

Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Annual Review 19/20



Abbotsford
Convent.



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Cover: *HuRU-hARa* as part of Asia TOPA, Abbotsford Convent, February 2020
Photo by Mathew Lynn

Opposite page. Images from left to right, top to bottom: 1. *Forbidden Laughter* by ButohOUT, photo by Vikk Shayan / 2. *Peek-A-Butoh* by ButohOUT!, photo by ACF / 3. *Changes Festival*, photo by ACF / 4. *Composite Acts* by David Rosetzky for Channels Festival, photo by Anne Moffat / 5. *HuRU-hARa*, photo by Mathew Lynn / 6. *Music in the Round*, photo by Anne Moffat / 7. *Open Spaces*, photo by Anne Moffat / 8. *Sensory Art Lab* by Slow Art Collective, photo by Anne Moffat / 9. *Uncle Bill* at Open Spaces, photo by Anne Moffat / 10. *What Happened in Shanghai* by Victoria Chiu, photo by Gregory Lorenzutti / 11. *Drop Deadly Gorgeous: The Pageant* by Weird Alice, photo by Suzanne Balding / 12. *Fred Leone* at Open Spaces, photo by Anne Moffat

A note from the Chair



Victoria Marles

The year of 2019 – 2020 has been one of great triumph and challenge for the Convent, and it's never been clearer that our strength lies in our committed community of supporters.

The year had many high points, including having the tenant community at 99% occupancy, our venues alive with exciting programs such as Asia TOPA and Convent Kids, and our restoration projects delivering vital upgrades such as refreshing the Mercator grounds. And the year also involved deeply challenging actions such closing the precinct to the general public due to Victorian Government public health directions.

COVID-19, a once-in-100-year pandemic, has had an adverse impact on the Convent and our community, like it has across Victoria and the globe. Despite these challenges, with the support of our donor community and through a special one-off grant from the State Government, we were able to provide crucial services and facilities for the tenant community; sustain organisational capability; and maintain and protect our large and unique heritage precinct.

Amongst all this, I'm thrilled to report we received an Australian Heritage Grant from the Federal Government to update the Convent's Master Plan. This support is in addition to a grant the ACF received from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation last year. An updated Master Plan will provide a comprehensive, integrated vision for the precinct's future. As we reimagine the world we will live in through and post the pandemic, there has perhaps never been a more vital time to undertake this strategic visioning.

I am very grateful to everyone in our community—from the tenants, to past Board members; local, State and Federal Government; the ACF's executive and team, and our supporters both long-term and new—who have all been there to ensure the Convent traverses the pandemic, and who have helped ready us to undertake the important regenerative work our community so richly needs and deserves.

A note from the CEO



Collette Brennan

2019 – 2020 has been a year of contrasts. It saw the Convent tenant community growing and thriving, our programs diversifying and making impact, our community partners and hirers delivering an array of activities, and our donor community being the source of many strategic projects. It was also the year of the pandemic and saw us closing the precinct to the community, the tenants navigating the restrictions, and our Board and team working harder than ever to continually adapt.

It's almost surreal to think about the three months leading into the pandemic—the tenants were working collaboratively in the Convent Made pop-up shop; we were delivering incredible events including Convent Kids, Midsumma, Asia TOPA and the Keir Choreographic Award; and we launched *The Convent* book by Stuart Kells with Melbourne University Press. Then everything changed.

The Convent and its artistic community has been abruptly and very adversely impacted by COVID-19. However, out of adversity, the Convent is taking a positive, regenerative and opportunistic approach. We are working through four phases of recovery and creativity: triage, adaptation, reconfigure and renewal. Right now, we are in the phase of adaptation. Key to this phase is the appreciation that nothing can just be 'plugged' back in. Things have changed, and so must we as we move to a COVID normal and beyond. And our focus remains on our purpose and the important role we do and will play in tenant and artist support and community regeneration.

Special thanks to our Chair Victoria Marles for countless hours of dedicated and strategic work; our Board who are always ready to roll up their sleeves; our team for their resilience and creativity; the tenant community who have shown great patience and innovation; our community of donors for their ongoing passion; and our community who we are so honoured to serve.

Vision

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

Purpose

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



Picture: H/R/L/M/Ra as part of Asia TOPA, Abbotsford Convent, February 2020. Photo by Matthew Lynn

Highlights



10
Year anniversary
of the Mercator
building restoration.



34%
Of artists in
Convent curated
programs were
Culturally and
Linguistically
Diverse.



34,828
Visitors to our
galleries.



255
Volunteers
contributing
2,559 hours.

24%
Of artists in
Convent curated
programs identify
as Aboriginal or
Torres Strait
Islander.



14,000+
Attended classes
and workshops
(+17%).



130
New individuals
joined our
community
of donors.



99%
Tenancy
occupancy.



48
Heritage windows
conserved through
public donations
and work-in-kind by
Vincent Painting.



6,394
Attended Convent
Kids programs.

Convent Made
pop-up shop
120%
Sales increase
on 2018/19.



66
Days the precinct
was closed to
the public due
to COVID-19
preventive
measures.

Images from left to right, top to bottom: 1. *What Happened In Shanghai* by Victoria Chiu, photo by Gregory Lorenzutti / 2. *Asia TOPA*, photo by James Henry / 3. *Asia TOPA*, photo by Mathew Lynn / 4. *Convent Kids Sapling School*, photo by ACF / 5. *BLOW* by FAFSWAG and Midsumma Festival, photo by ACF / 6. *Open Spaces*, photo by Anne Moffat

Images from left to right, top to bottom: 1. *PROJECT F* by Prue Lang, photo by Amelia Ducker / 2. *Open Spaces*, photo by Anne Moffat / 3. *Music in the Round*, photo by Anne Moffat / 4. *FAMILI* as part of Midsumma Festival, photo by Suzanne Balding / 5. *Open Spaces*, photo by Anne Moffat / 6. Artists and partners of *Blak LAB*, presented by APAM in partnership with ILBIJERRI Theatre Company and Arts Centre Melbourne, in association with Abbotsford Convent, photo by Ben Swinnerton

Programs

Asia TOPA at Abbotsford Convent

In its second iteration, the Asia-Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts (Asia TOPA) united dozens of arts and cultural organisations to celebrate the creative imagination of artists and cultures in the Asia-Pacific region. The Convent's Asia TOPA program connected 4,381 visitors with 131 local and international artists over three energetic weeks of performances, talks, gatherings and family workshops.

