Chameleon Arts Collective Inc.

Balmoral – ‘Building a Creative Community’.

Sponsored by The Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship and RMIT Hamilton.

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BACKGROUND

Chameleon Arts is a small but dedicated group of artists, both professional and emerging, art lovers, community members and friends who, since 2003, have been working together to bring the arts into the small (approx 200 residents), remote town of Balmoral in the Western District of Victoria.

In 2003 and 2004 The Chameleon Arts Collective were encouraged by community support, the state government’s Community Capacity Building Initiative (CCBI) facilitator and a rapidly expanding membership to organise two events. In 2003 the ‘Cultural Quencher’ exhibition presented a wide variety of interesting and excellent art works from the Chameleon Arts membership. Funding support was received from Vic Health, The Southern Grampians Shire and Arts Victoria. Over the weekend the Cultural Quencher exhibition was visited by over 500 people who spoke highly of the standard of work exhibited.

After this event, the Chameleon Arts membership base doubled and the group worked towards developing a bigger program of events.

The resultant Feast of the Senses Festival took place in 2004. Together with a mixed media visual art exhibition the weekend featured open gardens, a literary luncheon, paper mache and printing workshops, a quality craft and Farmer’s market and a music and dance evening called the ‘Feast of the Senses Fiasco’.

This incredibly successful festival increased community participation, through showcasing local talents, collaboration with local organisations and attendance of the events (It is believed that approximately 2000 people participated in the festival), enhanced social inclusion and provided some evidence that the arts can contribute to broader community building activities. Funding support was received from Vic Health, The Southern Grampians Shire, Landmark, Elders, Iluka and NAB.

The Chameleon Arts Collective is encouraging our community to embrace the arts and use the arts and artists as a way of engaging, provoking and exciting people. Above all however, we feel that the arts can help to reflect and shape a sense of community identity and help with social cohesion. This sentiment is what drives those of us working at Chameleon Arts Collective Inc. to bring quality arts performances and provide opportunities for artists and their communities.

During the Feast of the Senses Festival, it was suggested by a Regional Development Officer that Chameleon Arts apply for a research grant through the Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship to investigate the impact of the Arts in the local community.

In December 2004 The Chameleon Arts Collective Inc. received notification of the success of this application.
PROJECT AIMS:

To identify and undertake methods of evaluating Rural Arts and cultural activities and their contribution to/impact on:

- Individual well-being and mental health;
- Creating community connectedness;
- Individual and community resiliency;
- Attracting and maintaining new residents and/or young people;
- Creating positive linkages between established and newly arrived residents;
- Establishing dialogue and connection between older and younger people;
- Overcoming isolation.

- To establish links between RMIT University, community members and a broader network of expertise across rural and regional community arts and community building.
- To develop skills, networks and access to resources to enable ongoing community cultural activities.

PLANNING

A discussion was generated amongst Chameleon Arts Collective members and people from the Balmoral community on the use of the Fellowship Grant to support the above aims by bringing a range of artists and art forms into the community. The Collective met and discussed possible events, the stakeholders, target audiences and the desired outcomes. The Collective wanted to bring new, varied, culturally different and challenging art forms that strayed from the traditional and safe. The desire was to be provocative and have audiences and participants experience events that liberated, excited, challenged and extended their boundaries. Each event was promoted through the local media outlets and newsletters to raise awareness. At each event questionnaires were distributed to attendees to try to gauge the impact of the performances.

The Balmoral community gathering at the Opening Concert by Rafetna

‘The African Village’ was a series of performances and workshops of African music and dance held for the Balmoral education community but also involving other community members.

The performance and workshop activities were with Shona Honeyhill Sonko and Lamine Sonko from ‘Rafetna’. They ran The African Village workshops with the education sector from the Balmoral community, which involved the Kindergarten, primary and secondary students.

Following an opening performance of Senegalese drumming, singing and dancing in front of about 170 people, the students were guided through a range of activities, which included storytelling, African dance, singing and drumming.

These sessions emphasised the importance of culture, making students aware that through various African artforms, ideas and feelings are expressed and rituals performed. Within the sessions, these concepts were transferred across cultures, making students also aware that in their own culture, they too utilise various art forms and rituals as a medium of expression in their everyday lives.

