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Cover image: Imagery by Gonketa

Opposite: Demographic Dance Off: Face-to-Face.
Photo by Alexis Deslauriers-Lea

MIDSUMMA

Midsumma is Australia's premier LGBTQIA+ arts organisation, for and by communities who live with shared experiences around diverse gender and sexuality.

Midsumma is passionate about making the many diverse queer communities in Victoria more visible, more effectively interconnected, and to provide a platform for cultural voices and stories that are often not heard otherwise in the broader community. Midsumma intrinsically creates safe and inclusive places for communities, with diversity at its very core. We know that when our communities feel safe and supported, they are able to build stronger connections within their own groups and then with other groups they interact with. Midsumma has nine strategic focuses that include increasing engagement with First Nation communities, young people, families and seniors, as well as extending our work with disability communities. Midsumma Festival engages with broad communities across age ranges and cultural demographics; representing true inclusion and diversity in all its forms.

We work year-round to support our diverse queer communities in Victoria, providing artists, social-changers and culture-makers with support and tools to create, present and promote their work.

Midsumma continues to increase our capacity to play a proactive role in developing the queer cultural footprint of Melbourne, and nationally. We play a vital role in the life of the many varied communities with which we regularly engage.

Our three-week Festival is held in summer each year, with an explosion of queer events that centre around hidden and mainstream queer culture, involving local, interstate, and international artists. Our festival program comprises a curated **Midsumma Presents** line-up plus the community-driven **Open-access** stream, to share with you the lived experiences of those voices at the margins, the expression of queer history, and the celebration of new ideas and stories that come to life through world-class art and performance. Each year, the program is made up of diverse art forms and genres, including visual arts, live music, theatre, spoken word, cabaret, film, parties, sport, social events, and public forums.

A clear curatorial vision underpins all Midsumma's programming, with a focus on defined strategic priorities and a goal to strengthen the creative voices of LGBTQIA+ communities whilst developing our leadership position.

Because of this, Midsumma has two clear objectives:

- **To be the leadership arts organisation cultivating queer arts culture unique to Australia with local, national, international engagement; leading LGBTQIA+ cultural conversations.**
- **An artistic powerhouse investing in diverse LGBTQIA+ artistic voices to develop powerful new work, across disciplines, that inspire, share unique stories, and build meaningful connections spanning all cultures, age/generations, gender/sexual identities and disability.**

It is the aim of Midsumma that the activities we undertake and events we produce will have long-term cultural and industry impact beyond immediate KPIs and outcomes.

Cab Suave. Photo by Suzanne Balding



WHO ARE OUR AUDIENCES?

Sexuality Diversity

Gay	43%
Heterosexual	14%
Queer	13%
Lesbian	11%
Bisexual	9%
Pansexual	6%
Asexual	1%

Gender Diversity

Male	49%
Female	37%
Gender non-binary	9%
Transgender	2%
Intersex	1%
Other	1%
Prefer not to say	1%

Diversity (other than sexuality or gender)

18% of those surveyed also answered the following questions. Of them:

24% Person living with a mental health issue	17% Culturally diverse or Person of Colour	9% Autistic/neurodiverse	9% Person living with chronic illness and/or chronic pain	7% Person with a disability
3% Caring for someone with disability	3% Hard of hearing	1% Blind/low-vision	<1% Deaf	2% of audiences identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, First Nations, Bla(c)k, Indigenous

Household Structure

36% Couple	33% Single	18% Share house	13% Family
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Age

40% 25-34 year olds	26% 35-44 year olds	12% 45-54 year olds	10% 18-24 year olds
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5% 55-64 year olds	3% 11 and under	2% 12-17 year olds	2% 65 and over
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Income (per annum)*

66% \$80,000+	18% \$40,000 – \$80,000	8% Under \$40,000
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*9% prefer not to say

Residence

92% Melbourne	5% Elsewhere in Victoria	1% Interstate	1% International
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\$15.51 million

Economic impact for the state of Victoria. According to independent analysis the festival provided a direct economic impact of \$15.51 million with the broader gross economic impact of the 2022 festival to the State's economy estimated at \$44 million.

CHAIRS' REPORT

Once again, in 2021-22, Midsumma has shown itself to be a powerhouse of inclusive LGBTQIA+ arts, culture and innovation. In addition, it has displayed an amazing resilience after 2½ years of COVID-19.