Contemporary Asian Australian Performance's critically-acclaimed storytelling and culinary experience *Double Delicious* brought together five storytellers to share the secrets behind the dishes that have proved significant in their lives. Cooking legend Elizabeth Chong, writer and media personality Benjamin Law, kimchi specialist Heather Jeong, performance maker Valerie Berry, and choreographer and performer Raghav Handa revealed intimate glimpses into their lives in an immersive performance that tantalised the senses. The night was capped off by a delicious sampling of the dishes featured in the show.

Asia TOPA was a rare opportunity for audiences to experience the breadth and versatility of the Convent's North Magdalen Laundry. Victoria Chiu's contemporary dance work *What Happened in Shanghai* explored themes of adaptation and resilience across generations through a series of emotional vignettes that crossed time and culture. Striking lighting design, handheld projections and the hum of the Guzheng played by renowned instrumentalist Mindy Meng Wang created moments of intimacy in the vast, darkened spaces of the North Magdalen Laundry. With international collaborators stuck overseas due to COVID-19 border restrictions, an extraordinary team of local dancers and technicians stepped in to deliver four shows, with a performance by a stranded Chinese dancer projected on walls and weaving bodies.

In the South Magdalen Laundry, a collaborative installation by Jihyun Kim and Jin Yim (South Korea) and Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey (Australia), considered the solvent connections between site, sensation and memory, and the routines that we associate with these. Melding sound, video and moments in miniature, *When It Rains (I feel like eating Jeon)*, was inspired by the story of a Korean elder in Ansan, who takes a walk every day to the place where the sea used to be.

Festival artists were encouraged to connect and collaborate in *HuRU-hARa*, the centrepiece of the Convent's Asia TOPA presentation program. Curated by Thomas Henning and Govin Ruben of TerryandTheCuz, with the support of Abbotsford Convent, *HuRU-hARa* showcased 96 artists from the Nusantara archipelago and Australia in a riotous celebration of the South East Asian artistic underground. *HuRU-hARa*'s living installation evolved over eight nights—a daring and energetic concoction of visual art, sculpture, video, live music, street art, performance and dance. As a space for intercultural creative exchange, *HuRU-hARa* spurred the creation of 132 new visual artworks and performances. The program forged relationships across borders and art forms, inspiring ongoing collaborations throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Asia TOPA is a joint initiative of Arts Centre Melbourne and the Sidney Myer Fund. A diverse and experimental program of this scale would never have been possible without substantial backing from the Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, Arts Centre Melbourne and Multicultural Arts Victoria. *HuRU-hARa* was supported by Asia TOPA, Creative Victoria and international partners: TerryandTheCuz, Glasoon, CENDANA, Malkriadu Cinema, Krea University and Project Eleven.



Pictured: *When It Rains (I feel like eating Jeon)* as part of Asia TOPA, South Magdalen Laundry, Abbotsford Convent, February, 2020. Photo by Gregory Lorenzutti.

Key Programs

Abbotsford Convent's curated program offered something for everyone, with 179 shows, tours and workshops across three distinctive programming streams—the Convent Live arts series, Convent Kids family programs, and Convent Made, which celebrates the onsite creative community. Our year-round program engaged 291 artists, with a continued emphasis on supporting new works by practitioners from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and works by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists. The Convent continues to establish itself as a place where people can safely collaborate, experiment and explore ideas.

Open Spaces

The 2019 Open Spaces festival featured 130+ artists across one big weekend of live music, visual art installations, open studios, community activations and wellbeing sessions. In our heritage gardens, the Gulanboon (Place of Many Stars) stage curated by Joel Ma (Joelistics), showcased voices spanning the globe, including Haiku Hands, DRMNGNOW, N'fa Jones, Kee'ahn, Butchulla songman Fred Leone, and more. The DJ stage on the Mercator lawn featured an all-woman line-up curated by Emelyne. The Convent also welcomed ILBIJERRI Theatre Company for a performance of *Scar Trees* in the North Magdalen Laundry. Despite being besieged by inclement weather, the festival drew over 4,000 visitors from across Melbourne. The Sunday was particularly well-attended by intrepid families enjoying our suite of kids' programs—from karaoke and dance, to bookmaking and character design.

Convent Live

From an accordion virtuoso to raw South African hip hop, the Convent Live program featured 52 artists across 17 events this year. In total, the Convent Live program drew 959 attendees to our unique spaces. In association with Gertrude Contemporary and Milani Gallery, provocative artist Richard Bell—a member of the Kamilaroi, Kooma, Jiman and Gurang Gurang communities—hosted a slide night illustrating his spectacular feat of arts activism in the Venetian lagoon during the 2019 Venice Biennale. The Convent was also pleased to partner with Channels Festival to present *Composite Acts*, a special one-night-only exhibition featuring a newly commissioned video work and live performance by esteemed Australian artist David Rosetzky and choreographed by Jo Lloyd. Leisa Shelton (Abbotsford Convent Studio Resident 2018-2019) reflected on 30 years of

continuous arts practice in Australia with her exhibition *Addendum: Archiving the Ephemeral* which culminated in the burning of her performance archive in a purpose-built burner. For the first time, the Convent's signature classical music event, Music in the Round, included performances in the newly-restored North Magdalen Laundry and a long table lunch by the Convent Bakery. Curated by Chris Howlett, the event delivered a fresh and exciting mix of performers and repertoires spanning the past 300 years and was supported by our wonderful funding partners, the Angior Family Foundation and the Bowness Family Foundation.

Convent Kids

With support from City of Yarra's Investing in Community grant, the Convent's family programs continue to thrive, with 6,394 enthusiastic participants joining us this year. The Convent presented ten programs spanning classical music, hip hop, dance, Japanese performance art and gardening. Now in its third year, *Sensory Art Lab* transformed c3 Contemporary Art Space into a DIY wonderland, with artists from Slow Art Collective encouraging kids to lead the conversation about the state of our planet. As part of Melbourne Fringe, the Convent also hosted kids' karaoke and banner-making sessions ahead of the National School Strike for Climate. With families bunkering down at home during the pandemic, Convent Kids partnered with Kids' Own Publishing and a team of local artists for a digital series exploring the art of book-making. *Sapling School* was proudly supported by the Hamer Sprout Fund for the fourth concurrent year, delivering hands-on activities for 3-5 years olds to learn about organic gardening, connection to community and the land and Woi Wurrung language around the Waring (Wombat) Season and Porneet (Tadpole) Season in the Kulin Nation's calendar.