The sessions were designed to nurture their ability to create, listen, teach and enjoy. ‘Rafetna’s’ series of workshops and performances over three days gave the whole Balmoral community the opportunity to participate in a West African cultural experience.
By the end of the workshops each year level managed to follow drumming and dance sequences with relative ease and sang beautifully in Senegalese in really tight time frames. On the final day all of the High School students were given the unique experience of putting on their own performance incorporating all their newly acquired skills.

The overall response was extremely positive from everyone involved. Participation surveys were circulated to each participant and to the teachers responsible for each year group. It was wonderful to read that so many people felt that they benefited from these workshops by trying something new and interesting, learning new skills, learning about other cultures, developing one’s confidence and challenging ones abilities and generally feeling great about being involved in a new community project and looking forward to being involved in many new and different projects.

To assist us in our evaluation we asked participants to provide us with valuable feed back so we could effectively evaluate the impact of the various performances.

From left: Shona leading Balmoral HS student singing workshop group through a clapping and movement routine and Lamine accompanying them on Djembe.
From left: Shona and Lamine with Fellowship team and Balmoral High School singing workshop group.

Graphical Representation and Interpretation of Responses to surveys from each performance.

A number of questions were detailed in surveys that were given to recipients at each of the performances as a method of evaluating our project. (Refer to Appendices for Survey Forms for each performance).

Results from the responses given have been both tabulated and graphed to give an indication as to how community members felt about each performance and how it affected them as an individual and as a member from the community.

(Refer to Appendices for Table of Results).

Graph 1:
Percentage of participants in each performance that experienced something new.

![Graph showing percentage of participants experiencing something new in each performance.](image-url)
• With regards to the percentage of participants that experienced something new, the results show that Rafeta – African Dance and Music Ensemble had a significant result whereby all participants had a totally new cultural experience as many of the participants had never had a ‘face to face’ experience with a person from Senegal. Shona and Lamine’s cultural program was innovative, insightful and exhilarating, hence the excitement felt by the community when indicating that they enjoyed experiencing something new.

• Both the Classical Music Concert and the Belly Dancing Workshop were events that many community members had previously experienced elsewhere or as part of other Chameleon Arts Collective Programs, but obviously still gained much enjoyment from attending.

• Comments from participants were extremely positive towards each of the performances:

  ➢ “It was wonderful to be involved and to have ‘hands-on’ experience in an activity that we have never done before”
  ➢ “It wasn’t my ‘thing’, but I had a go and actually really enjoyed it!”
  ➢ “It was a truly wonderful and amazing experience to be apart of and invaluable for our students who live in an isolated community”
  ➢ “I experienced and enjoyed something that I thought may not have been as good!”
  ➢ “Something positive can be gained from everything we do and the opportunity that we have been given by Chameleon Arts to be exposed to different facets of Art is something country people should embrace”
  ➢ “It was amazing as a teacher to see how the students responded to instruction from the performers. They were truly engaged”
  ➢ “I found the whole experience a real buzz!”
  ➢ “It really brings it home to me how isolated we really are in Balmoral”.
  ➢ “By having the African cultural experience allowed our kids to a talented coloured man who was also a muslim”.

From left: Ayla Armitage 2yrs and Balmoral kindergarten students, Alec Jagger, Emerson Hogema and Paris Shrive listening to an African story.
CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT

Concert pianist Rosemary Cordy and Mezzo Soprano Rebecca Bywater performing at the Balmoral High School Hall.

The aim of this event was organise a charity event such as this classical music concert with the proceeds going to the local Red Cross. This organisation along with so many others had worked tirelessly supporting fire fighters and families in need during the severe bush fires near Balmoral in 2005.

Chameleon Arts were able to secure the talents of concert pianist Rosemary Cordy and her colleague Rebecca Bywater who was a mezzo-soprano to perform at this very worthy charity function. As part of our ethos at Chameleon Arts, we actively strive to encourage emerging young artists, so we approached Jean Bremner, a VCE music student from the Balmoral High School to perform the opening pieces to this event.
VCE music student Jean Bremner performing at the Classical Music Concert.

