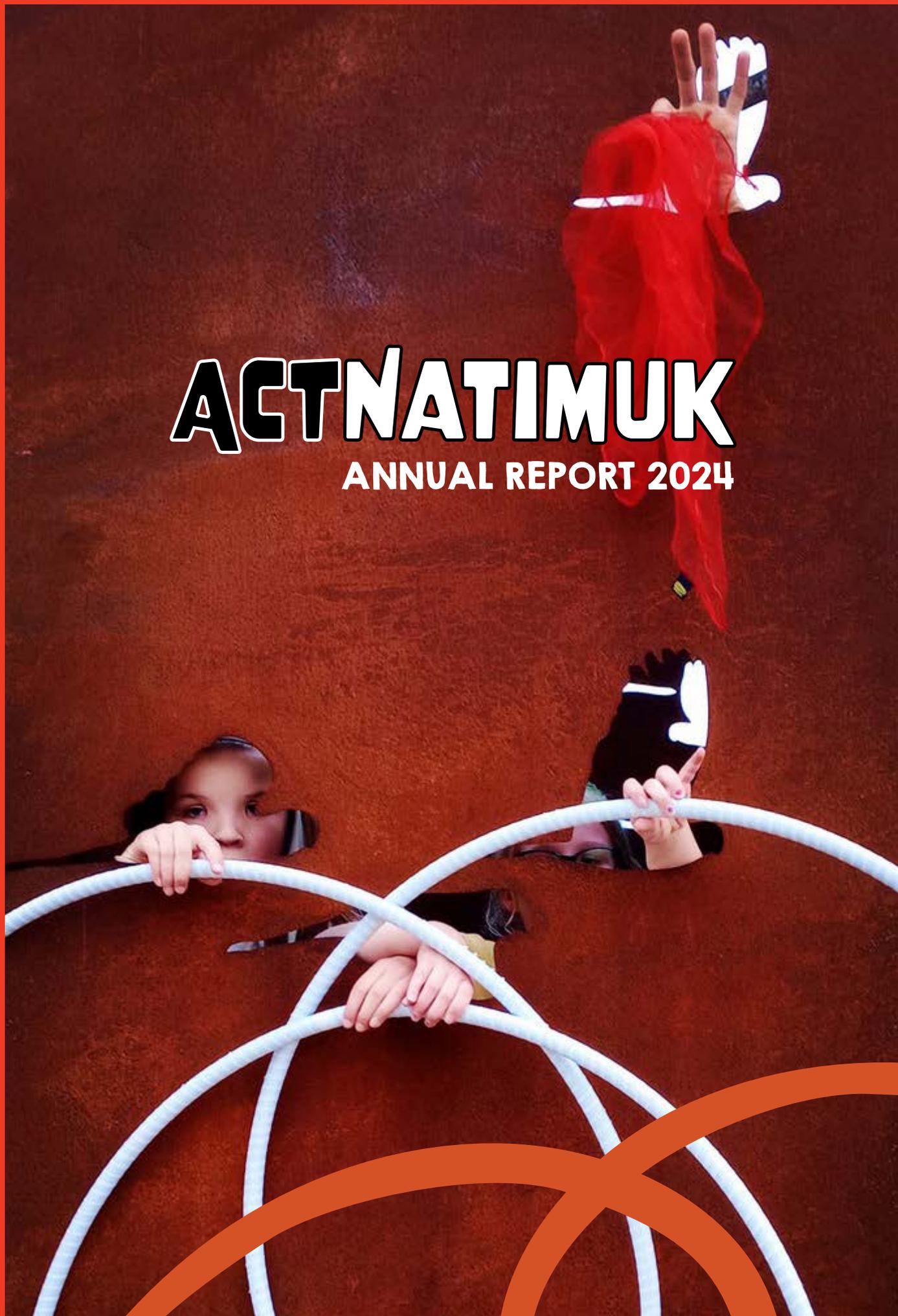


# ACTNATIMUK

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





## Acknowledgment of Country

ACT Natimuk acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we are located, the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Jupagulk and Wergaia and all the lands on which we meet and work. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their sacred connection to land, water, and community.

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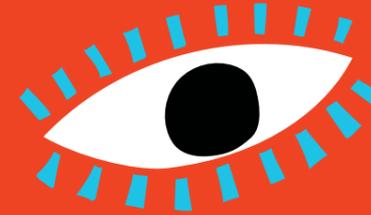
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# INTRODUCTION



## What is ACT Natimuk?

actnatimuk.com

ACT Natimuk is an artist-led and artist-run not-for-profit organisation first established in 1979 as Arapiles Community Theatre. ACT Natimuk has since expanded beyond musical theatre production and developed into the diverse and vibrant cultural entity it is today.

The organisation provides a vibrant program of artistic and creative activities that supports and develops local artists' practices and the development of outstanding work that is unique to Natimuk and our diverse community.

We support a wide range of artistic practices including dance, visual arts, film, new media, projection, aerial performance, and experimental works. Its members have a range of relevant research knowledge in multiple cultural and creative disciplines. The organisation harnesses these skills and insights into local, national, and international contexts for different applications and audiences.

It has a strong community participation and engagement focus through various arts, cultural projects, and events. We provide professional, project, and resources support through a suite of programs:

- ACT Natimuk Presents/Program
- The Nati Frinj Biennale
- Made In Natimuk (MiN)/Creative Lab
- ACT Natimuk major Projects/Partnerships/Auspices

## PEOPLE

In 2024 ACT Natimuk consisted of the following people:

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Chair** – D’Arcy Molan

**Vice-Chair**

– Martin Perkins outgoing,  
Jacquie Tinkler incoming

**Secretary** – Yingying He

**Treasurer** – Tony Noller

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

Gail Harradine  
Sue Pavlovich  
Jacquie Tinkler

### STAFF

Tracey Skinner – General Manager  
Verity Higgins – Made in Natimuk Producer  
Alison Eggleton – Nati Frinj Biennale Director

## 2024 SNAPSHOT IN NUMBERS:

**\$150,804** in state and federal funding

**\$18,351** in earned income

**\$3,690** in private and philanthropic support

**19 events** and exhibitions and

**100 workshops** and skills sessions

## MEMBERS

No Mi Che	Adam Demmert	Gillian Turner	Sharon Kinnison
Dawa Che	Catherine de Vaus	Tobie Coggle	Graham Manwaring
D’Arcy Molan	Joan Johns	Ann Sprague	Sharon Creasey
Tracey Skinner	Mary French	Fari Islam	Maureen Cameron
Elaine Uebergang	Peter French	Anthony Pelchen	Zoey Manwaring
Zlatko Balazic	Hannah French	Jonathon Schoolderman	Andrea Cartwright
Susan Pavlovich	Sally French	Trevor Flinn	James McRae
Meg Dennison	Jacquie Tinkler	Abigail Watkins	Carolynne Hamdorf
Mark Gould	Ross Tinkler	Jillian Pearce	Michael Gellert
Yingying He	Martin Perkins	Emily Potter	Tobie Coggle
Tony Noller	Gail Harradine	Simon Molan	Meg Holmes
Patrick Ford	Alison Eggleton	Tessa Molan	Nicholas Yobanolo del Real
Joan Goad	Jacqui Schulz	Paul & Sherrin Molan	Joshua Hodges
Angela Walker	Alma McKenzie	Mandy Williamson	



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello from Natimuk on Jadawadjali Country, a part of the Wotjobaluk Nations.

In 2024, ACT Natimuk built on existing programs, worked on new opportunities and connections, produced, presented, and auspiced arts and cultural work in Natimuk, the Wimmera region, and beyond. We had a full year of quality events and community interactions, and worked towards articulating our new Strategic Plan direction for the following four years. In line with our Reconciliation Action Plan and current Strategic Plan, ACT Natimuk publicly supports the protection of Cultural Heritage at nearby Dyurrite/Mount Arapiles.