Opposite page. Images from left to right, top to bottom:

1. Open Spaces, photo by Anne Moffat / 2. Open Spaces, photo by Anne Moffat / 3. Convent Kids *Sapling School*, photo by ACF / 4. Music in the Round, photo by Anne Moffat / 5. Music in the Round, photo by Anne Moffat / 6. *Composite Acts* by David Rosetzky for Channels Festival, photo by Anne Moffat / 7. *Addendum* by Leisa Shelton, photo by ACF / 8. Convent Kids Fountain of Youth by Deep Soulful Sweats, photo by Anne Moffat / 9. Richard Bell Slide Night, photo by Siobhan Sloper / 10. *Sensory Art Lab* by Slow Art Collective, photo by Anne Moffat / 11. *Polyphonic Social* by Liquid Architecture, photo by Atong Atem / 12. Open Spaces, photo by Anne Moffat



Partnership Events

Through our programming partnerships, the Convent continues to connect independent artists with inspiring spaces for performance and development. Our partnerships bring new audiences to the Convent, provide fresh experiences for our volunteers, and create unparalleled opportunities for our arts and cultural community to collaborate and network with creative colleagues from across Australia and abroad. This year, 343 artists participated in our partnered programs across 74 events. They mobilised an audience of 9,837, including many first-time visitors to the Convent.

New partners and collaborators

The Convent partnered with African-Australian arts incubator Afro Hub to present two shows as part of City of Yarra's Leaps and Bounds Festival 2019. The Melbourne African Traditional Ensemble shared their signature Pan-African sound in the Industrial School, supported by DJ Eva Lubulwa, presenter/producer of RRR's *Highly Melanated* program. *After Party* showcased Melbourne's up-and-coming hip hop and soul artists, with a line-up curated by Consciously Kyah.

In February 2020, the Convent was transformed inside and out by Asia TOPA. The festival coincided with Blak Lab, a First Nations-led creative incubator established through a new partnership between the Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM) and ILBIJERRI Theatre Company. Blak Lab artists and cultural leaders were resident at the Convent for a week of workshops and gatherings. We farewelled APAM and Blak Lab delegates with a late-night party in the *HuRU-hARa* installation—the wild and hypnotic centrepiece of our Asia TOPA program.

The Convent also collaborated with Dancehouse and the Keir Choreographic Award public program, hosting contemporary dance work *PROJECT F* by Prue Lang and contemplative installations by Claudia La Rocco and Mette Edvardsen.

Old friends, new tricks

ButohOUT! Festival 2020 set out to explore the essence and source of emotion through colour. A series of workshops and performances planned for February – April were sadly cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pre-COVID, Butoh artists Yumi Umiumare and Takashi Takiguchi teamed up with fashion and hair designer Kiki Ando for an upcycled fashion parade as part of our Convent Kids program. The ButohOUT! Ensemble also dove into the chaos of *HuRU-hARa*, coated head-to-toe in body paint.

This year the Convent welcomed back Liquid Architecture for the third incarnation of *Polyphonic Social*. Unfolding over three nights, the event melded experimental sound, performance and installation, with a powerful multi-speaker stack sound system resonating through the North Magdalen Laundry. In September, the Convent was home to radical design showcase Fringe Furniture 33, Melbourne Fringe Festival's longest running event. Fringe Furniture's Gender Equality initiative welcomed 2019's female mentees Cassie Carter, Jordan Fleming and Laura Georgina Smith and Sara Tan. With the support of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, Fringe has successfully increased the number of participating female-identifying and non-binary designers to 41%, up from 38% in 2018 and 29% in 2017.

The Convent kicked off the new year with the provocative and unearthing *Queer Unsettled*, celebrating stories from Pacific womxn of colour and indigenous perspectives. The Convent co-presented five vibrant and inclusive events with Midsumma Festival. The program included a work-in-progress showing by drag performer Olympia Bukkakis; a visual EP launch celebrating Pasifika and First Nations electronic music; and a spirited night of voguing, drag and ballroom with Auckland-based collective FAFSWAG. Forest Collective joined forces with pop artist Max Lawrence for an orchestral reimagining of Lawrence's debut EP *Chlorophyll*, while Convent artist-in-residence Acacia Christensen (Weird Alice) assembled a drag dream team for *Drop Deadly Gorgeous: The Pageant*.



Pictured: Drop Deadly Gorgeous' The Pageant as part of Midsumma Festival, North Magdalen Laundry, Abbotsford Convent, February, 2020. Photo by Suzanne Balding

Galleries

c3 Contemporary Art Space

A drawing machine that translates handwritten notes into sketches of light, three sourdough mothers tending to their microbial children, a video of an immense basalt mine blast, and sixty curious humans forging interspecies friendships with trees in the Convent garden.

This year the Convent's c3 Contemporary Art Space continued to foster risk-taking and experimentation across all forms of artistic practice, with 122 artists exhibiting across 32 group and independent shows. Works by nine interstate and eight international artists were presented this year, including a month-long performance residency by Australian-Swiss artist collective 110%.

In its sixth iteration, c3's annual fundraiser brought together more than 70 artists to imagine a utopian object; an object of true desire or perfection. Just as the ideal of utopia is inherently contradictory, *The Utopian Object* pondered the contradictions of the fundraiser model itself—art as commodity and art as an object of desire. The exhibition was met with anticipation by collectors and the contemporary art community, with 25% of all sales made directly from the catalogue.

Later in the year, the c3 team hit the road for Hobiennale—a biennial arts festival in Hobart uniting artist-run-initiatives from across Australia and New Zealand, spearheaded by CONSTANCE ARI. The c3 team supported artists Amalia Lindo and Trent Crawford to present an arrangement of video, sound and installation works amidst the vaulted spaces and stained glass of Black Temple Gallery. A sandstone church (circa 1856) was an oddly-familiar parallel setting for the Convent team.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, c3 closed on 18 March 2020, foreshadowing the closure of the broader precinct to the public. During the lockdown, c3 hosted a popular talk in the Writing & Concepts series with artist Nick Modrzewski. Despite the dark quarter, c3 welcomed 13,828 visitors in 2019-20.