After "Midsumma in Autumn" in 2021, a huge success in the COVID-19 circumstances, the latter half of that year brought further significant lockdowns, and as our indefatigable CEO Karen Bryant and her equally inexhaustible Midsumma team prepared to return Midsumma Festival to its traditional January-February timeslot for 2022. Uncertainty about the future and the arrival of the Omicron COVID variant threatened to derail those preparations almost up to the final days before the Festival.

Nevertheless, and despite the cancellation or postponement of some events, the 2022 Festival began with the return of the fabulous Midsumma Carnival, so sorely missed in 2021, and continued with its trademark program of excellence in LGBTQIA+ theatre, music, dance, visual arts, and public events for the full three weeks, culminating in the premiere Melbourne Pride celebration.

The Festival proceeded with 153 events, 44% of which were free to participants. Midsumma events (including Melbourne Pride events) were attended by 245,503 audience members, 25% of whom were attending their first Midsumma event/s. 98% of those polled rated their experience at Midsumma Festival as Good or Excellent. Perhaps even more importantly, 92% of participants polled said that attending a Midsumma event helped them feel safe and welcome, and 88% said that their participation helped them feel more connected to community or had a positive impact on their sense of wellbeing.

It is particularly pleasing to see an increase in attendance from our disability communities, with 30% of participants identified as having a disability. While some of the increase in participation by people with disability might be explained by Midsumma Presents' signature program AND/OR, an exploration of the intersection between queerness and disability consisting of 9 curated events, the participation of people identifying as having a disability in 2021 was 26%, which indicates that Midsumma is now clearly seen as an accessible festival for people identifying as disabled, deaf, hard of hearing or sight impaired.

Co-Chair Judy Small

17% of audiences identified as culturally diverse or as a person of colour, and 11% identified as transgender or gender diverse, making Midsumma one of the most diverse major festivals in Victoria across diversity identifications.

In addition to the usual exhausting workload involved year-round in producing a three-week festival and a year-round mentorship program, in 2021 Midsumma was commissioned by the Victorian Government to produce the first Melbourne Pride celebration, a program to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Victoria. This mammoth task involved curating an extensive program of queer arts and cultural events in suburban and rural communities culminating in a 10am to 9pm street party in inner-suburban Collingwood/Fitzroy on 13 February 2022, which attracted an estimated 38,000 participants, and 236 artists performing across two stages and on the streets. The celebration was such a success that Midsumma has been funded to produce similar celebrations for the next four years, those celebrations providing a bookend to the Midsumma Festival so that it begins with Midsumma Carnival, includes Midsumma Pride March in the third weekend, and concludes with a major event of state-wide celebrations and a street party in Melbourne's inner north.

The addition of the ongoing Melbourne Pride project, now named Victoria's Pride due its geographical expansion, means a significant expansion of the Midsumma organisation in terms of workload, programming, and staffing, allowing further expansion of our strategic vision, and bringing even more innovation from our extraordinary staff. Keep your eyes on Midsumma's website and social media for further information!

Midsumma's year-round programs have continued this year, with Pathways concluding its first round, and the second round of participants being partnered with mentors. The success of the Pathways program has been seen in several commissions, including the design of the inaugural Richmond Football Club's Pride Guernsey by artist Matthew Chan.

We are currently embarking on a process of Board renewal, with six new members joining the Board, providing a more diverse membership in terms of gender, background and skillsets, which will bring even more breadth and focus to the Board's vision and operations.

Of course, Midsumma could not produce its incredibly varied and exciting programs without the assistance of our Sponsors, both corporate and from all three tiers of government, and the Board thanks all our Sponsors, patrons and donors for their generous confidence in our future.

I am extremely proud to chair the Board of this amazing organisation, and the new Board and I look forward to the next year of Midsumma's exciting programs with great anticipation.

Judy Small AM
Midsumma Board Chair



2022 MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our Audiences

250,000+

average audiences each year, for the past three years, despite COVID impacts. Midsumma Festival has achieved attendance growth of 17% over two festivals. Midsumma consistently records one of the highest attendances each year for festivals in Victoria.

75%

returning audiences; 25% new audiences. On average in 2022, attendees went to 3 shows each during Midsumma Festival. 3% of attendees attended 10 or more shows on average, over the period of the festival

92%

of attendees in 2022 were from Metropolitan Melbourne and Greater Melbourne suburbs, 5% Interstate and 2% regional Victoria. On average, regional Victorian respondents stayed 2.2 nights, interstate respondents stayed 4.5 nights.

11%

of 2022 audiences identified as transgender/gender diverse (increased from 8% in 2021) and 2% identified as intersex.