I would like to thank Vice Chair Martin Perkins for his work throughout the year, and to Committee member Jacquie Tinkler for becoming the acting Vice-Chair in the last few months of 2024. Also, acknowledging the work of Treasurer Tony Noller and Secretary Yingying He. I appreciate all the volunteer work this year by Committee members, including Jacquie Tinkler, Gail Harradine, and Sue Pavlovich.

Tracey Skinner continued as General Manager, organising staff, Committee, and members, being the focal point for communications and enquiries, co-ordinating and contributing to reports and grants, and assisting with creative projects and events.

Alison Eggleton, as the Nati Frinj Biennale Director, has been working with Natimuk artists, the local community, the broader region, and with artists further afield to scope, build relationships and projects, and shape the Frinj festival program for 2025.

Verity Higgins, Made in Natimuk (MiN) Producer, continued to work on behalf of MiN artists and is helping lead the change to a Creative Services model for ACT Natimuk. Verity is managing three Creative Lab projects: Peter T Nathan's – *Natimuk Whispers*, Tarni Rees – *Landing Place*, and First Nations Creative Lab recipient Dylan Singh – *The Dreaming Project*.

ACT Natimuk receives Creative Enterprises Program (CEP) funding from Creative Victoria (CV). This allows us to employ a General Manager two days a week, a Made in Natimuk (MiN) producer a day and a half per week, and a Nati Frinj Biennale Director one day per week in a Frinj year. This welcome support from

Creative Victoria enables us to run a significant and dynamic program. Thanks to our Sector Relationship Manager from CV, Karen Sovitslis, for her support and advice.

ACT Natimuk, in partnership with Gariwerd Wimmera Reconciliation Network, held the *Now More Than Ever* exhibition for National Reconciliation Week 2024 at the Goat Gallery Natimuk. The exhibition was curated by Wotjobaluk, Djubagalk, Jadawadjali woman Gail Harradine and included works by both Gail and Wotjobaluk, Gunaikurnai man Thomas Marks.

We held the *Natimuk Arts Weekend* from November 1-3. This included: the *Arts Weekend Welcome Gathering* and *The Natimuk Open Studios Art Trail* coordinated by Tracey Skinner, *Becoming Nala* book and exhibition launch (book by Wotjobaluk woman Chrissie Secombe and Moonahcullah, Wamba-Wamba man Alan Murphy), *The Nati Pop up Cinema* (Jacqui Schulz), and the *Nati Frinj 'Get involved'* session (Alison Eggleton).

We produced three themed *Friends and Community* events this year. Thanks to Alison Eggleton for co-ordinating, Tracey Skinner for assisting, and the Committee's support.

*Palais de Pixel* continued to screen Australian and international films once a month at NC2, Natimuk. Thanks to volunteers Lynne Quick, Elaine Uebergang, Yingying He, and Martin Perkins for running *Palais*.

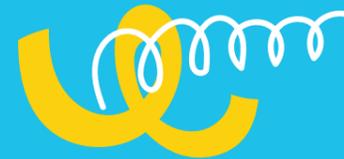
GoatFest was a great success over the Easter weekend showing short films made by locals and others further afield that relate to rock climbing. Thanks to Tracey Skinner for co-ordinating Goatfest.

The Studio, an accessible studio space created for use by printmakers and painters, continues to run in partnership with Beyond Community Inclusion (BCI) on site in Firebrace Street Horsham, and through Horsham College Alternative Programs. Thanks to Sue Pavlovich and Alma McKenzie.

This year Alison White continued as our Bookkeeper.

Thanks to all staff, Committee, volunteers, community, and audiences for supporting us in 2024.

D'Arcy Molan  
**ACT Natimuk Chairperson**



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

### 2024: A Pivotal Year for ACT Natimuk

2024 has marked a pivotal year for ACT Natimuk, a year where we have taken a deep and thoughtful look at our future trajectory. Building on conversations from late 2023, we planned to begin work on our next four-year strategic plan (2025-2028) earlier in the year. With 2025 being a Frinj year, we anticipated pushing our human resources to the limit so wanted to well and truly be ahead of the game. However, it quickly became clear that, after our initial sessions, we needed to completely revise our approach and dive deeper into the process.

Alongside challenges in the broader arts landscape—such as funding constraints, the onboarding of new board members and committee members, and growing discord in the local Natimuk community regarding proposed cultural heritage protections at Dyurrite (Mt Arapiles)—our strategic planning turned out to be far more than just drafting a document from these initial workshops. Facilitated by committee member Jacquie Tinkler, we then embarked on a series of workshops throughout the year. These workshops allowed us to critically assess the paths that were benefiting the organisation, its members, and the community, and to identify areas that might require transition or closure. This extensive process demanded a significant commitment from our small team, but we are confident it will provide a solid roadmap for the future.

With full agreement and support from the Board and staff, we are transitioning *Made in Natimuk* (MiN) from a product-based focus to a service-oriented model. Led by our MiN producer, Verity Higgins, the transition began in 2024, with plans for the official launch in mid-2025. This transition will coincide with the launch of our new websites.

Building on our long-standing tradition of delivering high-quality events, our Nati Frinj Director focused on deepening connections with local voices, creating spaces for cultural expression, and facilitating opportunities for creative practice. Our regularly programmed events have continued to thrive, including the annual Natimuk Open Studios Art Trail, which showcases the work of local visual artists. This event, held over the 2024 Melbourne Cup long weekend combined with a number of complimentary events such as a community Welcome Gathering, pop up cinema, book launch/exhibition and a drop in Nati Frinj session

culminated in the creation of the *Natimuk Arts Weekend*. Early discussions have suggested the possibility of making this a biennial event in 'off-Frinj' years. The November date appears to be the best time for the trail but given our Frinj commitment on that same weekend and the resources required throughout the year, it makes sense to move the trail from an annual to a biennial event.

### Reflecting on the Arts Landscape

The arts and culture landscape in Australia has faced significant challenges in recent years, with diminishing funding and resources available to support creative ventures. Despite these challenges, ACT Natimuk has continued to evolve and adapt, positioning itself as both a cultural and community-driven organisation. This year, we've recognised the importance of being bold, innovative, and resilient in the face of uncertainty.

Looking ahead, we will continue to reflect on how ACT Natimuk can contribute meaningfully to cultural and community transformation. The need for dynamic and courageous arts organisations has never been more apparent, and we remain committed to pushing boundaries, exploring new ideas, and amplifying local voices.

However, to continue this important work, securing additional funding remains our biggest challenge. This will be critical for 2025 and beyond. To ensure our future success, we will need to focus on sourcing private funding, a significant challenge that lies ahead.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated support of the ACT Natimuk team. My sincere thanks go to everyone for their countless hours and unwavering commitment. We also extend our gratitude to the local community for their continued support.

### Looking Ahead to 2025

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to continue our work of fostering a vibrant and inclusive arts community. With the ongoing support of all those involved, we are confident that ACT Natimuk will continue to thrive and grow.

Here's to another year of creativity, collaboration, and community engagement.

Tracey Skinner  
**ACT Natimuk General Manager**

# PROGRAM



## NATI FRINJ BIENNALE OFF YEAR

[natifrinj.com](http://natifrinj.com)

As the new Festival Director succeeding Greg Pritchard, I embraced the opportunity in early 2024 to reflect on past festivals while actively gathering feedback from audiences and volunteers. As we approach the end of the year, I am thrilled to share the key initiatives that have defined this year, highlighting our dedication to planning, community engagement, artist collaborations, and program development.

Volunteering lies at the heart of our festival, and I launched a “Get Involved” Volunteer campaign to boost community participation in upcoming opportunities to volunteer. Alongside General Manager Tracey Skinner, we are finalising a Volunteer Policy that will introduce a Frinj Volunteer Kit. This kit is designed to streamline volunteer engagement and provide essential resources, ensuring a fulfilling experience for our dedicated volunteers. The initiative is set to receive Executive approval in early 2025.