St Heliers Street Gallery

Up until its temporary closure in March, St Heliers Street Gallery welcomed 21,000 visitors to 14 exhibitions and a pop-up shop of handmade wares from the tenant community.

More than half of the exhibitions presented this year showcased Convent-based artists, including Helga Salwe, Claire Robertson, Larissa Linnell, Eva Abbinga, Katheryn Leopoldseder, Ralf Kempken and senior students of the Sophia Mundi Steiner School. Part of Melbourne Design Week, *Second Life* explored the end of life potential of upholstery waste, reborn as a series of sculptural watertight vessels by Convent-based designer maker Eugenie Kawabata. Visitors were invited to don hi-vis vests whilst exploring Penny Byrne's *HIGH VIS: Protest, People and Power in a time of Fake News*. The exhibition featured politically-charged sculptural works, including adapted vintage porcelain ceramic figures.

The gallery also showcased exceptional artists practicing outside the precinct, including Josephine Mead, Jacqueline Smith, Penelope Campbell and David Helmers. At Open Spaces festival, families joined artist Kathy Hallowko and transformed a small sculptural city into a thriving green metropolis, complete with wildlife corridors, rooftop gardens and animal habitats. Another highlight of the year was a group exhibition by staff artists from Arts Projects Australia, a visual art studio supporting neuro-diverse individuals with their contemporary art practices.

Opposite page. Images from left to right, top to bottom:
 1. *Wet Nurse (Residue)* by 110% Collective / 2. *Pheromone Trap* by Jennifer Mathews / 3. *HIGH VIS* by Penny Byrne / 4. *The Anomalous* by Trent Crawford / 5. *Obliteration, Creation* by Ohni Blu / 6. *I Want To Go Home* by Shirin Towfiq, part of Potluck, curated by Angelique Hiscock / 7. *Second Life* by Eugenie Kawabata / 8. *Wet Nurse* by 110% Collective / 9. *We Watch Them to Be Ready for Their Arrival* by Siying Zhou / 10. *Perpetual Perishing Presence* by Amalia Lindo and Trent Crawford for Hobiennale 2019, image courtesy of Trent Crawford / 11. c3 Volunteers: Mardi Denham Roberts, Tinieka Page, Kelly Semmler and Miranda Williams / 12. *The Utopian Object*, c3 Fundraiser



People

Abbotsford Convent Studio Residency Program

The Abbotsford Convent Studio Residency Program focuses on supporting artists to develop works that are site-specific or site-responsive. Artists-in-residence join our onsite community in the Convent precinct for up to six months, and remain creative collaborators well beyond their residency.

Acacia—a queer, fat, femme, 2S performance artist hailing from Canada—was resident at the Convent from July - December 2019. Acacia developed *Drop Deadly Gorgeous: The Pageant*, a performance work exploring queer, trans, POC identities (primarily Indigenous), sexuality and conversations about race, different abilities and body types as well as a critique of the 'pageant' format and what the requirements of access are to this art form. This queer gala party premiered in the Convent's North Magdalen Laundry as part of Midsumma 2020. Eight of Australia's prime QTIBPOC artists vied for the title of Queer Supreme, with many fans dressed ready for their chance to snag the title of Belle of the Ball.

"Having the opportunity to be the artist-in-residence at the Abbotsford Convent has allowed me to widely expand what my arts practice looks like. This unique chance to have a large and dedicated, hands-on support network within the Convent itself while being able to keep my time there self-directed is something that I haven't had access to with other programs in the past. Going forward, this residency has given me some new skill sets and a different approach to how I produce and curate large-scale work and continue to adapt my art to fit different spaces than the norm. I'm looking forward to continuing to make art with the Convent." - Acacia

In January 2020, musical diva Hayley Tanzer kicked off her residency project, a large-scale music video art installation and accompanying disco soundtrack. Designed as a hyper-colour, high-octane celebration of community, *Disco Instamatic* will include performances by alternative queer artists. Once COVID-19 restrictions ease it is hoped that this will launch as an exhibition and live performance at the Convent and go on to tour nationally.

"My residency at the Convent gave me unprecedented freedom in my creative practice. The program was incredibly encouraging and flexible in terms of my creative outcomes, and providing spaces with which I could create. While COVID-19 restrictions meant I couldn't complete my intended activity, I was able to develop and film several video works within the space that ensured my creative practice could continue during an incredibly challenging time. The staff's continued support surrounding the eventual delivery of my main project goes above and beyond what I could ever have expected. I cherish my relationship with the Convent and it definitely made me feel a sense of support and community at a time I needed it most." - Hayley Tanzer

Pictured: Acacia in *Drop Deadly Gorgeous: The Pageant* as part of Midsumma Festival. North Magdalen Laundry, Abbotsford Convent, February 2020. Photo by Suzanne Balding



Community

Tenant community

Abbotsford Convent is home to more than 150 artists and creatives, as well as a diverse range of organisations and wellbeing practitioners, transforming the precinct into a hub of creative community impact. The tenant community are at the heart of the Convent's cultural fabric, with many studios enlivening the precinct over the long-term. Cone 11, Katheryn Leopoldseder and Justin Hutchinson each celebrated 10 years in Mercator this year. As well as conducting classes and workshops in their own studios, tenants delivered 305 programs in Convent venues. They also regularly opened their doors for major festivals hosted by the Convent and its partners.

Our annual festival Open Spaces showcased the diversity of the onsite community, with 22 open studios and 11 tenant-led activations—from designing quirky characters to a specially-commissioned stained glass installation *Under a clear blue sky* by Maddison Kitching inspired by our heritage gardens.

With the support of 23 tenants and our heritage specialists, the Convent's Open House Melbourne program was expanded to include architect talks, tours, performances, and open studios. With more than 200 buildings open across the city, the Convent program was voted amongst the Top 5 visitor experiences for the weekend. More than 500 people attended, with extra tours added to meet demand.

Ten creative studios banded together for a dedicated Convent Made program as part of Craft Cubed festival, attracting over 400 visitors. The program included printmaking, upcycling and jewellery-making demonstrations, and a well-attended guided tour. Later in the year, our popular Convent Made pop-up shop returned to St Heliers Street Gallery, featuring handmade goods by 23 artists and creatives. Sales increased by 120% this year, with all proceeds going to participating tenants. Tenant community members volunteered an impressive 72 hours in the shop, welcoming 2,054 visitors.