60%

growth over two years in audiences who identify as having a disability, deaf or hearing impaired. 30% of total attendances in 2022 identify as disabled, deaf or hearing impaired.

79%

of attendees said they had an excellent experience at Midsumma Festival, with 98% rating their experience at Midsumma as either Good or Excellent.

Our 2022 Program

153

total events held within Midsumma Festival 2022, despite COVID impacts. Midsumma holds up to 200 separate events each year.

112%

Midsumma increased its direct Auslan interpretation and audio description services by 112% over the past five years.

\$31.30

 average ticket price

44%

of events were free to attend or participate in. Over the past five festival's, Midsumma has averaged 40% of events being free to participate in or attend.

Our Online Communities

1,789,069

social media reach. Midsumma Festival social media followers have increased by 21.9% over the past three years.

785,890

page views on the Midsumma Festival website; from 189,881 separate users, during Midsumma Festival 2022. This is a 50% increase over the past three years.

230,137,039

media circulation, across various platforms (recorded by external PR agency) - an increase of 98% since 2021.

74%

increase in social media engagement for 2022

Our Communities' Commitment

318

 Volunteers

average per festival over three years

1,975

 hours

on average, donated by volunteers over the past three years for the 22 day festival.

2022 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Continued significant growth in ticketed attendances of

42%

over the past 4 years. Midsumma consistently records one of the highest attendances each year for festivals in Victoria, averaging 250,266 each year for the last four years despite COVID impacts.

Total income increase of

69%

from the previous year.

32%

increase in donations from the previous year.

504%

increase in earned event income (bars, ticketing, registrations, stalls) from previous year, but 21% behind pre-COVID levels.

67%

increase in corporate sponsorship from previous year, but 3% behind pre-COVID levels.

146.9 FTEs equivalent created

across tourism, transport, retail, food and beverage sectors.

OUR PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



LEGAL PARTNER



SILVER PARTNERS



COMMUNITY MEDIA PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNERS





MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL

Midsumma Festival took place from 23 January to 13 February 2022.

After facing the ongoing COVID-19 impacts in 2020-2021 and moving the 2021 festival dates to April and May (with some events extending through to July 2021), the 2022 Festival timelines were severely compressed. The Midsumma team had 5 months between festivals to enable Midsumma Festival to return to its usual summer dates of January and February and deliver a festival our communities needed.

Midsumma Festival 2022 commenced just as daily case numbers peaked in Victoria at over 22,000 a day. Many businesses, suppliers, and arts venues were impacted by staff shortages, sickness and were struggling to continue operating and meet COVIDSafe requirements. Our communities' concerns were high. Many people were choosing to stay at home or at least away from community and public gatherings.

When Midsumma Festival launched its 2022 program in mid-November 2021, expectations were high and community views were extremely positive. Midsumma

saw the highest ever number of events registered in the program, a total of 198 separate events.

Just prior to kicking off the festival in January 2022, the Victorian Government introduced a ban on indoor dance floors, forcing the cancellation of many events. Venue capacity limits were again introduced, and this impacted the financial viability for many of Midsumma's producers and artists. Many venues who had planned to reopen prior to our event registrations were closed by mid-January, due to ongoing restrictions and concerns.

In the weeks preceding Midsumma Festival 2022, many indoor events cancelled, postponed, or transitioned to digital only events. In some cases, this was due to artists or key creative staff being sick or in isolation – for others it was about financial impact due to reduced capacities and expected lower attendances due to community fears about COVID-19, or direct artist fears around exposure to COVID themselves.

26% of events (52 events) registered were cancelled or postponed directly due to COVID impacts. This translated to a higher than usual workload involved in supported significant numbers of external events in cancellation processes or transition from live events to digital, especially in the last few weeks before the festival opened.

Midsumma Festival 2022 also experienced a 50% reduction from original volunteer registrations due to COVID reasons, upping the workload requirements for our small team of staff. Midsumma itself had a high number of staff sick in the lead up and during the festival, averaging at least 2 to 3 staff in isolation every week over the critical delivery period – including some core staff testing positive to COVID-19 (and requiring to isolate) at various times.

But alas, the show went on – and it was magnificent! A true success for our team, communities, artists, producers, and stakeholders.