In June, I collaborated with our Executive Committee to establish benchmarks for the participation and representation of First Nations Peoples at Frinj. This effort underscored the importance of cultivating relationships with First Nations Creatives who can bring creative producer skills into our programming. Consequently, I initiated a partnership with

Melbourne-based First Nations Artist/Producer Dylan Singh of The Dreaming Project. Together with his team from Little Projector Company, we are advancing the 2024 Creative Lab project *Becoming Nala*, by local artist Alan Murphy and Christina Secombe into a short film proposed for debut at the festival.

I also took an active role in the ACT Natimuk Strategic Plan, reinforcing our commitment to being a space for art experimentation and the creation of new works while bolstering community involvement. Inspired by successful festival models, I began planning a fundraising event titled ‘Disco Dystopia – Glitter and Grunge Ball’ set for March 15. This event aims not only to raise funds for a Frinj Production Coordinator but also to foster community celebration and engagement.

Acknowledging the immense talent within our community, I re-established the Nati Frinj 2025 Curatorial Sub-Committee, gathering well-connected individuals to enhance our programming and future project selections.

In 2024, I sought inspiration from various events, including attending the Adelaide Fringe in February, where I gained insights into festival layouts and networked with artists. My mid-year visit to

Castlemaine facilitated productive discussions with Fringe Festival Director Azzy Jay on collaboration and best practices. At the Murtoa Big Weekend, I was captivated by various light installations, while the Creative Australia conference deepened my understanding of volunteer and employee dynamics in non-profit arts organisations.

Our community meetings held at the Soldiers Memorial Hall in April, September, and November sparked engaging discussions with local artists and community members, generating promising ideas for future projects. Through online Expression of Interest forms, many artists submitted exciting proposals, paving the way for a more visible, collaborative, and culturally diverse program featuring an inspiring mix of local and non-local talents. This includes collaboration with Creative Producer Nancy Black from Black Hole Theatre and the Karen community from Nhill, as well as welcoming back Creative Producer Greg Pritchard, who will work with local artist Dave Jones on a compelling light, sound, and visual installation. These projects are currently in the grant planning stage and will be funding-dependent.

Looking forward to 2025, we will unveil a new Frinj logo, created in collaboration with Hannah French, along with a refreshed festival program design. Notably, Outlook Communications will return as a creative contributor and sponsor, reinforcing our ongoing partnership with this innovative sound and lighting production company.

Thank you for your continued support of our beloved festival.

Alison Eggleton  
**Nati Frinj Biennale Director**



# PROGRAM

## MADE IN NATIMUK (MiN)

madeinnatimuk.com  
actnatimuk.com

The main ongoing focus for this program during 2024 was the shift in model from offering creative 'products' to offering creative 'services'. This involved collaboration with artists to repackage content into a format appealing to presenters (PDF brochure and webpage). A broader pool of 'artistic associates' was invited to maximise the skill base and support other regionally-based creative peers.

A graphic designer was engaged, partially funded by a grant from Horsham Rural City Council's Business Development unit. The draft content and design are currently under review, with plans to finalise it alongside the website redevelopment in mid-2025, followed by a launch and promotion to potential presenters and commissioning agents.

In terms of MiN product, EOIs were submitted for 'Face Off' for Glow 2024 Festival Stonnington (unsuccessful), Immerse 2024 Festival for Knox City Council (progressed to Stage 2 submission) and White Night Ballarat 2024 (unsuccessful).

### Creative Lab

The outcome for the **First Nations Creative Lab** granted in 2023, *Becoming Nala*, was to be the publishing and launch of a children's book in 2024. Written by Wotjobaluk woman, Chrissie Secombe with illustrations by Moonahcullah, Wamba-Wamba man, Alan Murphy, and photography by Mat Dooling, it tells the story of Alan's discovery of his connection to country roots in Moonahcullah.

Through a number of fortuitous happenstances – the new Nati Frinj director being a curator, the change in ownership of the Goat Gallery, the quality of the images and painting produced by the project – an opportunity to further develop this Creative Lab emerged. The book launch was held at a *Becoming Nala* exhibition at Goat Gallery during the Natimuk Open Studios Art Trail weekend in early November.

The exhibition was curated by Alison Eggleton and the launch of the book and exhibition opening attracted some 80 plus people. This project was in partnership with Wimmera Libraries and attracted sponsorship from Horsham based print company HC Pro.

The potential to extend this project further into an animated projection presentation for Nati Frinj 2025 is in train.

After discussions with the new ACT Natimuk Executive and budget approval, a new round of the Creative Lab program was launched with three available grants: one for First Nations and two open opportunities. These grants were promoted through an information session at the Horsham Regional Art Gallery (HRAG) during their NAIDOC week exhibition. This session held in partnership with HRAG was open to all but focused on accessibility for First Nations artists. An independent panel was convened selecting the grant recipients: Peter T. Nathan's *Natimuk Whispers*, a video art project about Natimuk's past and present residents; Tarni Rees' *Landing Place*, a printmaking project exploring local flora; and Dylan Singh's First Nations project, *The Dreaming Project*, focusing on a Western Victorian First Nations story. Communication with the artists is ongoing, and their projects will run until October 2025. Collaboration with the Nati Frinj Director is also ongoing to explore potential projects for Nati Frinj 2025 or future festivals.



**"One of the best exhibition openings I have been to. On point - focussed on the work, respectful to both artists and attendees with a genuine sense of community warmth. Absolutely superb."**