The afternoon was a great success and most enjoyable with approximately 80 people attending from around the region. The programme offered music from a variety of composers with items being sung in at least four different languages. The overall response was extremely positive from everyone involved. Surveys were circulated to each person in the audience, showed that everyone enjoyed the afternoon’s format and repertoire, finding it to be a refreshing, relaxing, friendly, delightful and professional performance. So many people commented on the fact that they appreciated being given the opportunity to listen to and enjoy an art form that most would not otherwise have the chance to experience in this rural setting.
Chameleon artists and supporters came from Geelong, Melbourne, Ballarat and district to support this event. A newly arrived resident from Switzerland who is a classically trained musician was thrilled that we included a classical music concert as part of our Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship program as she very rarely has the opportunity to experience this type of entertainment without having to travel great distances as well, she enjoyed hearing her native language being sung. A Russian friend commented on how well the mezzo soprano handled so many languages including his native tongue. We were thrilled that people came along to our event primarily because it was under the banner of the Chameleon Arts Collective Inc. and they equate the group with putting on quality events, which was very flattering and definitely provides a challenge to those of us who are part of the organising team.

Graph 2:
Percentage of participants that experienced a sense of health and well being as part of their involvement.

- The results above show that there was an overwhelming response that participants in each of the performances felt that they experienced a sense of health and well-being as part of their involvement.

- It should be noted that both 'Rafetna' and Belly Dancing performances involved workshops where individuals were able to choose and to participate thereby actively experiencing a hands-on approach to the various art forms. The audience at Classical Music
Concert were more passive in their involvement, and although they enjoyed the experience, they were not required to be active. Both the Mezzo Soprano and Pianist included the audience with delightful and sometimes humorous introductions to their chosen pieces in an attempt reach out to the audience giving them a very personal insight into the world of opera. We thought that having a very informal, personalised approach to the afternoon’s program allowed the audience to further relax and appreciate these more challenging musical pieces.

Following are some comments received from community members relating to how they felt after each of the performances in relation to their sense of health and well-being.

➤ “It was great to be able to have the opportunity to actually participate and experience first hand the different art forms and what they entailed!”
➤ “I did not think that we would go away with so much ability and knowledge”
➤ “I was able to share a wonderful experience with my children and to see the excitement and enjoyment that they got from their individual experiences!”
➤ “We had the opportunity of being involved”
➤ “It gave me the confidence to act in large groups”
➤ “I learned to express myself in so many different ways, using sounds, rhythm and movement”

In an answer to one of the survey questions, “How did you feel after doing the activities?”, it was interesting to note the varying answers given by a cross-section of the community. The feelings expressed about their involvement in the performances were as follows: Proud, excited, happy, tired, nervous, embarrassed, challenged, shy, exhilarated energised, expressive, active, intense.

SHE OAK BELLY DANCING WORKSHOP

The She-Oak Belly Dancers came to share their experiences and skills in the age old art of belly dancing. It was a great way to get rid of any inhibitions, as women of all shapes, sizes abilities and ages came along to enjoy an afternoon where we were given an insight into this Middle Eastern craft.

Tania Walter, the principal dancer, told a brief history of belly dancing before leading her SheOak dancers through a series of wonderful performances. The audience were then split up into more intimate groups where we were led through different workshops which concentrated on moving a specific part of your body. Participants were able to adorn themselves in some colourful, heavily sequined and beaded Hollywood styled costumes.

To complete the afternoon, all the small groups joined together with the SheOak dancers in a group performance dressed in costumes.

The afternoon was a wonderful new and positive experience for all of those involved. Initially, the Fellowship team were a little disappointed by the small number of women that came to the workshop, especially as so many people in the community had expressed a very real interest in doing belly dancing after attending our Feast of the Senses ‘Fiasco’ evening where Tania Walter led a similar composition of dancers in a evening’s performance. Once people had heard about how much fun we had and that 15 women participated in the workshop, they expressed their regret and wished they had been brave enough to come along.

We have found that with many new things in the community, people are shy and a little reluctant to step out and try something that is unfamiliar. Although this attitude is a little frustrating as an organiser, it is perfectly understandable when considering the conservative nature of the community. When I say this however, it is not meant as a criticism, only that in working with the community we are learning that one needs to ease into projects gradually
and by leading events with a considered approach, we have found that people have come on board and have embraced the group, new ideas and events.

**Graph 3:**

Percentage of participants who thought that the community had achieved a sense of health and wellbeing as a result of the different performances.