Midsumma Festival 2022 made an opportunity for LGBTQIA+ Victorians and our wider communities to come together after a challenging period that has exacerbated the challenges people were facing before this pandemic, including isolation. We surveyed how Midsumma affected attendee perceptions in terms of feelings of personal safety, well-being, and feelings of community connectedness. It was recorded that 92% of respondents felt that attending Midsumma helped them feel safe and welcome and 88% said that participation in Midsumma helped them feel more connected to community. 88% said that attending Midsumma had a direct positive impact on their personal well-being. This year's results indicate that Midsumma Festival events had a strong positive impact on attendees, including vulnerable communities, across a range of important areas.

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 2022

Through year-round development and programming, and the three-week festival, Midsumma seeks to continue to improve the depth, quality and variety of queer arts and arts practise across all artforms in Victoria and nationally. Midsumma also plays an important role in audience development, bringing LGBTQIA+ artists and broad audiences together in increasing numbers, with a focus upon defined strategic priorities and a goal to strengthen the creative voices of LGBTQIA+ communities whilst establishing a leadership position as Australia's LGBTQIA+ premier arts and cultural festival.

Midsumma produced three major events (instead of the usual two) for the 2022 festival. The iconic Midsumma Carnival that kicks off the three-week celebrations (22 January 2022), the historical Midsumma Pride March which filled the streets of St Kilda (6 February 2022), and Melbourne Pride, a Victorian State Government initiative that commemorated the 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Victoria, featuring a series of activities across regional Victoria and a one-day street party event in Melbourne's inner north (13 February 2022).

Do Black Boys Go To Heaven? Photo By Gideon D. Wilonja & Wani

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

153 events were showcased during Midsumma Festival 2022, with a total attendance of 245,503 people.

Midsumma is a festival that intrinsically creates safe and inclusive places for communities, with diversity at its very core. We know that when our communities feel safe and supported they can build stronger connections within their own groups and then with other groups they interact with.

Success in meeting objectives from our current strategic plan were particularly evident in the following key performance areas:

- Continued significant **growth in attendances** over the past four years (and 42% growth in the four years pre COVID impact, and strong return to attendances during COVID years). Midsumma consistently records one of the highest attendances each year for festivals in Victoria, averaging 250,266 each year for the last four years despite COVID impacts.
- **Attracting new audiences whilst maintaining ongoing audience loyalty.** Our figures across multiple years show that we successfully attract and then retain new audiences. In 2019 33% were new to Midsumma Festival, **33%** in 2020, **29%** of 2021 attendees were attending their first Midsumma Festival and for this year (even with COVID impacts) 25% were attending their first Midsumma Festival.
- On average in 2022, attendees went to **3 shows** each during Midsumma Festival. 3% of attendees attended 10 or more shows on average, over the period of the festival.
- 2022 attendee survey results show that Midsumma Festival consistently attracts broad attendances across age ranges and demographics: truly representing inclusion and diversion in all forms.
- **11% of 2022 audiences** identified as transgender/gender diverse representation (increased from 8% in 2021), and 2% identified as intersex.
- **17% of 2022 audiences** identified as culturally diverse or a person of colour.
- **Increased attendance by disabled audiences, which made up 30% of attendees in 2022.** A further 3% of audiences identifying as carers for people with disability. These results were higher than previous years due to our 2022 signature program *AND/OR* which focused on queer disability. In 2021 this figure was 26%, so over a quarter of our audiences are now consistently identifying as disabled, deaf, hearing or sight impaired. 9% identified as autistic or neurodiverse in 2022, and 4% as Deaf/hearing impaired. Midsumma has recorded a **60% increase** in disabled audiences over the past two years. Disability access and engagement initiatives continued to be a priority with many new initiatives offered for the first time this year. Midsumma increased its direct Auslan interpretation and audio description services by 112% over the past five years. Midsumma Festivals program guide was provided in multiple formats to maximise accessibility, in collaboration with a range of experienced disability groups and services, delivering multi layered access and engagement initiatives.
- Significantly increased presence and participation in the festival program from Queer disabled artists and ongoing strong participation from queer people of colour (QPoC), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.
- **Midsumma Festival remains highly accessible.** In 2022 44% of events were free to attend or participate in. Over the past five festival's Midsumma has averaged **40%** of events being free to participate in or attend.

- Consistently increasing social media reach; recording an **11% increase in social followers for the 2022 festival period** and an overall **increase of 74%** in social media engagement this year (total activity for festival period of 1,789,069); following up an 85% increase the previous year (and a 44% increase the year before that).
- Significant increase in economic impact for the state through both visitation of attendees from outside the state and local attendee event spend despite COVID impacts and limited available financial investment in marketing the event outside of Melbourne. Direct economic impact of the festival for Melbourne - **\$15.8 million** and broader economic impact of the festival on local economies independently estimated at over **\$44 million**.