**– Dr Gillian Turner  
artist and curator**



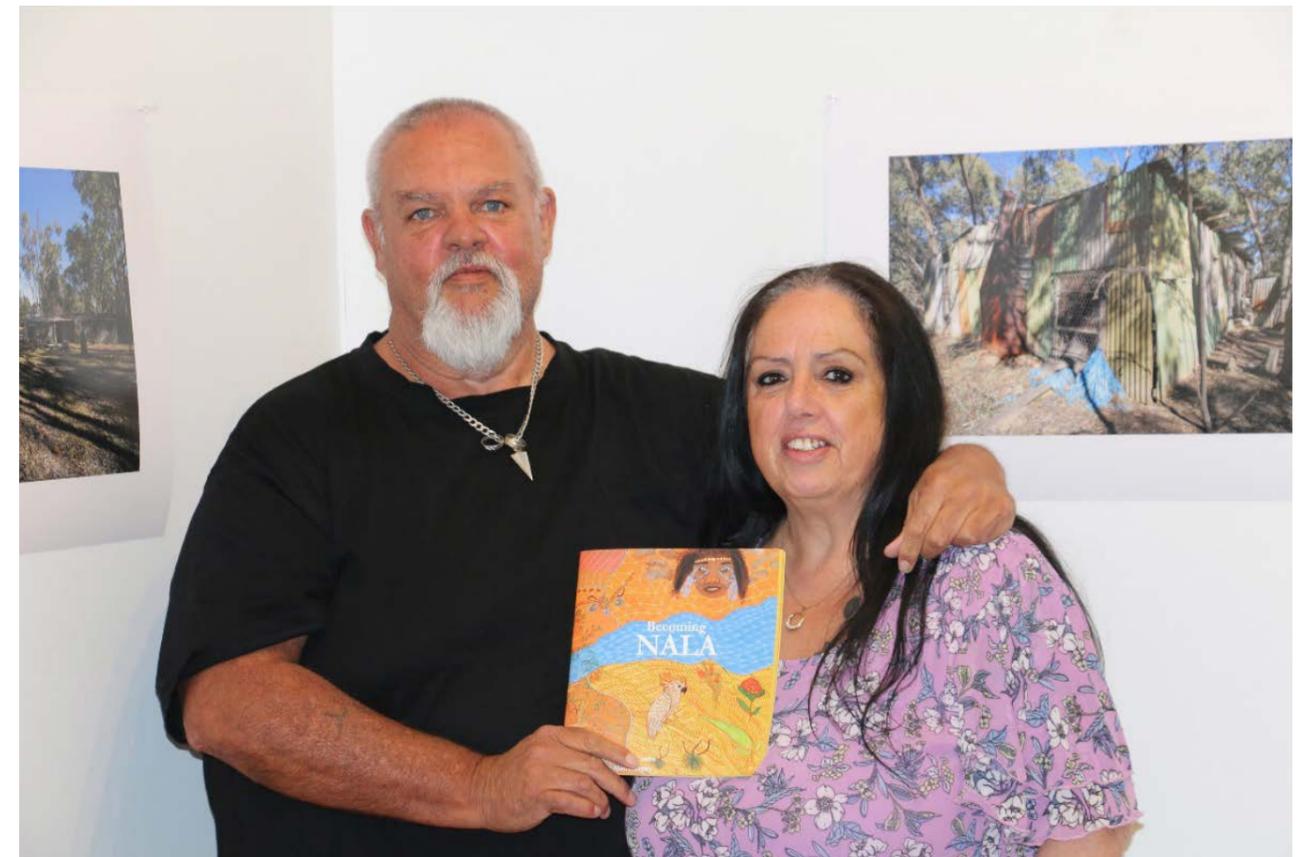
## GENERAL

Alongside managing the two specific programs, I was deeply involved in extensive planning at ACT Natimuk with both the review of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan and the development of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. This set the stage for the exciting yet challenging new direction for MiN. The organisation has been closely monitoring the evolving arts landscape, and my participation, alongside other staff members, at Creative Australia's Organisation Forum and Creative Clusters event was invaluable. It provided not only insight into available services but also a broader understanding of how many arts groups and organisations are rethinking their futures as they like us, navigate the economic downturn and the resulting decline in arts funding.

Further challenges the organisation has faced has been helping new board members familiarise themselves with the organisation's operations, history, and scope and addressing differing opinions and sensitivities within the organisation and the Natimuk community surrounding the proposed Cultural Heritage Protections of Dyurrite/Mt Arapiles.

Verity Higgins

**MiN/Creative Services & Creative Lab Producer**



# PROGRAM



## Goatfest

Goatfest is an annual climbing film festival held in Natimuk traditionally over the Easter long weekend. Established in 2002 by artist and climber Edwin Irvine, the festival has grown in popularity each year.

Hosted by ACT Natimuk, the event serves as a major fundraiser supporting community arts programs and also serves to invigorate the Natimuk Soldiers Memorial Hall as the central hub of a creative precinct. The festival coincides with the annual climbers' pilgrimage to nearby Dyurrite (Mt. Arapiles), attracting visitors from across Australia and beyond which ensures a sellout event.

Goatfest features a film competition where climbers and filmmakers showcase their work, competing for the coveted Golden Goat award in the categories of Jury Choice and Audience Choice. In addition to the film contest, the festival often includes special events like screenings, talks, or presentations. Goatfest 2024 took advantage of an invitation to also screen the Reel Rock Film Adventure tour. Submitted films for Goatfest competition were screened in the first part of the evening and following intermission Reel Rock was then shown.

Natimuk's unique blend of climbing heritage and vibrant arts community makes Goatfest a highlight for climbers and art enthusiasts alike.



### Films submitted –

- It's Legit - An Australian Highline Record - Art Ho Bayly
- Steve Climbers Medium Day Out - Chris Wallace
- Crimps & Connections - Pascoe Dunphy
- The Squeeze Test - Dusk, Micky William, Sam Guest
- Tannin - First Time - Ben Wiessner
- Beardstroker - Rob Mudie, John Fischer
- Trailer - Maven - Divya Gordon

### The Winners for the Goatfest 2024 were:

#### Audience Choice Award

Beardstroker by John Fischer and Rob Mudie

#### Jury Choice Award

Tannin - First Time by Ben Weissner

Thanks to prize sponsors Climbing Anchors and ACT Natimuk.

Thanks to REEL ROCK Australia for the opportunity to show the films of Reel Rock 18 and for a selection of audience prizes. What a great selection of films!

## Palais de Pixel

Palais de Pixel is ACT Natimuk's monthly film society event showcasing alternative and arthouse films. It serves as a regular gathering space, fostering community connection and enhancing individual well-being. By providing access to high-quality cinema locally, it minimises the need for travel and cultivates a shared cultural experience in Natimuk.

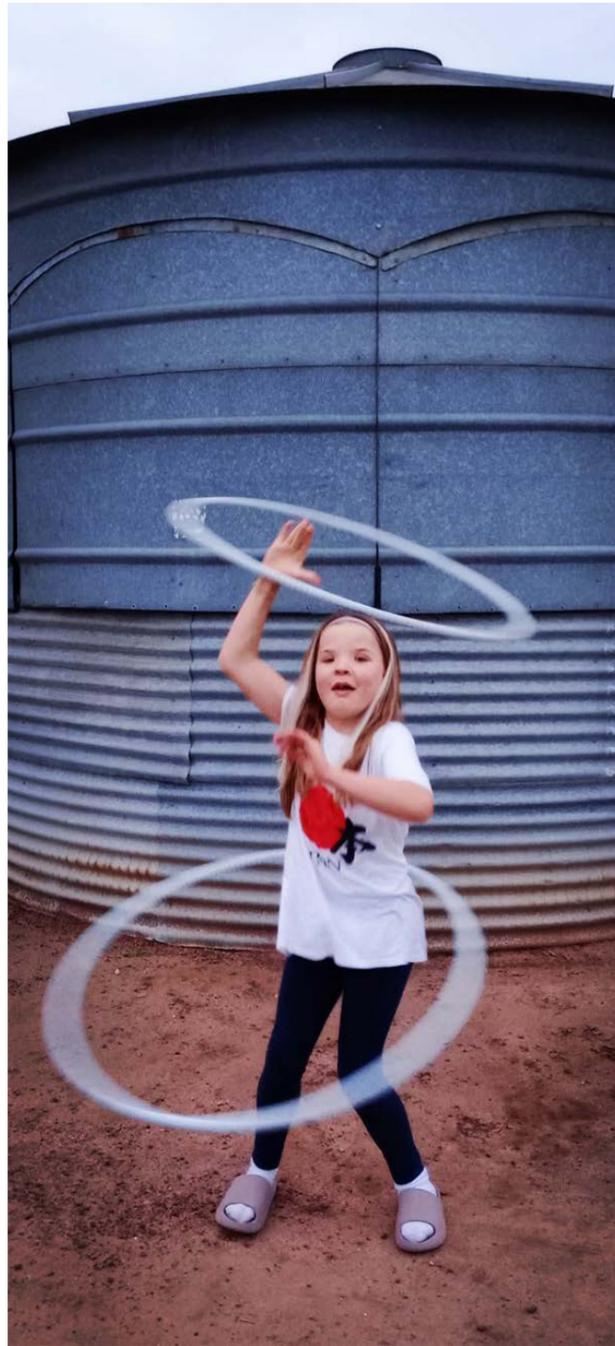
The 2024 program of local, international, and non-English films was a hit with audiences. Half of the films earned 4 out of 5 stars, including the feature film for NAIDOC Week in July, In My Blood It Runs.

Held monthly at NC<sup>2</sup> from February to November, Palais screenings were organised by dedicated volunteers Elaine Uebergang, Lynne Quick, Martin Perkins, and Yingying He. The program drew 125 attendees, with 19 visitors throughout the year. Twelve members signed up for full memberships and six opted for the 3 film trial memberships.