- The results from graph 3 show that each performance had a positive effect on the community's health and well-being.
- ‘Rafeta’ had the most dramatic effect on the community as a whole. This was due to the nature of this particular art form, the structure of their workshops, which involved the full and lively participation and integration of a wide cross section from the community. Kindergarten children, primary and secondary students joined with senior citizens as active audience members and participants to join in the wonderful finale which incorporated singing, drumming and dance.
- Despite the fact that the Belly Dancing also involved the participation of individuals in different workshops and the coming together as a whole group as part of a finale, the level of involvement in each of the workshops was probably more focussed on the ‘individual’ and the movement of each individual’s bodies rather than on how each participant interacted with others in the group, (hence the lower % of participants that felt that the community achieved a sense of health & well-being).
- The Classical Music Concert did have an element of audience participation as the performers explained the meaning behind each piece that they performed. However, this alone would not have been the reason for so many of the community members having such a good sense of community well-being. Instead, it would have definitely been attributed to the fact that the performance was held as a **community charity concert**, raising money for the local Red Cross who had been so generous with their efforts with those families affected by the Balmoral bushfires that had such an impact on the community as a whole, in January 2005. This event certainly brought the community together to attend a cultural and extremely high standard event that many may not have attended. 80 people attended this event - a great result for a small community.

Following are some of the comments that were made regarding the community's level of involvement and how the events impacted on the community as a whole:
“Everyone was able to achieve success producing a final group performance with such a high level of involvement, cooperation and teamwork. We should all be proud of what we achieved!”

“Such a treat in such a small rural community to hear such a high standard performance”

“Refreshingly different for the community!”

“Such a privilege for us all to experience such talent!”

“It was so wonderful to see the community get behind a cultural event and to support a local charity”.

“I travelled to Africa a few years ago and this brought back many wonderful memories”

“Shona and Lamine are really cool!”

“I wish we could do more of this kind of drumming in our music program”.

Lamine Sonko performing a very energetic African dance routine.
Graph 4:

Percentage of participants who experienced an increased cultural awareness as a result of attending the various performances.

- Each of the performances had a definite cultural theme whether it was by learning the different ways of expressing oneself in another culture by:
  - hearing different languages spoken as another form of communicating,
  - experiencing different styles of movement (utilising various parts of our bodies),
  - experiencing and becoming familiar with varying styles of music, different instruments and dance techniques,
  - learning about the different styles of dress and adornment of various cultures (unlike our own),
  - by understanding the various etiquettes associated with being a part of such cultural performances and
  - by experiencing first hand, people from other cultures, race and countries very different to ourselves. (Most of the children had never experienced being in close contact with a Senegalese musician).

Following are a few comments that community members made with reference to being involved in a culturally engaging experience:

> “It was wonderful to experience learning another language and being able to incorporate this into music and dance”
> “Great to learn different types of music of people from outside the community and from other cultures.
> “I have never been this close to a black person before”.
Graph 5:
Percentage of participants who benefited from the social interaction.

- As shown by the above results, the higher the actual participation levels, the greater the number of participants who benefited from the social interaction. 'Rafetna' was the performance with the greatest participation levels. This was essentially due to the number of workshops offered and the amount of time given to the actual program, which ran over 3 days. The Belly Dancing workshop was only for an afternoon, but over the course of day the teachers offered a number of workshops giving participants the opportunity to interact with each other. Despite the Classical Music Concert being more formal in its approach, the afternoon's program allowed attendees to catch up with friends, family, musicians and other community members at an informal afternoon tea held afterwards. (The Balmoral & District Kindergarten was given the opportunity to raise some much needed funds by catering for the afternoon tea after the performance).

