent is home to more than 100 artists, creatives, educators, makers and wellbeing practitioners, with demand for studios greater than ever before; up 15 percent within the last year. From broadcasters, screen printers, jewellers, animators, illustrators, painters and designers, through to a dedicated WellBeing Wing offering acupuncture, Feldenkrais, yoga, meditation and more, the Convent continues to foster an environment which values and promotes the importance of arts, wellbeing, learning and culture.

Exhibitions, Performances & Events

From the raw interiors of the Industrial School through to the beautiful décor of the Rosina building, the Convent welcomed more than 100 weddings with Bursaria Fine Foods, 72 live music performances with Shadow Electric and 44 markets, offering slow food through to locally crafted designs. Exhibitions included Fringe Furniture, which continues to draw hundreds of visitors to the Convent each year thanks to our partnership with Melbourne Fringe.

Learning & Development

Within the last year, more than 10,000 people came to the Convent for classes, workshops and weekend intensives, learning yoga and dance therapy, through to languages, writing, singing and acting.

Community Volunteers

The Convent's volunteer community plays a critical role in helping to deliver year-round events, and protect and nurture the Convent's grounds. From ushering and event management, to ticketing and tours, this year 93 student and community volunteers donated their time.

Corporate Community

Creating new ways to connect with the corporate community has been a focus over the last year. In addition to 300 conferences and events, the Convent formalised a corporate volunteer program this year, creating a new revenue stream to support its work. More than 150 corporate volunteers donated their time from a range of sectors, including international consultancy firms, the automotive industry and global hotel groups.

Yuria Okamura, 2016
Studio Start-up recipient



100+

Artists, writers, creatives
and makers call the
Convent home

243

Student, community and
corporate volunteers
donated their time

10,000+

People attended classes, workshops
and weekend intensives

Convent Galleries

Home to two galleries, the Convent encourages emerging and established artists to push boundaries at its c3 Contemporary Art Space, while St Heliers Street Gallery delivers a year-round program showcasing works by Convent-based and other local artists.

c3 Contemporary Art Space

Since launching in 2008, the Convent's c3 Contemporary Art Space has supported more than 2,000 artists to take risks, develop new contemporary multi-arts practices and build sustainable careers in the arts.

c3 has quickly become one of Australia's most significant Artist-Run Initiatives (ARIs), each year attracting more than 350 applications from emerging through to established artists. This year, 175 artists were selected to exhibit at c3, with 885 new works created, spanning video, installations, photography, prints, paintings and performance works.

Supporting the development of artists and arts administrators alike remains a key priority. In addition to offering a comprehensive arts management internship, c3 also launched a new three-month mentoring program, offering 13 volunteers several tailored workshops, ranging from artwork installation to curatorial development.

With support from Creative Victoria for two exhibitions – *Cutting Mirrors* and *Feeling Material* – c3 commissioned 17 new works which exhibited at c3, across the Convent site and throughout Melbourne.

Encouraging debate, discussion and collaborations, c3 also held a series of artists' talks and workshops connecting audiences with artists.

A highlight of the year was c3's major fundraising initiative, *Faux Fair*. Featuring 12 fictional gallery stands – with tongue-in-cheek names such as GoCO (Gallery of Contemporary Objects), Ego Loveheart and Unique Contemporary – the exhibition played on commercial art fair bravado. More than 80 artists provided works, and in line with *Faux Fair's* mission to support artists, 50 percent of income from sold works was returned to the artists involved, with all remaining proceeds going directly to lowering gallery fees for those exhibiting in 2016.

St Heliers Street Gallery

Welcoming over 2,000 visitors each week, St Heliers Street Gallery presents a year-round, six-week exhibition schedule showcasing the work of in-residence and other local artists. The gallery provides an opportunity for cross-pollination and artistic dialogue, and does not charge commission on works sold.

Great Comfort, Small Model installation detail, exhibiting at c3; Brigit Ryan and Scarlett Rowe



47

Fake meteorites thrown
off a 150 foot crane for a
c3 artwork

885

New works created by c3
exhibiting artists

2,000+

People visit St Heliers Street Gallery each week

Environment & Sustainability

From new initiatives to restore and protect the Convent's heritage-listed gardens, to significant steps towards site-wide sustainability, this year the Convent embarked on major fundraising campaigns as we actively work towards a greener future.

Gardens

The Convent's 6.8 hectares of green open space offer a place of retreat, 365 days a year.