### Films screened:

- February: Dzongkha (Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom) – 4.5\*
- March: The Duke – 4.0\*
- April: El Caftan Azul (The Blue Caftan) – 3.8\*
- May: Banshees of Inisherin – 3.5\*
- June: Donne-moi Des Ailes (Spread Your Wings) – 3.9\*
- July: In My Blood It Runs – 4.3\*
- August: Dark Waters – 3.8\*
- September: Quo Vadis, Aida? – 4.1\*
- October: Penguin Bloom – 3.6\*
- November: Street Gang: How We Got to Sesame Street – 4.3\*





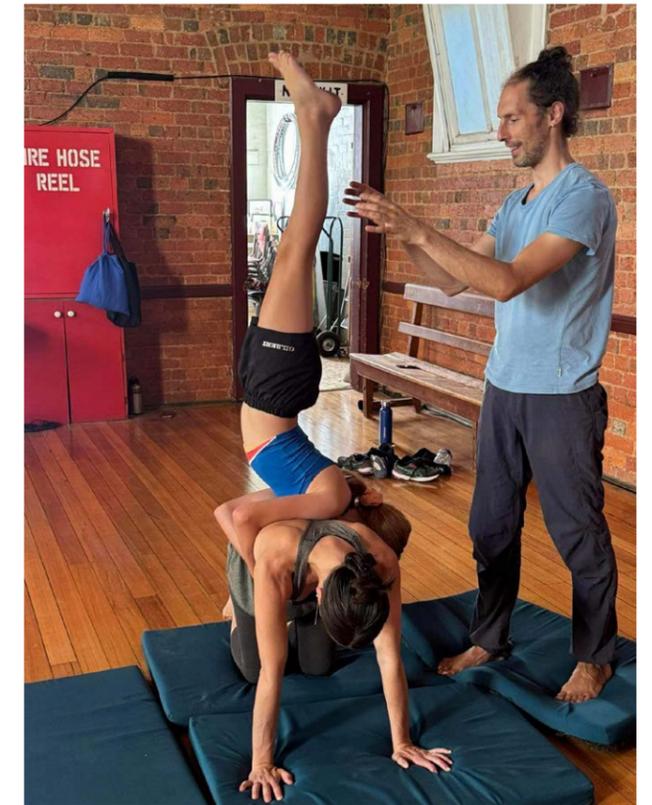
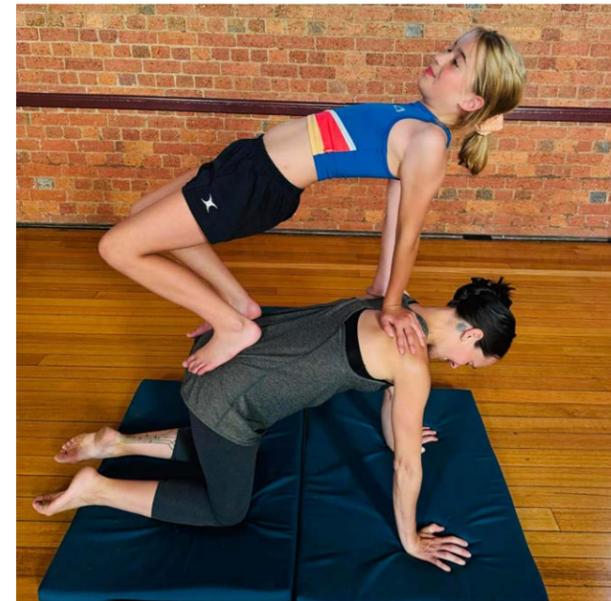
## Circus Jam

Circus Jam facilitated by No Mi and Dawa Che of Wobbly Spoon, provides a regular series of workshops throughout the year for learning physical and circus skills in a safe and structured environment. It promotes physical movement and social connection across cultures, ages, and abilities while fostering a sense of inclusivity, belonging, and wellness. Participants benefit from improved self-esteem, mental well-being, and a supportive community.

In 2024, the defining feature of Circus Jam was the incredible energy fostered by a dedicated group of Circus Jammers. Attendance varied from just one or two participants on some days to as many as 15 on

others, though it typically ranged between 5 and 12. A committed core of enthusiastic Jammers ensured that every session was filled with fun. Participation often fluctuated in response to school events such as parent-teacher interviews, rehearsals, and camps.

The group welcomed members from ages 4 to 60, hailing from Natimuk, Quantong, and Horsham, with occasional visitors from the Blue Mountains and even New Zealand. This strong community has set the stage for exciting plans in 2025, including a small collective film project for the 2025 Nati Frinj Biennale, *In-Twine*.



# PROGRAM



## Friends & Community Nights

ACT Natimuk's Friends and Community nights were initiated in 2023 and for the last two years have been co-ordinated by Alison Eggleton with assistance from Tracey Skinner and D'Arcy Molan. These free events welcome new and old friends and highlight the distinctive creative arts and culture in our small community. Held at the Natimuk Soldiers Memorial Hall, this year all three themed events connected with the broader community to showcase the people and projects of ACT Natimuk in a social and informal way, including drinks and nibbles to share.

The first Friends and Community night for 2024 was held on Friday June 28th and featured Jacquie Tinkler - artist, educator, mischief maker - and the new owner of the Goat Gallery. Jacquie shared her vision for the new Goat Gallery as a community space in Natimuk and asked attendees for feedback on ideas and potential events they would like to see in the Gallery.

The second Friends and Community night was held on Friday 27th September and showcased artist Louise Cooper. Louise's presentation focused on her socially-engaged arts and leadership practices that have been inspired by her time in Natimuk as a Creative Lab artist. This journey led to the founding of Australia's first neurodiversity arts festival and the publication of a new book - *Welcome Neurokin, I am Autistic*. Louise also engaged in a lengthy question and answer session with the audience.

The third Friends and Community night was held on Friday 6th December and was an end of year festive gathering. It was an opportunity to catch up and reflect on the year that was through a loop of projected images and video of the many arts and cultural events in 2024.

Thanks to the skill and time of the presenters, the effort of volunteers, staff, and committee, and all who attended our Friends and Community nights. These events will continue in 2025.



## The Studio

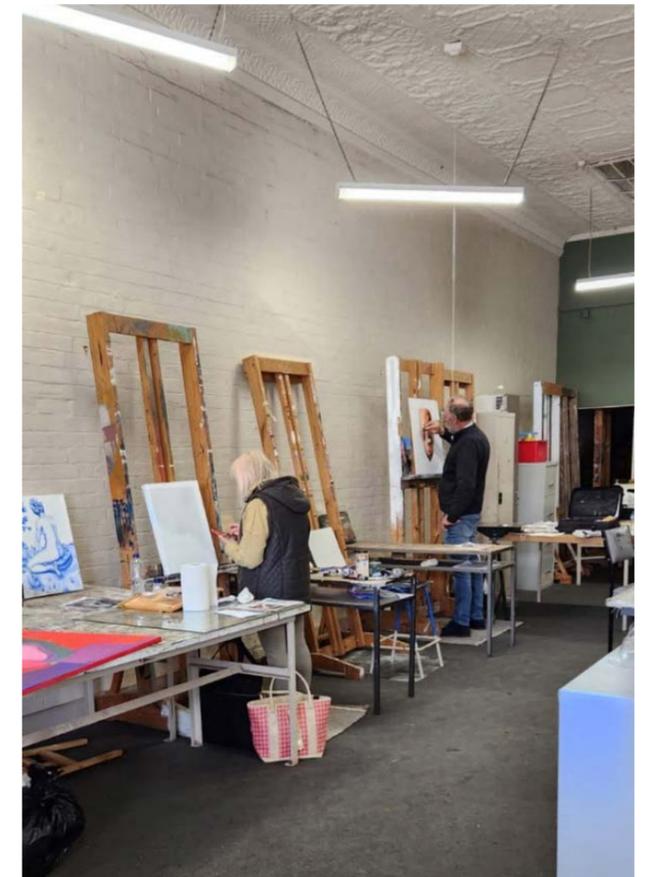
The painting and printmaking equipment divested from Federation University's Horsham Campus is now utilised by ACT members.

The Studio hosts twelve ACT Natimuk artists who engage in painting and printmaking on a regular basis. It is located within the Beyond Community Inclusion (BCI) buildings on Firebrace Street, Horsham, as well as at the Horsham College Alternative Campus.