Comments from community members were as follows:

- "It was great to be involved in a lovely afternoon's performance as well as being able to catch up with so many friends at the same time."
- "Individual inhibitions were soon forgotten when everyone joined in and helped each other."
- "There were women at the belly dancing workshop that I had never spoken to before, so it was a great way to break down some of the social barriers."
- "It was wonderful that all members of our community felt that they could join in the belly dancing despite their limited abilities."
- "I wish we could get someone to continue to teach us in Balmoral after this session, as I reckon many more women would want to participate when they find out how much fun we had!"
- "It was wonderful to catch up with Rosemary Cordy as she is a second cousin to my mother who resides in Cavendish...isn't it a small world."
- "Both my husband and I were so relaxed during the concert. We particularly enjoyed the informal nature of the program and that the Chameleon Arts Collective are giving the proceeds to another hard working group in our community."
THE PLAY – RECKLESS

To continue the ‘diversity of arts’ aim Chameleon Arts decided to have drama as the feature of the final event. Christina Hindaugh is a local artist and she generously offered her play as one of the Handbury Fellowship arts events. The Yallum Productions play ‘Reckless’ Adam Lindsay Gordon - Man and Legend was written by Christina Hindaugh, performed by David Rees as John Riddoch, directed by Tom Falkai and the music was written and performed by Eda Ritchie.

Writer Mrs Christina Hindaugh featured standing behind Actor David Rees on stage at the Balmoral Mechanic’s Hall.

_Reckless_ is a one man play based on the life of Australian poet and horseman Adam Lindsay Gordon. The narrator is John Riddoch, Gordon’s close friend. The play is set in the dining room at Yallum Park, Riddoch’s old station homestead near Penola in South Australia.

Adam Lindsay Gordon was by descent a Scottish laird, born in the Azores and brought up in England. He came to Australia in 1853 when he was 20 years old. By turns mounted policeman, landowner, member of parliament, steeplechase jockey, clubman, failed businessman and journalist, at the time of his death in 1870 Gordon was known as a serious poet only to a small handful of literary people, and during his lifetime his published poems (the fourth volume appeared the day before he died) had sold hardly more than a hundred copies.

However, after his death Gordon’s reputation grew steadily until by the centenary of his birth he had become widely regarded in both England and Australia and Australia’s first national poet. In 1934 a bust of him was unveiled in Poet’s Corner in Westminster Abbey, the only Australian poet to this day to be so honoured.
We took the opportunity to invite our sponsors and community partners to a preshow drinks party to thank them for their support and encouragement and to this we were honoured to have our friend and patron Mr Geoff Handbury, the Mayor of Southern Grampians Mr Don. Robertson, Public Relations Manager from Iluka Resources Ltd. Mr Greg Walcott, a representative from the Handbury Fellowship committee, local business people, members from The Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre, the Balmoral High School, CMA representative and other supporters and friends. We were delighted that over 100 people attend the evening’s performance.

Our patron and friend Mr Geoff Handbury with Balmoral community member Mrs Gwenda McClelland.

Balmoral community members at the play Reckless.

From left: Mrs Heather Howman, Mr John Black, Ms Louise Le Nay and Mrs Ann Clarsen.
Community members attending 'Reckless'.
From left: Mr Danny Watt, Balmoral High School Principal Mr Phil. Honeywell and Mrs Anita Watt.

People had come from all over the district for an evening that truly was representative of the whole Chameleon Arts Collective Inc. and Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship partnership. The project brought communities from the surrounding district together, celebrated the talents of one of our community members, and it was an evening that highlighted the fact that people really love attending quality Arts events especially when they are made so accessible and affordable and are held in a non threatening environment.

From left: Mrs Beth. Smith with daughter Ms Andrea Castine.
CONCLUSIONS

In summary, Balmoral’s Chameleon Arts Collective Inc. and the Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship team organised four distinctly different performances in the Balmoral community. Each event has been unique in terms of what it has offered either to those who participated as audience members and those who actively participated in workshops and performances.

So far our project aims of creating community connectedness, giving community members an opportunity to be involved in something new, interesting and to some, challenging, has far outweighed our expectations. The programs have attracted many different community members ranging in ages from preschoolers to those in their 90’s. Community members from varying backgrounds and occupations have participated which has allowed a real sense of community bonding, which may not otherwise occur. Due to the involvement of so many from the the various sectors of the community, there has been a positive connection and increased awareness of what the Chameleon Arts Collective Inc. is trying to achieve.

Through the circulation of the participation evaluation forms, we have been able to get an overall picture on how the community responded to the events when determining personal expectations, levels of enjoyment, and the impact each performance had on the individual’s well being. The responses have been extremely positive and encouraging and have sparked discussion in many circles about what we should next bring to the community.