The Convent's tenant community responded to the emergence of COVID-19 with admirable resilience and agility. Many tenants adapted to this unprecedented crisis by offering classes online or redesigning their menus for home delivery.

Volunteer community

In the past year, the Convent's volunteer cohort has doubled in size, with 255 volunteers contributing 2,559 hours across a variety of roles. Volunteers spent 524 hours tending to our gardens and a further 1,503 hours supporting Convent events and partnered programs. A dedicated team of 54 event volunteers provided 550 hours of support to our Asia TOPA festival alone, with 36 of these volunteers recruited for the program. This year the Convent was pleased to offer volunteers training in audio description, and training around positioning children as artists and at the centre of participation in the Convent Kids program *Sensory Art Lab*. Our volunteer tour guides continued to share the Convent's layered architectural and social history, delivering 31 tours across the year to 250 visitors.

The c3 Contemporary Art Space volunteer program included 19 volunteers contributing 453 hours across the year. Volunteers gained hands-on experience and training in curatorial ethics, arts writing and exhibition installation. New friends and connections were also made interstate with local volunteers assisting with c3's Hobiennale exhibition in Tasmania.

Online community

Abbotsford Convent continues to develop its online communities with 5% growth on Facebook and 10% on Instagram. Our newsletters are delivered to more than 10,000 subscribers each month.

Opposite page. Images from left to right, top to bottom:

1. Anna Walker, photo by Anne Moffat /
2. Cone 11, photo by Einwick /
3. Convent Kids volunteer, photo by Anne Moffat /
4. Convent Made pop-up shop, photo by ACF /
5. Wendy Golden, photo by Anne Moffat /
6. Tour guide volunteer, photo by ACF /
7. Katheryn Leopoldseder, photo by Anne Moffat /
8. Convent Kids volunteer, photo by Anne Moffat /
9. Convent Kids volunteer, photo by Anne Moffat /
10. Ink & Spindle, photo by Anne Moffat /
11. Dragonfly Toys, photo by Anne Moffat /
12. Life Drawing at Open Spaces, photo by Anne Moffat



Place

Sustaining the Convent through COVID-19

On 26 March 2020, Abbotsford Convent was shut to the public, our 20+ venues closed, and every event, workshop, performance and booking cancelled. While tenants in permitted industries still had access to their studios, these rapid measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 had an immediate impact on their livelihoods. As the lockdown continued, half of the community sought rent relief, a reflection of the hardship being experienced across so many sectors.

Like all arts and cultural organisations, the Convent's revenues are people-dependent. The stark fact is that hibernation is costly, and the operational responsibilities of managing and protecting an expansive heritage precinct and its growing community do not stop in a crisis. In the absence of recurrent government funding, the ACF launched a public appeal to help sustain the Convent through the pandemic and beyond.

Thanks to a record number of public donations and a \$50,000 COVID-19 Emergency Response grant from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, the *Sustain the Convent* fundraising appeal surpassed its stretch target of \$120,000. These vital funds are helping cover the costs of heightened site-wide cleaning regimes and increased security during the pandemic, as well as assisting the ACF to support the Convent's tenant community.

During the months of lockdown, the ACF continued to advocate to all levels of government for critically-needed support due to the adverse impacts of COVID-19. In June 2020, we were grateful that the State Government provided the ACF \$500,000 in a one-off grant. City of Yarra also provided a \$5,000 Creative Business COVID-19 Quick Response grant for the development of two new virtual tours so we can continue to promote the onsite creative community. With further support from the Australia Council for the Arts, Abbotsford Convent will continue to provide independent artists with the time and space they need to safely investigate, experiment and re-contextualise their work. The *Pivot* pilot program will provide 90 artists—including representatives from the tenant community—with in-kind studio residencies. Each 2-4-week residency will serve as a testing ground for artistic investigation and an opportunity to develop new approaches to making and showing work in a socially distanced world.

We remain humbled and heartened by the care and generosity of the Convent's donor community—and enormously grateful for the support shown by so many individuals and valued partners. In particular, we thank our dedicated partners, including Perpetual and the Bowness Family Foundation, who enabled generous flexibility in their grant-making in 2020; allowing ACF to redirect specific grant funding in direct response to the significant impacts of the pandemic, to support the ACF's highest organisational need—precinct sustainability. In the challenging year ahead, the ACF will continue to protect our National Heritage Listed precinct, sustain the onsite tenant community, ensure the health and wellbeing of our team and growing community, and plan for ongoing repair and regeneration. In the words of Michelle, a new donor based in Brunswick East: "The Convent has brought so much joy to my life. May it long continue as a special place where we can commune, connect and be nourished."



A place for meeting

With its striking heritage spaces and lush gardens, Abbotsford Convent is a memorable setting for a range of events, performances, rehearsals, exhibitions, markets and much more. Over 69,000 people attended 1,768 events at the Convent before our venues and outdoor spaces were closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Prior to the precinct's closure, venue hire bookings were up 6% on the previous financial year. Between lingering bushfire pollution and COVID-19 related postponements, our event visitation dropped slightly for the period the precinct was open. As restrictions ease and we begin to reanimate the precinct, the health and wellbeing of our community will remain our highest priority.

A place for centre-stage moments

More than 10,000 people experienced 147 performances and 106 rehearsals in the Convent's venues this year. In the Rosina Auditorium, John Bell AM OBE performed with Genesis Baroque, interleaving sublime instrumental works with the words of Shakespeare. In its first full year of operation as a venue, the North Magdalen Laundry lent its grand acoustics to opera singers, school concerts, world music, classical sopranos, and everything in between. One highlight included a sell-out live performance of Josh-Cohen's band-approved songbook *Radiohead for Solo Piano*, featuring Berlin-based visual artist Josh Batty and Mike Gurrieri from PBS 106.7FM.

For many, the Convent provided their first opportunity in the spotlight. Through an exciting new partnership with Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival (VAMFF), the Convent hosted eight runways and exhibitions by independent designers. Around 1,200 stylish visitors discovered debut designs by local and emerging talent—from nostalgic outfits paired with tinsel and fairy bread, to ethical and sustainable attire inspired by mycology.

A place for raising a glass

In its fourth year at the Convent, Brewers Feast turned on the sunshine for a great weekend of craft beer, food and entertainment. The event welcomed 2,500 people to sample more than 80 different craft brews. Our pick: a yam daisy gin infused with botanicals hand-selected from the Convent gardens by local distiller 'Here's Looking At You, Kid'. The Convent gin was so popular it made an encore appearance at Asia TOPA festival, much to the excitement of its new fans.