To oversee the Studio's operations, a dedicated sub-committee was established by ACT Natimuk and BCI. This committee, led by Alma McKenzie (BCI) and Sue Pavlovich (ACT Natimuk), convenes quarterly or as needed.

A key piece of the Studio's equipment, a large press, is housed at Horsham College's Alternate Programs site on Dimboola Road, Horsham. This press is situated in a well-equipped art room with access to water, tables, and proper ventilation. The remaining equipment is stored at the Firebrace Street location. Additionally, a class set of easels is kept at Horsham College and is used by ACT Natimuk for events such as the Open Studios Art Trail and the Nati Frinj.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Michael Gellert of HC Pro for his care and safekeeping of the large press over an 18-month period, as well as for coordinating its transport to the Horsham College site. The relocation required a truck, forklift, hand forklift, and a skilled team of three to ensure its safe placement.



The Studio operates on a fee-based model, with ACT Natimuk Studio artists contributing per day of use. These fees contribute to ACT Natimuk's income. In appreciation of BCI's support, ACT Natimuk makes occasional donations to support projects for BCI participants.



# ACT NATIMUK PRESENTS

## Natimuk Arts Weekend

[natimukopenstudios.org](http://natimukopenstudios.org)

ACT Natimuk proudly hosted a vibrant Natimuk Arts Weekend on November 1-3 transforming the town into a dynamic hub of creativity with 5 events rolling out over the 3 days.

The Friday night event involved an open community Welcome Gathering where the community could mingle, see a slideshow of art happenings over the weekend, a sneak film taster from the Pop-Up Cinema program and chat to many of the artists participating in the weekend.

The Natimuk Open Studios Art Trail invited the public to explore local artists' studios, engage with their work, and discover the diverse visual arts scene that Natimuk has to offer. 7 Studios and 12 artists provided a diverse representation of artists and mediums.

### FEATURED ARTISTS

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Joan Goad       | Carolynne Hamdorf          |
| Angela Walker   | Tobie Coggle               |
| Joan Johns      | Meg Holmes                 |
| Alison Eggleton | Tracey Skinner             |
| Anthony Pelchen | Fari Islam                 |
| Jacquie Tinkler | Nicholas Yobanolo del Real |



The Nati Pop-Up Cinema showcased a curated selection of films by local filmmaker Jacqui Schulz, highlighting works created by community members and artists over the years, offering a unique glimpse into what makes Natimuk truly special.

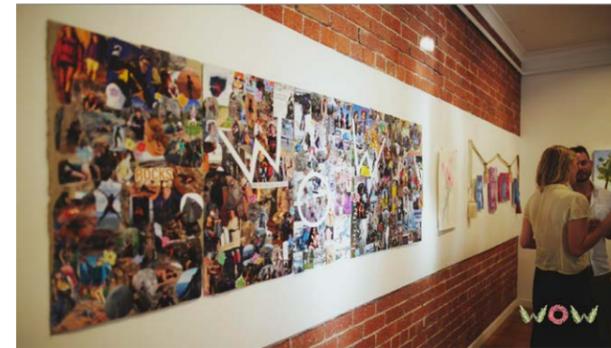
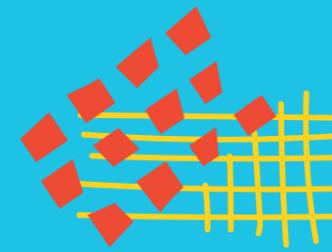
On Saturday afternoon, The Goat Gallery hosted the launch of the Becoming Nala exhibition and book. This project, part of ACT Natimuk's First Nations Creative Lab program, featured the powerful storytelling of Wotjobaluk woman Chrissie Secombe and Moonahcullah, Wamba-Wamba man Alan Murphy.

And for those interested in contributing to the Nati Frinj Biennale 2025, Frinj Director Alison Eggleton held a drop-in session at the Soldiers Memorial Hall on Saturday providing an opportunity to learn more about how to be part of this exciting upcoming event.

Many thanks to our sponsors and supporters for this successful event – West Wimmera Health Service, Horsham Rural City Council, Wimmera Libraries, HC Pro, The Goat Gallery and FRRR.



# AUSPICED PROJECTS



## Womens Outdoor Wellness Project (WOW) - Climbing Qt's

The WOW Project was an auspiced project by Climbing Qt's and produced by Melissa Edwards. The event was designed for local women\* to engage with the outdoors and connect with each other.

In 2024, this inaugural event took place from March 7th to 11th across Natimuk and Dyuritte. Addressing the health and wellbeing priorities of West Wimmera Health Services, Melissa Edwards and team crafted a diverse program of events, workshops, and activities. These took place in rural areas and were entirely delivered by and for women, with a strong emphasis on outdoor experiences, connecting with nature, promoting physical activity and creative practice. The project was funded by the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and West Wimmera Health Service and The North Face.

\*Women defined to include trans, gender-diverse, and cisgender women. The project was open to and celebrates the contributions of all women.

***"I loved the connection to land and place, I felt empowered to have conversations with others about issues of gender and identity that I haven't felt comfortable discussing previously."***

**- WOW Project Attendee**



## Tripod - Y Space

[yspace.com.au/present-grounded](http://yspace.com.au/present-grounded)

The Y Space TriPod project produced by Jillian Pearce involved the construction and trial of a unique bamboo structure made from three interconnected bamboo tripods.

The project spanned 12 weeks, bringing together local and external collaborators from Y Space, Nati Access, Wobbly Spoon, Nati Silks, Contact Improvisation Melbourne community, and independent artists. These groups engaged in movement-based experimentation and performance creation, exploring the physical and creative potentials of the bamboo structure, aerial performance and projection. Key elements of the project included the integration of Y Space's Movement Inquiry research, which merges climbing, Contact Improvisation, Feldenkrais, and other somatic practices to inform performance development. The inquiry focused on utilising the new bamboo structure as a tool for creative exploration and aerial performance.

The project aims were to showcase work developed through these movement explorations, highlighting the materiality of the bamboo and its impact on performance. Additionally, the trial explored sustainable management models for the structure, ensuring it remains an affordable, replenishable, and ongoing venue for practice, performance, and workshops in a rural context.

This project builds on Y Space's 24 year history in the Wimmera, supporting the evolution of physical theatre, dance, and circus within the local and broader creative community. It acknowledges the extraordinary creative vision of Bambucco founder and director Simon Barley. The project was supported through funding from Creative Australia.

Project Summary Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBfOMe8uqAA>

# ACT NATIMUK - COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION



## RECONCILIATION WEEK - 'NOW MORE THAN EVER' Exhibition

ACT Natimuk, in partnership with Gariwerd Wimmera Reconciliation Network (GWRN), hosted a special exhibition launch for National Reconciliation Week 2024. The event, which took place on June 1st at the Goat Gallery in Natimuk, was supported by funds from Reconciliation Victoria and ACT Natimuk. The exhibition, running from June 1-30, was curated by Wotjobaluk, Djubagalk, and Jadawadjali woman Gail Harradine, a committee member of ACT Natimuk.

The 'Now More Than Ever' exhibition launch attracted visitors from Natimuk and further afield; Geelong, Dimboola and Horsham. The exhibition featured works on canvas and paper by Gail and Wotjobaluk/ Gunaikurnai man, Thomas Marks. Both artists shared their personal stories of connection to Country, their art practices, and the broader issues of incarceration, the Stolen Generations, and healing. A sense of community support was felt in the gallery space as visitors engaged with and reflected on the artists' works. Throughout the exhibition's run both artists sold the majority of their work.

Chair D'Arcy Molan emceed the opening event and announced that applications for ACT Natimuk's First Nations Creative Lab opportunity 2024/25 would open on June 5. This opportunity offered a \$3000 creative development grant to a First Nations artist

or art collective, with the potential for a showing at the 2025 Nati Frinj Festival. Nati Frinj Director Alison Eggleton spoke about the festival's commitment to supporting First Nations artists, while Melissa Morris from GWRN highlighted the organisation's work, its connection to ACT Natimuk, and its ongoing efforts to support First Nations voices.