Due to such an overwhelming response to the events held so far, we have had many requests to bring other new and varied art forms to Balmoral as well as repeating those that have already been presented. Such a response has certainly made us realise that the isolation factor of living in the country (with such large distances to travel to and from provincial and metropolitan cities), can easily be overcome by enabling a community to have access to professional and aspiring artists and musicians. Subsequently, they are able to become involved in our community, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge, skills and ideas that can only help to broaden our boundaries and enrich our community.

The Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship and Hamilton RMIT grant has enabled us to provide this service and opportunity to our community as we prepare for our next Chameleon Arts Collective Inc. event in 2006 entitled Balmoral – ‘Place and Diversity’ Festival.
Chameleon Arts Collective Inc.  
Balmoral – ‘Building a Creative Community’

Budget

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Other programs suggested on survey forms for the Chameleon Arts Collective Inc.

- Dance workshops
- Music/movement workshops
- Printmaking workshops
- Film making/animation workshops
- Singing workshops
- Puppetry
- Cartoon drawing
- Painting workshops
- Sculpture/ pottery workshops
- Martial Arts
- Gymnastics
- Ballet Concert
- String Quartet
- Multi Cultural Activities

How can we improve our Community Arts Projects?

- “Give more opportunity for whole community participation”
- “Have better communication through bulletins etc. and throughout the community and district.”
- “Have greater access to Arts Activities”.
- “We want activities that will allow our children access to people from different backgrounds as this community is predominantly Anglo”.
- “We would like the Chameleon Arts Collective to run after school arts based activities”.
- “We think that the group should make public sculpture in our town to help lift the profile of the Arts”.
- “I think that we need to get the men in our community involved in hands-on activities so they experience first hand the value of the Arts in the community”.
- “Our kids could really benefit from working with artists in the development of some public sculpture”.
- The Chameleon Arts Collective members should try and encourage more community members to get involved so we can make more things happen in this little backwater!”
- “I reckon there is too much sculpture in the exhibition. You should go back to just water colour painting.”
- “You should have provided childcare so more women could participate in the activities”.
- “We want Art classes during the day when the kids are at school”.

23
Chameleon Arts Collective Inc.
present the She Oak Belly Dancing Troop for an afternoon of secret women’s business.

We hope that women of all shapes and sizes, abilities and ages will enjoy an entertaining afternoon where we will be treated to a performance, an insight into the mysterious Middle Eastern craft, a workshop and afternoon tea.

Proudly sponsored by: RMIT and the Handbury Fellowship.

Supported by:
Balmoral High School  Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre
The Southern Grampians Wilderness Resort.
BELLY DANCING WORKSHOP EVALUATION SURVEY
1 May 2005

1. How did you find out about the workshop?

2. What did you enjoy most about the performance and/or workshop?

3. For you was the belly dancing experience... (please tick)

   Something new
   Made/met with friends, social connections
   Something positive for myself
   Something positive for the community
   Within my existing experiences
   For my health

4. What did you expect before the concert and workshops?

5. Were your expectations met? Yes No
   Why?

6. Are you a member of the Chameleon Arts Collective? Yes No

7. If you are not a member would you like to become a member? Yes No
   If yes please provide contact details

8. Would you like to attend another Chameleon Arts Project? (Please tick)
   a) Definitely o  b) Yes, if possible o  c) Maybe o  d) I don't think so o
   e) Never again o

9. Would you like to be involved in helping to organise another Chameleon Arts Project?
   (Please tick)
   a) Definitely o  b) Yes, if possible o  c) Maybe o  d) I don't think so o
   e) Never again o

10. What other type of Arts programme would you like to be involved in? For example animation, other styles of dance/movement, other art forms e.g. sculpture, printmaking, etc...