Visitation from outside Melbourne has been a key target growth area for Midsumma in recent years. COVID-19 impacted all international and some interstate visitation (due to ongoing border closures in Australia). Whilst 92% of attendees this year were from Metropolitan Melbourne/Greater Melbourne suburbs, 5% of the audiences surveyed had travelled to Melbourne from outside the state. In addition to this 2% of audiences travelled to Melbourne from regional Victoria. On average, regional Victorian respondents stayed 2.2 nights, interstate respondents stayed 4.5 nights. We did see a drop this year from previous levels in non-metropolitan Victoria attendances, due to COVID impacts.

According to primary data collected on visitor spending and financial reports on organisational spending, the direct economic impact of the festival was \$15,799,484 Million. After the application of relevant gross value add multipliers (using recognised multipliers), the broader impact of the festival events on local economies has been estimated (by Culture Counts) at \$44,014,096 million.

Interstate visitors stayed an average of 3.6 nights in Melbourne whilst intrastate visitors stayed an average of 1.8 nights. 86% of Victorian regional residents and 67% of interstate visitors identified the festival as a main reason for their visit. 71% of visitors living in the Melbourne Metropolitan area said that they would have stayed home or done something else outside Melbourne if the festival was not on.

Surveys showed that the impact of the Midsumma Festival directly generated an additional 89.4 FTE jobs, including 13.9 FTEs in the retail, food and beverage and accommodation sectors supported by the spending of attendees in the local area. Survey results further states that direct employment figures can be multiplied by the ABS-derived employment multipliers to arrive at the multiplied employment figure of 146.9 FTEs. The multiplier reflects employment flow-on effects in the economy from spending that supports employment in other event and creative sector areas.





SIGNATURE EVENTS MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL

Midsumma Carnival is an iconic outdoor celebration that has become one of the biggest highlights in the LGBTQIA+ annual calendar. The event provides a fitting opening to the festival each year. Carnival is a huge single day event running from 11am until 10pm in Alexandra Gardens in Melbourne's CBD, with a large-scale event set-up and overall coordination required for delivery each year. Midsumma Carnival attracts a broad attendance across age ranges and demographics; truly representing a day of inclusion and diversity in all its forms. Carnival returned to Alexandra Gardens (missing from the program in 2021 due to COVID restrictions) and occurred on the opening weekend of the festival on Sunday 23 January 2022.

Daytime programming on both the Main Stage and the Picnic Stage was offered to producers, artists and events that were registered for Midsumma Festival's

Open-Access program. This provided the artists and events with promotional opportunities to promote their own shows taking place in subsequent weeks to assist with audience development for independent artists and producers.

During the lead up to Midsumma Carnival several performance groups who had planned to use their appearance at Carnival as a promotional opportunity for their subsequent Midsumma seasons were unable to perform as they cancelled their Midsumma Festival season due to COVID related concerns.

Due to this outcome the programming team made the following changes:

- A DJ was booked and played on the main stage from 11 to midday and on the Picnic Stage from 11 - 1pm. This condensed the program and allowed us to fill all slots until the 6pm night-time programming commenced.

- Back-up DJs were booked for both stages across the daytime time programming (one from 11 - 3pm and one from 3 - 6pm). This resulted in a DJ always being available on both stages to fill gaps when and where they occurred. This was met warmly by both Emcees and technicians and allowed both stages to run smoothly whilst maintaining a wonderful atmosphere on site.

The daytime stage program showcased a comprehensive artistic line-up of performances on the Main Stage including:

- Whoa Alyssa
- Ballads & Ballgowns
- Seamen! The Sea Shanty experience
- Pride of our Footscray
- The Melbourne Rainbow Band
- Get Bent Fest
- The Pageant
- Broad
- Bowie Ball &
- Milo Hartill

DJ Lips Service played from 11am to midday and other spots across the 11am-3pm time slot. **DJ Mirasia** played several times across the 3pm-6pm time slot. Lou Wall and Geraldine Quinn emceed the Main Stage across the day.

The official proceedings commenced at 1.40pm on the Main Stage.