This year saw significant developments in the management, restoration and protection of the gardens following the appointment of a new Head Gardener, Simon Taylor, and the launch of a major public fundraising campaign focusing on sustainability.

By minimising mains water use, recycling garden waste, using organic fertilisers, and increasing plant bio-diversity, this year the gardens adopted horticultural practises akin to those used by the Convent's Sisters 100 years ago.

Thanks to generous public, philanthropic and corporate support via a dedicated Spring/Summer fundraising campaign, the Convent:

- Recycled 2.5 million litres of storm water – or 'Holy Water' – by purchasing new tanks
- Upgraded and extended garden irrigation systems
- Purchased and planted 140 new Indigenous, native and exotic plants and shrubs
- Improved sustainability by recycling wood ash, coffee grounds from Convent cafés, and livestock manure and compost from the Collingwood Children's Farm

Funds raised also supported the Convent's new 'Sapling School' program, educating pre-school children on Indigenous ecosystems and organic gardening, complementing education programs for local and international students.

Increasing community and corporate engagement via volunteering remains a priority. With an extended corporate volunteering program, more than 1,000 volunteer hours were spent on gardening this year (up 25 percent).

The Solar Project

In May 2016 the Convent launched its first ever crowdfunding campaign via Pozible, seeking funds for renewable energy initiatives, including the installation of a large-scale solar energy system.

Solar power will significantly reduce the site's carbon footprint, saving over 100 tonnes of emissions each year. With donations matched dollar-for-dollar (up to \$60,000) by a generous partner, the campaign successfully reached its target, becoming Australia's largest crowdfunded solar project.

The Convent's creative community generously donated collectable artworks, workshops, event tickets and other special offers as rewards, with more than 300 individuals, several community-minded foundations, and one outstanding corporate partner financially contributing to this important campaign.

10,000+

In-situ plant cuttings planted

1,000+

Hours spent on gardening works by volunteers

100+

Tonnes of carbon emissions will be saved annually through solar power



Abbotsford Convent Foundation Arts Trust

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Donations - cash	434,705	417,235
Grants Received	51,500	41,400
Interest Income	34,601	30,312
TOTAL REVENUE	520,806	488,947
EXPENDITURE		
Donations to Abbotsford Convent Foundation	96,946	35,800
Bank Charges & Fees	1,745	540
Commissions	1,386	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	100,077	36,340
SURPLUS BEFORE TAX	420,729	452,607
Income Tax Expense	-	-
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	420,729	452,607
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS	420,729	452,607

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

For the year ended June 2016

	2016	2015
ASSETS	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	505,148	936,649
Term deposit	1,361,081	527,390
Trade and other receivables	45,797	3,230
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,912,026	1,467,269
TOTAL ASSETS	1,912,026	1,467,269
LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	98	106
Prepaid Income	24,036	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	24,134	106
TOTAL LIABILITIES	24,134	106
NET ASSETS	1,887,892	1,467,163
Settlement amount	100	100
Retained Income	1,887,792	1,467,063
TOTAL EQUITY	1,887,892	1,467,163

Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
OPERATING REVENUE		
Car Park Income	984,925	780,906
Events	140,209	141,382
Room Hire	551,473	511,678
Rental Income	1,407,548	1,366,314
Recoveries of Outgoings	73,885	68,034
Other Revenue	67,009	38,398
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	3,225,049	2,906,712
Interest Income	16,635	25,220
	3,241,684	2,931,932
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		
Administration	33,360	27,705
Advertising & Marketing	19,354	13,661
Bank Charges	7,274	15,409
Car Parking	96,319	260,097
Depreciation	539,081	519,160
Insurance	122,101	123,156
Rates & Taxes	64,818	60,981
Site Operating Costs	710,126	710,044
Staff & Employee Expenses	1,481,993	1,373,201
Fundraising	10,162	49,051
Programming	125,453	121,690
Other Expenses	123,925	100,460
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	3,333,966	3,374,613
OPERATING (DEFICIT)	(92,282)	(442,681)
GRANTS, DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP		
Grant Income	14,152	3,000
Transfers from the ACF Arts Trust Fund	96,946	35,800
Sponsorship	-	16,000
Donations	20,285	10,620
TOTAL GRANTS, DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP	131,383	65,420
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	39,101	(377,261)
Income Tax Expense	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	39,101	(377,261)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	39,101	(377,261)

Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	780,583	901,954
Tenant Bond Deposits	252,752	243,754
Trade & Other Receivables	161,373	77,307
Prepayments	114,600	130,411
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,309,308	1,353,426
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Security Deposits	205,599	200,000
Property, Plant & Equipment	12,015,643	12,134,291
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	12,221,242	12,334,291
TOTAL ASSETS	13,530,550	13,687,717
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade & Other Payables	428,763	515,732
Deferred Income	134,294	104,340
Rental Bonds & Deposits	253,026	249,970
Employee Benefits	153,414	145,125
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	969,497	1,015,167
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee Benefits	23,833	14,431
Loans	-	160,000
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	23,833	174,431
TOTAL LIABILITIES	993,330	1,189,598
NET ASSETS	12,537,220	12,498,119
Equity	12,537,220	12,498,119
TOTAL EQUITY	12,537,220	12,498,119

Thank you to our Supporters

Abbotsford Convent Foundation warmly thanks its current donors, philanthropic partners and supporters for their generosity towards the important work of the Abbotsford Convent in FY15/16.

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 The People's Solar

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Abbotsford Convent Foundation

03 9415 3600

info@abbotsfordconvent.com.au

abbotsfordconvent.com.au

1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford VIC 3067

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David Laidlaw, Co-Deputy Chair

Anthony Cullen (until 16/11/2015)

Ronald Jones

Stuart Kells

Patricia O'Donnell

Sally Romanes

Michael Smith

Michael Sokulski

Carol Stuart

(16/11/2015 until 06/05/2016)

Antonia Syme

Elizabeth Ward-Christie

Judy Williams (appointed 16/11/2015)

Team

Executive:

Chief Executive Officer:

Maggie Maguire

Chief Operating Officer:

John Di Natale

Administration:

Accounts Manager:

Anthony Felettigh

Assistant Accountant (P/T):

Theresa Bernstein

(appointed 18/11/2015)

Governance & Operations Officer:

Thomas Rendell

Administrator: Madeleine Dorevitch

(appointed 22/02/2016)

Community Engagement Officer:

Chloe Weavers

Salesforce Administrator (P/T):

Justin Butler

(appointed 08/02/2016)

Buildings & Facilities:

Building & Facilities Manager:

John Mummery

Head Gardener (P/T):

Simon Taylor

Gardener (P/T):

Joanne Bechaz

Site Coordinators (P/T):

Paul Blakeney, Jonathan Carmichael,

Jason Currie, Robert Currie

(until 24/04/2016), Reg Gaudon,

Jack Hall, Alexander Napolitano

(until 21/01/2016), Paul Niklas,

Carl Turney

Communications:

Communications Manager:

Beth Wilkinson (until 17/06/2016)

Communications Coordinator (P/T):

Jean Kemshal-Bell

Development & Fundraising:

Head of Development:

Alexandra Murphy

Development Coordinator (P/T):

Emily Boyle (appointed 04/11/2015)

Development Coordinator

(P/T): Jasmine Watterson

(until 28/10/2015)

Programming:

Programming Manager:

Emily Siddons

(until 25 August 2015)

c3 Contemporary Art Space

Director: Jon Butt

Production & Events Assistant

(P/T): Jonathan Carmichael

Tenancy:

Tenancy & Studio Manager:

Felicity Mark

Tenancy Administrator (P/T):

Maria Coviello (until 23/07/2015)

Studio & Leasing Coordinator (P/T):

Catriona Black-Dinham (appointed 09/03/2016)

Venue Hire:

Venues Manager: Leonie Wray

Venue Hire Coordinator:
Michael Williamson

Volunteers:


Brenda Addie
Judith Allen
Sophie Aloni Tapia
Janet Bennett
Peter Bennett
Megan Bonny
Susie Brown
Chairim Byun
Naomi Callander
Ariel Cameron
Jinlei Cao
Grace Cheng
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Ting Wang
Bruce Ward
Rhonda Watson
Zita Whalley
George Willox
Moyna Wilson
Kerry Winters
Morgan Woodruff
Isabella Wren
Kara Young
Yuanyuan Zhang
Peter Zleidler

Support The Convent Today





The Abbotsford Convent Foundation is the not-for-profit organisation that owns and manages the Abbotsford Convent precinct on behalf of the community.

It does not receive any recurrent government funding, and relies on the support of the community to ensure the Convent remains open and accessible to everyone, 365 days of the year.

If you enjoy your experiences at the Abbotsford Convent, and feel passionate about this incredible community asset, please consider 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 heritage buildings and its gardens and grounds, and provide arts and cultural activations across the precinct.

Your personal support will make an important and significant impact.

Thank you for being a part of the Convent's community.