The Convent also hosted a preservative-free wine party, with Soulfor Wine Festival showcasing organically farmed and 100% additive-free wines from Australia and abroad. The event in November 2019 featured nearly 40 local and international winemakers.

A place for personal and professional development

From life drawing, mindfulness and dance, to singing, acting and writing, the Convent hosted 692 classes and workshops this year. Despite a pause on gatherings during the pandemic, more than 14,000 people learnt new skills and focused on their personal wellbeing, an increase of 17% on last year. The Zenith Wellness Market featured 80 stalls, meditation sessions, drumming and yoga workshops, offering a transformative experience for 1,000 wellbeing enthusiasts.

The Convent's raw interiors and calming gardens are an inspiring setting for teams and networks to meet, learn and grow. This year, we welcomed 335 meetings, 108 conferences and 114 training and planning events. Major conferences included Social Traders, corporate strategy and innovation conference Silicon Block, and Converge: the National Symposium on Theatre & Young People.

A place for striking a pose

This year, the Convent was a picture-perfect backdrop for 42 film and photography shoots, including ABC's *Are You Tougher Than Your Ancestors?*, cast photography for the second season of *Bloom*, and diverse projects by independent filmmakers and fashion designers.

Pictured: Brewers Feast 2019, Abbotsford Convent.
Photo by Abbotsford Convent Foundation



Protecting our precious place

Abbotsford Convent's strategic priority of place drives the ongoing conservation and enhancement of our precinct's natural and built form to deliver a vibrant mix of cultural and community activities. This year we secured an Australian Heritage Grant from the Federal Government, alongside support from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, to update the Abbotsford Convent Precinct Master Plan, last revised in 2005. The new Master Plan will provide a holistic vision for the precinct, informing the protection and enhancement of Abbotsford Convent over the next decade, and beyond. Importantly, the plan will also address gaps in previous iterations, including engagement with First Nations history.

The ACF continued to build its organisational capacity and expertise, with the addition of two new team members specialising in development and heritage assets management, generously funded through The Lionel & Yvonne Spencer Trust via a three-year Impact Philanthropy Capacity Grant from Perpetual. This year the ACF focused on designing new methodologies for heritage research and data collection to support future conservation, restoration and repurposing projects. Helen Macpherson Smith Trust has bolstered our efforts with the provision of a \$30,000 grant to engage heritage consultants and specialists for scoping and costing of complex projects across the precinct.

Conservation and restoration

The remaining aspects of the Sacred Heart refurbishment were completed in early 2020, including the reinstallation of heritage wall tiles in a number of studios and common area bathrooms. Based on guidance from Heritage Victoria, air conditioning was installed in first-floor studios in Mercator and the ACF office in Sacred Heart, providing relief from rising heat caused by the architectural features in these heritage workspaces. A major refurbishment of the storage space adjoining Cone 11 allowed the studio to expand its footprint in Mercator. Funds raised from the *Windows to Worlds* appeal in 2018-19 ensured that the Convent building also received a restorative touch this year, with 48 windows repaired and repainted in colours recommended by our conservators, and proudly supported by our partner, Vincent Painting.

Keeping it green

The Convent's annual *Keep it Green* fundraising appeal ensures that our gardens and grounds remain a place of retreat and inspiration for our community 365 days a year.

The 2019 *Keep it Green: Urban Sanctuary* fundraising appeal raised valuable funds for protective works within the Convent Courtyard and the surrounds of the Fernery garden bed. Thanks to the support of our community, including the team from John Wardle Architects, these funds will support the rejuvenation of the Liquidambar and Linden trees, and existing and new plantings to enhance and interpret the cultural heritage significance of the garden bed whilst being climate appropriate and suited to the site conditions. ACF has engaged specialist heritage consultancy firm Context GML to begin work on protecting and revitalising this special place.

With the precinct closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, our gardeners and site coordinators continued to care for the Convent's 6.8 hectares of gardens and grounds. In April and May 2020, they added more than 470 plants to the Mercator grounds—with some of these plants being raised by our gardeners at home. In April, the Cone 11 artistic team donated and planted an *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood) to celebrate the ten-year milestone of the Mercator building and its tenants. These plantings completed the garden and ground works funded by the 2018 *Keep it Green: New Ground* appeal. This appeal had already added 44,000 litres of water tank capacity to our systems, supporting the irrigation of the now fully revitalised Mercator grounds lawn.

Opposite page. Images from left to right, top to bottom:

1. Photo by Yvonne Qumi / 2. Photo by Anne Moffat / 3. Photo by Anne Moffat / 4. Photo by ACF / 5. Photo by Yvonne Qumi / 6. Open Spaces, photo by Anne Moffat / 7. Photo by Anne Moffat / 8. HuRU-hARa artists as part of Asia TOPA, photo by James Henry / 9. Photo by ACF / 10. Photo by ACF / 11. Photo by Anne Moffat / 12. Photo by Yvonne Qumi



Abbotsford Convent Foundation Arts Trust

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Donations	145,350	186,508
Grants Received	71,900	611,160
Interest Income	3,373	6,330
TOTAL REVENUE	220,623	803,998
EXPENDITURE		
Donations to Abbotsford Convent Foundation	342,000	517,467
Other Donations	-	-
Bank Charges and Fees	1,491	1,267
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	343,491	518,734
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAX	(122,868)	285,264
Income Tax Expense	-	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(122,868)	285,264
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(122,868)	285,264

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 Banks Group 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 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	353,755	495,884
Term Deposit	164,818	162,327
Trade and Other Receivables	5,718	1,448
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	524,291	659,659
TOTAL ASSETS	524,291	659,659
LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payables	-	12,500
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	12,500
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	12,500
NET ASSETS	524,291	647,159
Settlement Amount	100	100
Retained Income	524,191	647,059
TOTAL EQUITY	524,291	647,159

Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
OPERATING REVENUE		
Car Park Income	793,670	1,068,739
Events	209,982	170,419
Grant Income for Operating Activities	796,958	254,696
Room Hire	426,378	620,887
Rental Income	1,727,856	1,732,167
Recoveries of Outgoings	115,310	120,503
Other Revenue	12,864	17,768
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	4,083,018	3,985,179
Interest Income	2,123	8,816
	4,085,141	3,993,995
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		
Administration	362,088	167,004
Advertising and Marketing	94,883	37,539
Car Parking	190,679	237,902
Fundraising	14,418	24,252
Insurance	128,918	117,141
Programming	350,180	308,215
Rates and Taxes	67,567	62,089
Site Operating Costs	919,930	960,978
Staff and Employee Expenses	2,087,994	1,890,768
Other Expenses	35,179	207,505
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	4,251,836	4,013,393
OPERATING RESULT BEFORE DEPRECIATION	(166,695)	(19,398)
Depreciation	927,429	802,845
OPERATING RESULT AFTER DEPRECIATION	(1,094,124)	(822,243)
NON-OPERATING GRANTS AND DONATIONS		
Government Pandemic Support	837,000	-
Donations	3,621	5,739
Grant Income for Capital Projects	-	1,564,967
TOTAL GRANTS, DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP	840,621	1,570,706
RESULT FOR THE YEAR	(253,503)	748,463
Income Tax Expense	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	(253,503)	748,463

Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,052,801	744,468
Tenant Bond Deposits	273,653	267,555
Trade and Other Receivables	265,084	131,180
Prepayments	114,770	121,778
Security Deposits	32,092	31,513
Inventory	13,740	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,752,140	1,296,494
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment	18,119,294	18,743,638
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	18,119,294	18,743,638
TOTAL ASSETS	19,871,434	20,040,132
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payables	527,304	430,366
Deferred Income	81,516	98,471
Rental Bonds and Deposits	265,022	272,794
Employee Benefits	163,420	140,795
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,037,262	942,426
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee Benefits	18,610	28,641
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	18,610	28,641
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,055,872	971,067
NET ASSETS	18,815,562	19,069,065
Equity	18,815,562	19,069,065
TOTAL EQUITY	18,815,562	19,069,065

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 2019/2020.

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

Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM
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Diana Heggie
Sally Romanes

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Mike Smith OAM
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Zane Trow
Yumi Umiumare &
Takashi Takiguchi
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Meredith Young
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Reground
Sustainable Resource Use

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Australian Government:
Department of Industry,
Science, Energy and Resources:
Australian Heritage Grants
City of Yarra
Creative Victoria
Public Record Office Victoria

Event Partners

3MBS Fine Music Radio
Convent Bakery
Kawai
MAV Melbourne
Terrace Gardens Florist

Program Partners

Asia TOPA
ButohOUT! Festival
CENDANA
Dancehouse
Kids' Own Publishing
Liquid Architecture
Melbourne Fringe
Midsumma Festival
Next Wave
Polyglot Theatre
Project 11
Slow Art Collective

Our people

Board

Victoria Marles, Chair
David Laidlaw, Deputy Chair
Justin Blumfield
(from 22 Jan 2020)
Diana Heggie
Ron Jones
(until 21 Oct 2019)
Ruth Jones
Stuart Kells
Michael Sokulski
Antonia Syme AM
Judy Williams

Team

Executive

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

Administration

Accounts Manager:
Ilona Molyte
Accounts Coordinators:
Tim Di Natale (casual)
(from 24 Feb 2020)
Shona Kohler
Administration & Governance Manager:
Luke Gianfriddo
(from 26 Aug 2020)
Tom Rendell
(until 23 Aug 2020)
Administrator:
Kristen Augeard
(from 17 Feb 2020)
Volunteer & Admin Coordinator:
Alice Brush

Building & Facilities

Buildings & Facilities Manager:
David Campbell
(until 9 Jul 2020)
Heritage Assets:
Lynette Dean
(from 23 Sep 2019)
Facilities Coordinator:
Peter Mandersloot
(until 19 Jul 2019)
Site Operations:
Jason Kain
(from 9 Sep 2019)
Head Gardener (P/T):
Simon Taylor
(until 16 Aug 2019)
Gardener (F/T):
Mal Jackson
(from 16 Sep 2019)
Gardener:
Joanne Bechaz
Site Coordinators:
Paul Blakeney,
Jack Hall
(until 20 Feb 2020),
Sam Hodder
(from 3 Dec 2019),
Jason Hood,
Nick McGinnity,
John Moyle
(from 29 Nov 2019),
Milad Nemati
(until 20 Nov 2019),
Ben Steiner

Development & Fundraising

Head of Development:
Alexandra Murphy
Development Projects Officer:
Philippa O'Brien
(from 14 Oct 2019)
Emily Boyle
(until 11 Oct 2019)

Marketing & Communications

Marketing & Communications Manager:
Estelle Conley
(from 6 Apr 2020)
Holly Cochrane
(until 6 Apr 2020)
Communications Coordinator:
Laura Bianchi
(until 14 Feb 2020)

Programming

Producer:
Natalie Smith
(from 1 Jul 2019)
Associate Producer:
Jo Leishman
(from 18 Nov 2019)
Programs Coordinator:
Jacqueline Hanlin
(until 20 Nov 2020)
c3 Contemporary Art Space Director:
Jon Butt
c3 Gallery Manager:
Katie Paine

Tenancy

Tenant Community Manager:
Leonie Wray
Studio and Leasing Coordinator:
Jessica Lancaster
(from 9 Sep 2019 – 21 Jan 2020)

Venue Hire

Venues Manager:
Renee Daniele
(until 7 Feb 2020)
Acting Venues Manager:
Nada Cordašić
Acting Venues Coordinator:
Sherry McLane Alejos

Volunteers

Volunteers

Brooke Ainscow
Georgie Alexander
Abdalla Ali
Alan Ali-Zwart
Judith Allen
Madeline Allen
Tam Altmann
Minim Andrew
Gillian Angel
Rezwan Ashraf
Angie Atkins
Daniela Avalos Berner
Mary Bajoras
Ophelia Bakowski
Jade Barnaby
Lish Barraud
Janet Bennett
Peter Bennett
Gabrielle Bergman
Mariel Beros
Katie Birch
Akshat Bodele
Megan Bonny
Jasmine Bouvier
Chris Bowes
Nyssa Braid
Claire Bredenoord
Suzanne Brimley
Maggie Brown
Sade Brown
Naomi Callander
Jessamine Capuyan
Davide Cardamone
Rhys Cartledge
Kieran Casey
Jessica Castro
Siro Cavaiuolo
Jerz Cerna
Ginny Chan
Van Chauhan
Sisi Chen
Tammy Chen
Yiming Chen
Isaac Christie
Rananjay Chundawat
Dominique Condoleo
Chloe Connolly
Marie-Claire Courtin
Nicole Crisp
Montserrat Cuellar Mestas
Sophie Cunningham
Anna Cuttance
Claire Davoine
Sandra Del Monaco
Mardi Denham-Roberts
Joanne Dinh
Sani Diyanda
Alexandra Dobson
Kim Dongwan
Tess Douglas
Peter Dunn
Jane Edwards
Louisa Edwards