The exhibition, supported by many individuals and organisations, was an important moment for fostering understanding and connection within the community. Special thanks to all those who helped make the event a success, including the artists, volunteers, and visitors who engaged with the exhibition throughout June.

Curator and featured artist Gail Harradine noted that the exhibition 'delves into two artists interpretations of culture and strength in identity and Country in the context of standing staunch during recent challenging times for First Peoples'. Reflecting on the theme of National Reconciliation Week 2024, 'Now More Than Ever', Gail emphasised that 'no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will, and must, continue'.



**"Excited to see the exhibition, meet more people in the community, and be involved in future events"**  
- Nic, exhibition attendee

**"What an awesome weekend and great support - I am really inspired by it all and very thankful"**  
- Now More Than Ever artist/curator Gail Harradine

# FINANCIALS



## ACT Natimuk bank accounts at end of 2024

BANK ACCOUNTS	2022	2023	2024
Nati Frinj	\$11,702.28	\$9,721.21	\$ 15,778.01
ACT Main	\$4,827.01	\$45,719.64	\$ 37,787.46
MiN	\$4,437.86	\$2,130.36	\$4,506.97
DGR	\$10,083.38	\$8056.76	\$8,747.86
Sandhurst Fund	\$40,333.35	\$41,538.14	\$38,416.71
The Studio	\$0.00	\$78.76	\$9.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,383.88</b>	<b>\$107,244.87</b>	<b>\$105,246.39</b>

2024 continued to build and strengthen the financial base that was established in 2023.

The office of Treasury has been supported with MYOB Financial Services – Bookkeeping by Alison White in a practical and advisory capacity, assisting the Treasurer through 2023-2024. Alison has announced her retirement as of the end of 2024. ACT Natimuk is extremely grateful for the contribution and services Alison has provided and wishes her well in the years to come.

While there is a slight decline in the recorded Bank reserves at the close of 2024, ACT Natimuk as a not-for-profit organisation is dedicated to the ongoing support of a broad range of artists and performance disciplines and this is reflected in decisive investment by the Executive Board of Management. Central to activities is the future redirection of MiN into Creative Services and Creative Lab Projects. A Total of \$17,000 has been invested beginning in 2024 with the funding allocation of three new Creative Lab projects of \$3,000 each, administration allowance costs of \$3,000 and MiN Creative Services Development costs of \$5,000.

Underpinning the activities of ACT Natimuk is the third of a four-year funding amount received from Creative Victoria’s Creative Enterprises Program (CEP) of \$100,000. These funds have covered the necessary staff wages for General Manager, MiN Producer and Frinj Director with additional administration and office costs and preparation for Nati Frinj Biennale 2025.

Communicating and reaching out to the community was further strengthened by hosting three Friends & Community events. Primarily produced as community engagement events, after revenue raised at each function and expenses covered, the coffers were rewarded with a budget surplus.

All programs offered and presented by ACT Natimuk operated within their budget or ended the year with a budget surplus. These include:

- Palais de Pixel (Arapiles Film Society) \$273
- Goatfest (Climbing Film Festival) \$4,048
- The Studio (Horsham) \$118
- Circus Jam \$4,900
- Friends & Community \$141
- NOSAT 2024 \$3,156

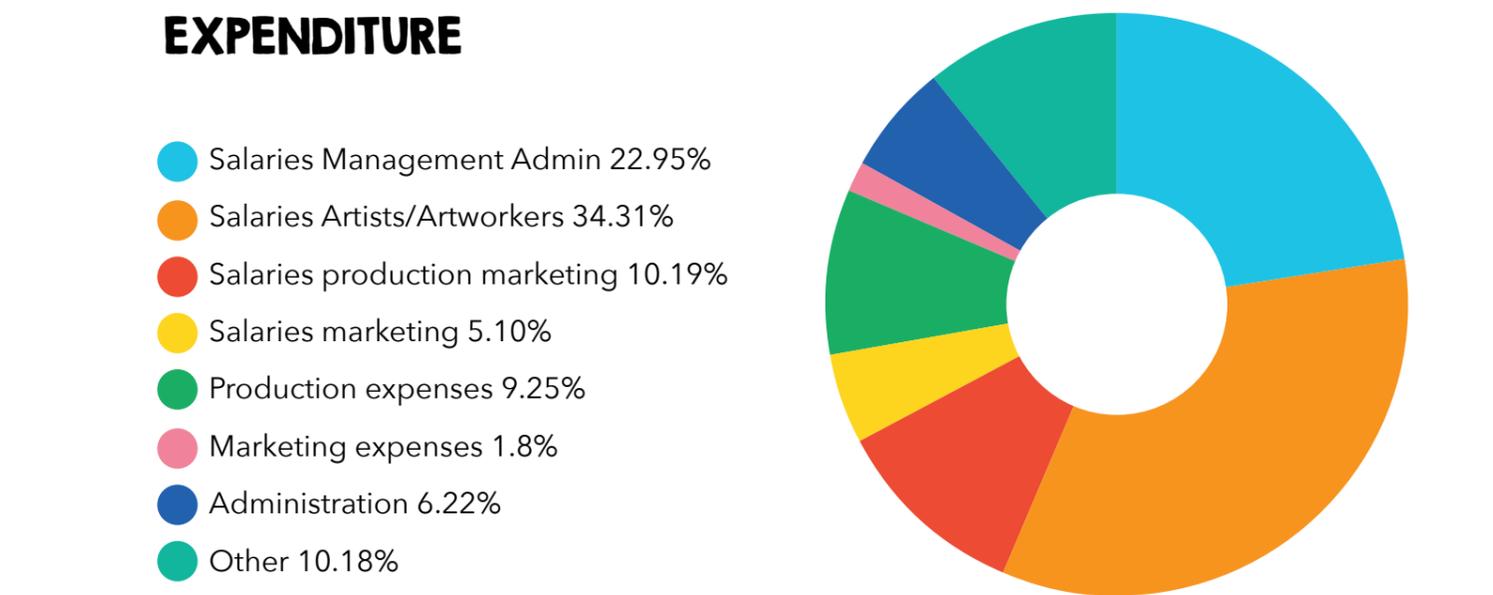
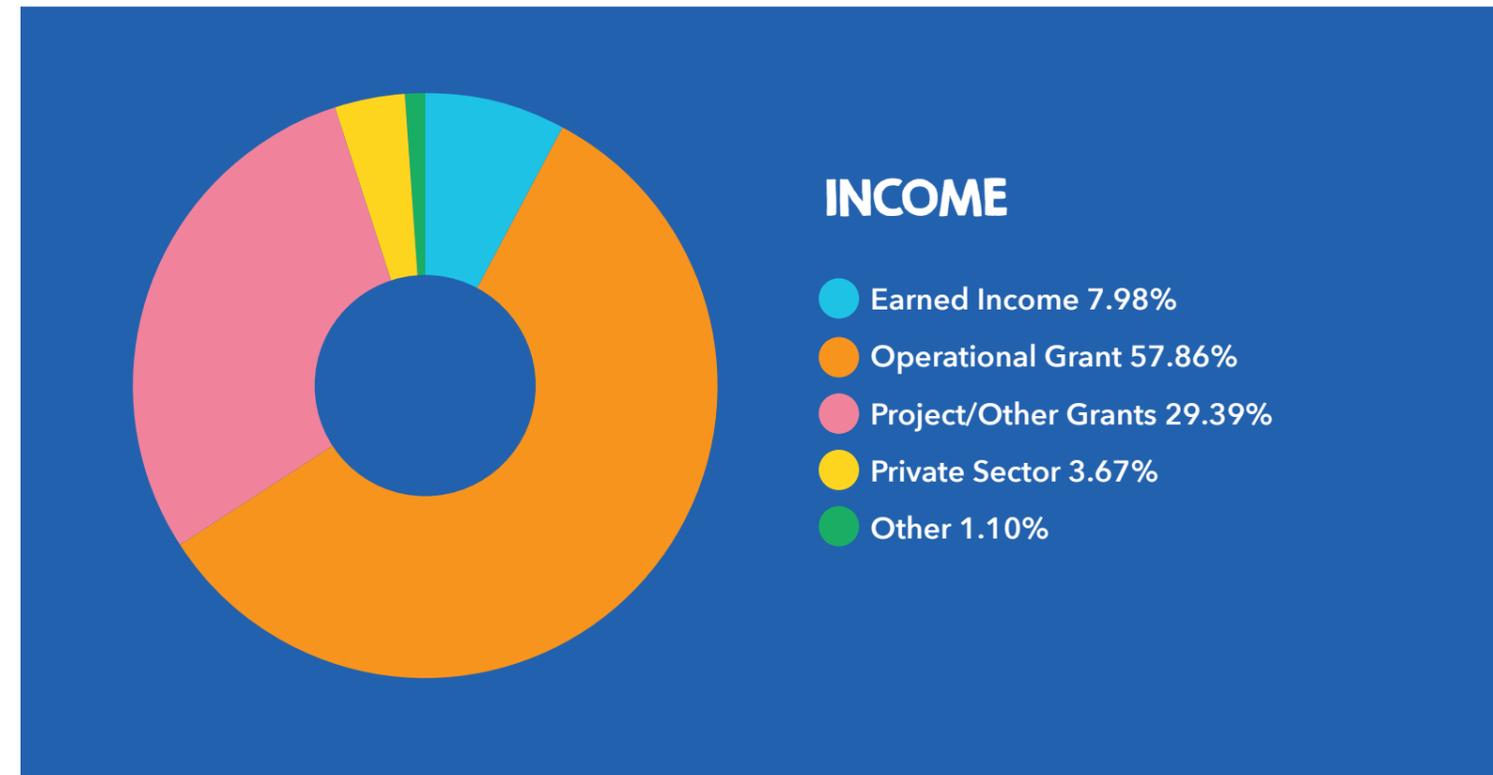
‘The Studio’ revenue (\$3,515) from resident artists under a Memorandum of Understanding was donated by ACT Natimuk to support Beyond Community Inclusion (BCI).