Midsumma opens the official proceeding on the day with a Welcome to Country ceremony each year. For Midsumma Carnival 2022, **Aunty Di** from the Woi Wurrung/ Wurundjeri people was programmed to conduct the Welcome. Aunty Di was unable to attend last minute due to illness. At late notice we were unable to book a representative to perform the Welcome, however, we undertook an official acknowledgement

of country by Midsumma Festival's Deputy Chair of the Board, **Michael Parry**. He was joined by official speakers: **Harriet Shing MP**, representing the Minister for Creative Industries, **Lord Mayor Sally Capp**, Representative of City of Melbourne and **Krissie Jones**, Group Executive, Personal Banking, NAB (Principal Corporate Partner of Midsumma Festival).

The daytime programming on the Picnic Stage also showcased a great line-up of artists including:

- WCB
- Out Proud & Country
- Sweet Six Dean

DJ Jarvis opened the Picnic Stage with a DJ set from 11am-3pm. At 3pm **DJ Tinika** became our on-demand DJ and the afternoon saw the much anticipated and very warmly welcomed return of Frock Hudson's Lip Synch Limelight (hosted by **Dean Acuri**) and the always popular Dog Show that was hosted by community activist **Nic Holas**.

As the sun went down Midsumma Carnival turned into T-Dance, an ostentatious fun dance party. T-Dance took place across multiple stages with both the Main Stage and the Picnic Stage operating.

Independent producer **Matt Hirst** was engaged by Midsumma to coordinate programming for the night time sessions on the Main Stage from 6pm - close (at 9.50pm) & Picnic stage from 6pm - close (at 9.25pm). In addition to the Emcees, DJs and performance acts, Matt also programmed the daytime Emcees for the Main Stage and the Emcees for the Dog Show on the Picnic Stage.

The night-time programming on the Main Stage was wonderfully curated and kept the vibe and patron enthusiasm going strongly until the event concluded at 10pm. The programming included performances from:

- Max Laurence
- Cerulean
- Ruby Slippers
- Julai & dancers
- Art Simone

These performances were punctuated by DJ sets from:

- Duchess Kay
- Butch le Butch
- Sweaty

Jordan Barr, Charlie Lewin, Aurelia St Clair emceed the Main Stage and kept the audience informed and engaged.

The night-time programming on the Picnic Stage included the following artists and DJ's:

- Adam Noviello
- DJ Semi Precious
- James Lion X
- DJ Tinika
- Milo Hartill and DJ Sullivan.

Patrick and Laura from The Pageant emceed across the night time program at the Picnic Stage.

Due to the ongoing COVID impacts we decided not to have an enclosed space or stage at the family precinct as we felt this might make families feel less safe and uncomfortable. Accordingly, we partnered with the Y (YMCA) Skate Park and worked with the manager, Ryan Harbottle, to provide Learn to Skate sessions on the day and make them available to children of families attending Carnival. To that end, The Y Skate Park offered the following:

- Skate lesson session from midday - 1pm
- Skate lesson session from 12.30 - 1.30pm
- Skate lesson session from 1 - 2pm
- Skate lesson session from 1.30 - 2.30pm
- Free skate session from 2.30 - 4pm
- All related equipment and safety gear

Alice's Garage, who have previously provided a space for LGBTQI+ seniors in the past for a 'tea tent,' also decided that they would not participate in this year's Carnival due to COVID risks and safety concerns for seniors. Alice's Garage are keen to return in 2023 when conditions should assist elderly attendees to again feel COVIDSafe in group gatherings.

As a sign of Midsumma's ongoing commitment to access, the Main Stage program was interpreted by Auslan Stage Left throughout the day, in addition to interpreting Lip Synch Limelight and the annual Dog Show on the Picnic Stage.

The Sports Precinct was also presented in partnership with Community sports group Proud2play for the second time.

Carnival once again hosted a vibrant community stalls area with 109 stalls present in the Stall Village. This is always a popular area of the event site, always well attended and providing an opportunity for a wide range of community groups and businesses to showcase their activities and provide information to diverse LGBTQIA+ and broader community members.

Midsumma also provided Audio Description services on the day for blind and low vision community members via the services of Vitae Veritas. The two Audio Describers were stationed at the HQ (headquarters) tent and anyone requiring this service was directed to this area where they could connect with one of the Audio Describers. The Audio Descriptor would then accompany the patron to the relevant area and describe the location and the entertainment.

Attendances throughout the day were much lower than in recent years (pre-COVID). Carnival was the first event of the festival and took place near the peak of daily case numbers for COVID in Victoria and when community fears of contracting the illness were at their highest. The evening T-Dance in front of the main stage however was a different story with this area at peak capacity from early evening until the event's conclusion. This session is traditionally populated by a younger adult demographic than the rest of the day and showed clearly how age groups were personally responding differently to the risk of COVID. Midsumma did see increased community confidence in attending community gatherings and events, and therefore a corresponding return to increased attendances relevant to each event, as the weeks of the 2022 Midsumma Festival unfolded.