Rubyanna Edwards
Tasha Elias
Taylor Fitzgerald
Maria Forero
Evie Foster
Neill Fraser
Carlos Fuentealba Godoy
Annabelle Gall
Sofia Georgiadis
Mirella Gigliotti
Esther Glaspole
Emma Goldstone
Claudia Gonzalez
Grace Goodwin
Tania Gourlay
Wendy Grace
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Madonna Grehan
Philippa Griffin
Suzannah Griffith
Sarah Guiney
Vivienne Halat
Shahmeer Haq
Aurora Harmathy
Rose Hartley
Ambrin Hasnain
Shan Hattwell
Cameron Hennessy
Matthew Henry
Sandeep Henry
Lauren Herbison
Kaitlin Hill
Matthew Hluchanic
Gabriel Holton
Jennifer Huang
Rachel Huf
Nicola Isaacs
Jamie Ivarsen
Yvette James
Marian Jenkinson
Andrew Johnson
Cristal Johnson
Rezon Juliodionko
Sujin Jung
Deanna Kane
Gabrielle Keating
Peter Kelly
Kelly Khambo
Tania Kim
Rachel King
Susan King
James La Spina
Henry Law
Sally Ann Lawford
Eva Lawson
Tra Mi Le
Jungmoon Lee
Vanessa Lee
Jiaye Li
John Lim
Yeying Lin
Jiaqi Liu
Meng Liu
Pi-Chia Liu
Wei Han Liu

Thalia Livingstone
Jacinta Lombardozi
Rafael Lopez Buelvas
Jacqueline Luty
Arena Ly
Michelle Macklem
Leith Maguire
Harriet Maher
Matthew Maida
Audrey Mailhot
Gurmehak Mann
Craig Marshall
Bennett Martin
Annabel Mason
Helen McCormack
Georgia McGirr
Robyn McMicking
Nuala McMillan
Sirani McNeill
Sarah McRitchie
Margaret McVey
Josephine Mead
Samantha Meade
Melissa Meaker
Alana Meehan
Yuri Meyer
Joy Millen
Jordan Mitchell-Fletcher
Fazil Mohammed
Jacqueline Moore
Liv Moriarty
Alison Murphy
Darren Naftal
Aishwarya Nagesh Rao
Bronwyn Neeson
Cuong Nguyen
Myha Nguyen
Ron Nguyen
Melinda Nicol
Clare Niere
Nora Nooriya
Ellen O'Connor
Rema O'Neill
Karen Ong
Natalia Orel
Nuala O'Sullivan
Ella Pagano
Tiniekia Page
Ruvinie Pannala
Alex Papanotas
Mary Peacock
Tahlia Pearce
Beatrice Perrone
Bella Persano
Lachlan Petrie
Sarah Petryszyn
Tana Phoenix
Genevieve Pikó
Louise Platford
Mark Potter
Andrea Prieto
Vicki Pucci
Ana Puchau
Tom (Bowen) Qi
Grace Quiaison

Mani Rajlawot
Liam Rao
Natalie Renna
Meghan Ridnell
Marie Robert
Nicky Robinson
Frances Robson
Natasha Rodrigues
Angela Rossitto
Lidia Rueda
Elle Ruschioni
Amanda Russell
Mia Scap
Holle Schlickmann
Eddie Schubert
Kelly Semmler
Yolanda Shaw
Kathleen Sheehan
Akshay Shinde
Sophie Shipperbottom
Matthew Siddall
Lilith Silva
Megan Sinclair
Georgia Smith
Ronnie Smith
Annie Song
Zheyuan Song
Jemma Stefanou
Lachlan Stonehouse
Ana Svarevska
Liam Sydow
Sara Tajima
Sue-Anne Tan
Yuan Tan
Zoe Taplin
Benjamin Temperley
Thet Tint
Celeste Tong
Gen Townsend
Brandon Tran
Snhea Varma
Pam Walford
Yaqin Wang
Yuchen Wang
Bruce Ward
Mitchell Ward
Jennifer Warren
Sally Whiteman
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Miranda Williams
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George Willox
Moyna Wilson
Gabrielle Winter
Amanda Wolf
Yan Wu
Emmaline Zanelli
Peter Zeidler
Akziya Zhakupova
Mandy Zhang
Angela Zhou
Qian Zhu
Jo Zito

Thank you!

Your support protects, enriches and enlivens the Abbotsford Convent precinct

The Abbotsford Convent precinct is owned and managed by the Abbotsford Convent Foundation (ACF)—an independent, not-for-profit organisation—on behalf of the community.

As custodians of the Convent precinct, it's our privileged responsibility to care for, maintain and protect our 11 heritage buildings—as well as our precious and expansive 6.8 hectares of green landscapes—places of creativity, celebration, retreat and sanctuary for all.

With the support of our growing community of donors and partners, we take enormous pride in restoring, nurturing and enlivening this iconic arts and cultural hub, piece by piece, for the enjoyment of the people of Melbourne and Australia.

Now proudly inscribed on the National Heritage List, it takes a significant amount of time, energy, specialist support and resources to care for this iconic place—and we couldn't do it without the generosity of the community who care enough to contribute to see it thrive.

The ACF does not receive any recurrent government funding, from any level of government, to manage or maintain the Convent grounds, or to activate the Convent precinct with a range of diverse and engaging arts and cultural programming year-on-year. We rely on our social enterprise model alongside the support of passionate, community-minded individuals, organisations and philanthropic partners to help protect, maintain and bring the Convent precinct to life each year.

If you love your time spent at the Convent, and feel grateful for this extraordinary community asset, please join our growing community of supporters and make a donation today. The Convent was saved by the community—for the community—and your support will make a direct and meaningful impact; helping to keep it thriving for generations to come. If this is a place that is meaningful in your world, please help safeguard and enliven it for the future.

Photo by Beth Wilkinson



Abbotsford Convent.

abbotsfordconvent.com.au

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