Several Auspiced Projects were concluded and acquitted in 2024:

Women’s Outdoor Wellness program (DFFR \$10,000) - Mel Edwards, Climbing Qt’s. Tripod (Creative Australia \$27,860) - Jillian Pearce, Y Space.

ACT Natimuk once again contributed funds of \$1000 with \$1000 from Reconciliation Victoria to run a local Reconciliation Week event (\$2,000). Goatfest generated a surplus income \$4,048 allocated to the 2024 Circus Jam program.

Tony Noller  
**Treasurer ACT Natimuk**



Note: Frinj Director and MiN Producer wages are included in the artswoker figures, as these roles requires creative producing and directing.



# FINANCIALS

## Arapiles Community Theatre

### Balance sheet for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Asset</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank ACT #151903317	37,787	45,720
Cash at Bank MiN #153041546	4,507	2,310
Cash at Bank FRINJ #149559122	15,778	9,721
Cash at Bank PUB #161871223	8,747	8,057
Sandhurst term deposit	38,417	41,538
Cash at The Studio # 209 497 700	9	79
	<u>105,246</u>	<u>107,245</u>
Trade Debtors	0	0
Income receivable	0	0
GST Input tax credit	2,559	8,991
Expenses Paid In Advance	0	22,618
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>2,559</u>	<u>31,609</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>107,805</u>	<u>138,854</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade Creditors	21	0
GST Payable	663	5,638
Income received in advance	8,056	37,956
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>8,740</u>	<u>43,594</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>99,065</u>	<u>95,260</u>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Surplus	99,065	95,260
<b>Net worth</b>	<u>99,065</u>	<u>95,260</u>

## Arapiles Community Theatre Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Event Income	0	0
Merchandise	0	0
Equipment rental	0	1,426
Activities & Services/event Income	13,787	86,599
Sponsorship	0	0
Donations	2,690	2,193
Fundraising	1,563	4,799
Memberships	1,105	915
Foundations	1,000	8,420
Interest Received	1,896	1,548
Sundry Income	0	2,143
Brokerage fees (commissions)	0	3,687
Creative Victoria operational grants	100,000	100,000
Other Vic State Agencies	10,000	0
Local Government operational grants	0	0
Creative Australia	27,860	0
Project Grant Creative Victoria	0	0
Project Grants other Vic State Agencies	11,944	10,000
Project Grants Local government	1,000	4,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>172,845</u>	<u>225,730</u>
<b>Expense</b>		
Allowances & on costs wages & fees	38,807	74,265
Artist develop & Mentorship	0	3,687
Artist/musician fees	83,830	64,902
Insurance	2,992	2,913
Legal, Finance & Governance	0	817
Management & Administration	4,238	6,608
Marketing & Business Development	0	0
Marketing & Promotions	3,040	40,610
Office consumables & resources	1,222	1,858
Production & Technical	0	3,886
Production & Exhibition stage costs	14,025	21,440
Rent & Running costs	2,058	1,440
Sundry expenses	1,794	5,440
Hiring Expenses	0	445
Auspiced Expenses	2,898	0
Travel & Touring costs	86	6,903
Contributions	3,515	0
Venue & Exhibition space costs	1,532	1,080
Workshops, Classes & Seminars	0	0
Donations/Grants	9,000	2,000
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>169,038</u>	<u>210,268</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<u>3,805</u>	<u>15,462</u>

# PHOTO CREDITS

**Front/Back cover** Circus Jam. Image: No Mi & Dawa Che, Wobbly Spoon

**Pg 2** RAP artwork, 'Girrin and Dyanip'. Artist: Thomas Marks

**Pg 8** Welcome Community gathering, Natimuk Arts Weekend.  
Image: Tracey Skinner

**Pg 11** Alan Murphy & Chrissie Secombe, Becoming Nala book launch & exhibition.  
Image: Jacquie Tinkler

**Pg 12** Goatfest 2024. Image: Tracey Skinner

**Pg 13** Goatfest film stars Erica & Ash. Image: Severine Lamon  
Palais de Pixel volunteer stalwart Elaine. Image: Tracey Skinner

**Pg 14/16** Circus Jam members with No Mi and Dawa.  
Images: No Mi & Dawa Che, Wobbly Spoon

**Pg 16** Artist & Goat Gallery owner Jacquie Tinkler presenting at Friends &  
Community night. Image: D'Arcy Molan

**Pg 17** Top left: Jonathon Schoolderman woodblock printing at The Studio.  
Image: Anthony Pelchen

Top right: Jonathon Schoolderman & D'Arcy Molan woodblock carving at  
The Studio. Image: Anthony Pelchen

Bottom right: Angela Walker & Ron Penrose, The Studio. Image: Joan Goad

**Pg 18** Anthony Pelchen, Tobie Coggle, Natimuk Open Studios Trail. }  
Image: Gillian Turner

Jacquie Tinkler, Natimuk Open Studios Trail. Image: Gillian Turner

**Pg 19** WoW exhibition, Climbing Qt's auspice project. Image: Melissa Edwards  
Bec Hopkins on Tripod, Y Space auspice project. Image: YSpace archive

**Pg 20** 'Now More Than Ever' exhibition. Image: Jacquie Tinkler

**Pg 21** Top: Neil Devonport with artist Thomas Marks, Now More Than Ever'  
exhibition. Image: Jacquie Tinkler

Bottom: Gail Harradine, Now More Than Ever' exhibition.  
Image: Jacquie Tinkler





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

ACT Natimuk is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria



*ACT Natimuk would also like to thank all of the volunteers and audiences that support our work.*