11. Do you think we need to improve any part of the Arts Programme offered in the future?
RAFE'TNA - AFRICAN VILLAGE

23 - 25 FEBRUARY 2005

PARTICIPANT EVALUATION SURVEY (Staff / Student / Community member)

1. Why did you get involved with the project?
   I've been involved before  o  Good opportunity  o  Curiosity  o  Something to do  o
   I felt it was time to try something new  o  I wanted to learn, to practice  o
   I am interested in multi cultural music  o  Friends were involved  o
   Have some fun  o  To find new friends  o
   To become involved in the community  o  I don't know  o
   Other reasons:

   Were your expectations met?  Yes  No

2. What is the most important thing that has happened for you since starting this project?
   One example only please

3. Did you enjoy being involved in the project?
   1. Yes, loved it  o  2. Liked it  o  3. Neutral  o  4. Didn't enjoy it  o  5. Hated it  o

4. What didn't you like about the project?

5. Did any of the things from the following list happen through being involved in the project?
   tried something new  o  challenged myself  o
   took a risk and survived  o  did something I am proud of  o
   created good/interesting art  o  made friends, social connections  o
   explored interests, talents  o  worked with group on a project  o
   learnt new things  o  developed my confidence  o
   felt proud of myself  o  felt happy  o
   felt well, healthy  o  learnt about other people; cultures  o
   learnt new skills  o  developed skills for employment  o
   learnt specific skills e.g. dancing  o  developed skills for studying, training  o
   did something positive for myself  o  did something positive for the community  o

6. Would you like to be involved in another project?
   1. Definitely  o  2. Yes, if possible  o  3. Maybe  o  4. I don’t think so  o  5. Never again  o

7. How can we improve our community arts projects?

26
Chameleon Arts Collective Inc.
proudly presents:

A CONCERT OF CLASSICAL MUSIC
Featuring international performers,
Mezzo - soprano Rebecca Bywater
and
Concert pianist, Rosemary Cordy

Sunday March 13 at 2.00pm, 2005
At The Balmoral High School Hall
Harrow Rd. Balmoral Vic. 3407

Entry: $10.00 adults, $5.00 Children
Proceeds to the Balmoral Branch of the Red Cross.

Wine, Champagne and Devonshire Teas will be for sale with
the proceeds going to
The Balmoral Kindergarten.

Enquiries and Bookings: Balmoral High School Ph: 55701 201

Proudly sponsored by: RMIT and the Handbury Fellowship

Supported by: The Balmoral High School, P&J Smith- 'Thistlesome'.
The Balmoral Café & Caravan Park &The Balmoral licensed Supermarket.
Concert programme

Rebecca Bywater – Mezzo-soprano
Rosemary Cordy – Piano

Handel  -  Lascia ch’io pianga
          -  Cara sposa, amante cara (from Rinaldo)

Berlioz -  Villanelle
          -  L’absence
          -  L’Ile inconnue (from Les nuits d’été)

Strauss -  Die Nacht
          -  Allerseelen

Shostakovich  -  Spanish Songs

Bizet  -  Près des remparts de Séville
          -  L’amour est un oiseau rebelle (from Carmen)
ABOUT THE PLAY:
"RECKLESS" is a one man play based on the life of Australian poet and horseman Adam Lindsay Gordon. The narrator is John Riddoch, Gordon's close friend. The play is set in the dining room at Yallum Park, Riddoch's old station homestead near Penola in South Australia.

ABOUT THE SUBJECT:
ADAM LINDSAY GORDON was by descent a Scottish laird, born in the Azores and brought up in England. He came to Australia in 1855 when he was 20 years old. By turns mounted policeman, landowner, member of Parliament, steeplechase jockey, clubman, failed businessman and journalist, at the time of his death in 1870 Gordon was known as a serious poet only to a small handful of literary people, and during his lifetime his published poems (the fourth volume appeared the day before he died) had sold hardly more than a hundred copies.

However, after his death Gordon's reputation grew steadily until by the centenary of his birth he had become widely regarded in both England and Australia as Australia's first national poet. In 1934 a bust of him was unveiled in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey, the only Australian poet to this day to be so honoured.

ABOUT THE NARRATOR:
JOHN RIDDUCH was a highly respected Scottish immigrant landowner and sheep farmer, home wine-maker, district philanthropist and local member of the South Australian Parliament. He is widely recognised today as "The father of Coonawarra".

"Through Gordon, Australia found her first fine utterance of a song." Oscar Wilde

"A shining soul with syllables of fire, who sang the first great songs these lands can claim to be their own..." Henry Kendall

Chameleon Arts Collective Inc with the Handbury Fellowship & Yallum Productions presents

RECKLESS
Adam Lindsay Gordon - Man and Legend

a play by
Christina Hindhaugh

performed by
David Reed as John Riddoch
directed by
Tom Falkai

music written and performed by
Eda Ritchie

The play is set in the dining room at Yallum Park on the evening of 24 June, 1870.
CHRISTINA HINDHAUGH is a farmer and a writer and lives at Balmorel. She has written four books, two plays and produced a documentary film.