The successful delivery of Carnival with strong evening crowds and without any corresponding outbreaks post event, assisted with this increased confidence in event attendance. The event therefore played a critical role in helping to activate future events

164 volunteers assisted at Carnival, with a total of 176 taking part over the three weeks of the festival.

MIDSUMMA PRIDE MARCH

The second major event this year was Midsumma Pride March, on Sunday 6 Feb 2022. This important annual event was in its 27th year and brought together members of the community from across Melbourne and beyond.

Developing this event in a COVIDSafe way and to initially gain approval for it to proceed was, like the previous year, an extraordinary task that required key staff to work around the clock on several occasions to scope multiple versions, that constantly changed to address anticipated requirements of the State Government to enable approval to be gained in a timely fashion for the event to go ahead.

For Midsumma Pride March 2022, we did not have the pre allocation of additional COVID funds from State Government that we had the previous year to help address potential issues and additional infrastructure or to undertake the online streaming undertaken by Midsumma across its festival operations that year.

To adhere to vaccination requirements, the registration area at Ian Johnson Oval had to be fenced, and we had to pre-register each march participant. The entertainment precinct at Catani Gardens this year did not need to be fenced or restricted to march participants only as it had been in 2021.

We were once again able to allow and encourage spectators to congregate along Fitzroy Street to watch the march.

Midsumma Pride March 2022. Photo by Suzanne Balding

High COVID numbers in January and early February did restrict participant numbers to a total of 5,718. Despite this, 216 separate groups took part as well as a good number of individuals.

Overall, the event achieved estimated attendances and participants on the day of 20,792. Of these 7,792 being marchers, plus an estimated 13,000 watching along the March route.

Dykes on Bikes Melbourne preceded the marching contingent as per tradition, with the march itself led by Boon Wurrung Elders and a Rainbow Aboriginal contingent along with the Premier of Victoria **Daniel Andrews**, Equality Minister **Martin Foley**, Commissioner for LGBTQ+ Communities **Todd Fernando** and Commissioner for Equal Opportunity and Human Rights **Ro Allen**.

Groups of young people, often amongst the most vulnerable within our communities, were once again placed towards the front of the march as a positive and strong affirmation for LGBTIQ+ youth. This is a deliberate empowerment strategy employed by Midsumma that signals to other young people they are not alone.

For the fifth year Midsumma continued the Midsumma Pride March Awards, intended to encourage colourful and innovative contributions from march participants and for the third year, as part of this, the Most Significant Message Award honoured the memory of Peter Dewildt, Pride March Victoria's first president, who passed away in 2019.

This year's judging panel was comprised of Chris Cheers, Laura Dewildt, Matisse Laida and Tinika.



The 2022 Pride March Award winners were:

Most Fabulous:

- WINNER: LAHRC Latin American & Hispanic Rainbow community
- Honourable mentions - Thorne Harbour Health, Jews of Pride, Pride of our Footscray

Most Innovative:

- WINNER: House of Airline Internationale
- Honourable mentions : Scouts, Chill Out Festival, Performing Older Women's Circus, Glamourhead Sharks

Peter Dewildt Award - Most Significant Message:

- WINNER: Lifeview Residential Aged Care
- Honourable mentions: Many Coloured sky, Rainbow Dads

At the conclusion of the March, parade participants made their way into Catani Gardens for an afternoon of celebration. Lou Wall was Emcee for the staged proceedings and they were joined by DJ Jarv!s from 11.30am. At 1.30pm, **N'Arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs** led the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony and invited audiences to come close to the smoke and experience its cleansing and healing powers.

Deputy Mayor Councillor **Tim Baxter** representing the Lord Mayor of City of Port Phillip spoke and welcomed everyone to Catani Gardens and wished everyone a happy Pride celebration, then The Merinda's took to the stage for a 30-minute set of their hit singles alongside new material.

The announcements and presentations of the Midsumma Pride March Awards took place on stage following **The Merinda's**, after which **Harlow & Hart** performed a 30-minute set. **DJ Jarv!s** played for the rest of the afternoon with the performance program finished just after 4pm.

Memory boards for attendees to write on were installed in Catani Gardens and proved popular with attendees with many wonderful thoughts and reflections from our communities captured on the day.