DAVID REED started working in theatre in 1975 with the Millicent Company of Seven. He has since worked with the Q Theatre and the Adelaide Theatre Group. In 1978 he joined the Theatre 62 Theatre in Education team before moving to Mount Gambier in 1980 to teach Art and Drama at Grant High School. In 1985 David worked for the Patch Theatre Centre before returning to the South East to teach drama at the Penna High School.


He has also directed productions of Ruddigore, The Music Man, The Boyfriend, The Bed Sitting Room, The Pyjama Game, The Lion in Winter, The Sunny South, Oliver, Annie, Guys and Dolls, Oklahoma, Bullshot Crummond, Twelfth Night, Our Town, Fiddler on the Roof, In His Own Write and A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

In 1991 David was made a life member of Mount Gambier Theatre Group. In 1992 he moved to Adelaide to teach drama at Unley High School, and has since directed productions of The Legend of King O’Malley, On Our Selection and Oh, What a Lovely War for the Adelaide University Theatre Guild. Since 2001 David has been at Brighton Secondary School.

David regularly performs Reckless in Werribee Mansion as part of Essence Food Studio’s gourmet season.

TOM FALKAI has taught secondary Drama and English for 14 years. He has been involved in street theatre and Theatre in Education, and has directed productions ranging from one-act plays to school musicals. He and David Reed have worked together on 12 productions and he has directed David in three.

On the fields of Col’t’ine there’ll be labour in vain
Before the Great Western is ended,
The nags will have toll’d, and the silks will be soil’d,
And the rails will require to be mended.

Adam Lindsay Gordon
THANK YOU

Written and Researched by Suyin Honeywell, Elise Armitage and Amelia Johnston.

Advice and Editing by Jenny Bell and Phil Honeywell

Thankyou to the following people and organisations on behalf of the Chameleon Arts Collective Inc. and the Handbury Fellowship team.
(Project Manager: Suyin Honeywell and Research Assistants: Elise Armitage and Amelia Johnston).

➢ Mr Geoff Handbury and the late Mrs Helen Handbury for their support of the Chameleon Arts Collective Inc. and the Balmoral community.
➢ The Balmoral and District communities; in particular our partnerships with the School communities, staff and students at the Balmoral High School, The Balmoral Consolidated School, The Balmoral and District Kindergarten, The Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre, The Balmoral Senior Citizens Group and the Balmoral businesses.
➢ The Regional Development Officer Warrnambool Ms Jill. Warne for helping during the application process.
➢ The Shire of Southern Grampians for sponsorship of the Classical Music Concert promotion.
➢ The Tourism and Development team Mr Hugh Koch and Ms Jane Roads from the Shire of Southern Grampians
➢ RMIT Globalism Unit Yaso Nadarajah
➢ The Staff at RMIT Hamilton for their unwavering support throughout the project, especially Mrs Jenny Bell, Robyn Eversole and Mrs Shelagh Krummel.
➢ Mr James Kruger for all his technical expertise, advice and patience in the production of the ‘Balmoral – Building a Creative Community’ DVD.
➢ Classical music concert - Concert Pianist Ms Rosemary Cordy and Mezzo-Soprano Ms Rebecca Bywater
➢ Tania Walter and the SheOak Belly Dancers
➢ ‘Reckless’ Writer: Mrs Christina Hindaugh & Actor: Mr David Rees

Thankyou from Suyin, Elise and Amelia for the opportunity to work with our small community and making it a place where the new and the old meet, where we develop ideas together for the benefit of those who are open to change and want to continue learning and sharing.

‘Strong women, strong children, strong communities’. This sentiment is true for the three of us who have been involved in the Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship program and we will continue to work hard within our community, continue to nurture the partnerships we have developed with local and regional organisations so we can play a role in building a Balmoral Community that is strong, vibrant and resilient during times of change.
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<th>PERFORMANCE</th>
<th>No. Participants in overall activity</th>
<th>No. Participants in survey</th>
<th>% surveyed of total No. of participants</th>
<th>Gender</th>
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<td>Male</td>
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