Media coverage for Midsumma Pride March was once again very strong especially from commercial TV stations with evening news coverage.

MELBOURNE PRIDE — A ROAD TO PRIDE

To commemorate the 2021 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Victoria, Midsumma was engaged by the State Government to develop and present a range of activities, culminating in an outdoor street party in Smith and Gertrude Streets Fitzroy on Sunday 13 February 2022.

Initially planned for Sunday 5 December 2021, COVID restrictions at that time required the event to be postponed moved to the final weekend of the 2022 Midsumma Festival. It proved a fitting way to wrap up annual Midsumma Festival activities.

The overall project comprised three key aspects:

- A regional activation program of events that occurred between November 2021 and March 2022 to ensure a state-wide commemoration, and inclusion of regional LGBTQIA+ stories and voices.
- The street party on the final day of Midsumma Festival 2022 ran from from 10am until 9pm across multiple stages, shopfronts, businesses, parks, and balconies.
- A digital online offering streamed 5pm-9pm on the day with a focus on statewide representation, projects and performances.

Melbourne Pride attracted an estimated

38,000 attendees on the day. Google data shows that on the day of Melbourne Pride the City of Yarra recorded the highest activity levels in retail and recreation over Jan and Feb 2022 by 75% compared to the slowest Sunday in that period. The event also recorded 50% higher in retail and recreation traffic than the second busiest Sunday day during January and February 2022.

236 individual paid artists took part in performances and installations on the day at Melbourne Pride with two live music stages and street performances from musicians and artists, celebrating Victoria's diverse LGBTQIA+ artistic communities.

With a sensational line-up across two stages, the event featured live performances from Yorta Yorta woman, composer and educator, **Deborah Cheetham**; Australian electronic musician, **Alice Ivy**; singer-songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist, **Vetta Borne**; Australian newcomer, **KYVA**; multiaward-winning cabaret company, **YUMMY**; art experience creators, **All The Queens Men**; multidisciplinary artist and musician, **Kira Puru**; two of Australia's hottest award-winning drag DJ duo, **Jawbreakers**; the quintessential cabaret performer, **Reuben Kaye**; and headlining the event was neo-soul pop duo, **Electric Fields**.

Mama Alto was commissioned to coordinate a series of unique installations and performances across the precinct for shopfronts and balconies.

Composer **Evan Lawson** and **Deborah Cheetham** were commissioned to write words and music for a contemporary piece of new music, *After The Long Night*, which was premiered on the day on the Smith Street Stage and pre-recorded and presented online via Midsumma's platforms.



Ages of performers

- 11% of performers were under 18 years of age
- 15% of performers were aged between 18 - 24
- 29% of performers were aged between 25 - 35
- 25% of performers were aged between 36 - 45
- 11% of performers were aged between 46 - 55
- 8% of performers were aged between 56 - 65
- 1% of performers were over the age of 65%

Local businesses all along Gertrude and Smith Street benefited from the event, serving food and drink and selling items to the thousands of people who attended across the day, while some also were directly incorporated into the event with shopfront activations and performances in venues. A five-month communication campaign was carried out with traders within the event footprint. A total of 114 traders were contacted, of which 64% were actively engaged in discussions and 27% of all traders actively participated in events on the day.

31 traders in total participated in the Melbourne Pride Trader Directory which was promoted in the Melbourne Pride marketing campaign and housed on the Midsumma Website/Melbourne Pride event page.

- 14 newsletters directly to Traders
- 66% open rate (Entertainment/Events industry average is 20.41%)
- 10.4% click rate (Entertainment/Events industry average is 2.19%)

Interviews were conducted with Traders in the event footprint to be used as editorial and promotional material, printed in the official Midsumma Festival 2022 program guide, the Midsumma blog, and in the Yarra City Magazine.

Melbourne Pride 2022 ft YUMMY. Image by Suzanne Balding

REGIONAL ACTIVATION PROGRAM OF MELBOURNE PRIDE

The regional component involved 22 separate events across Victoria with attendance/participation numbers of 29,670.

A number of projects initiated new groups of likely ongoing LGBTQIA+ activities in regional areas and comprised a large number of projects initiated by artists and communities who had not previously applied for/received any government funding at any level.

Projects included:

- **Ballarat Pride Weekend** on 3-4 December 2021 - a collection of pride events run by queer youth for queer youth. A short film was also made through the project about LGBTQIA+ residents/groups within Ballarat, and this premiered with a film screening on Sunday 4.
- Also in Ballarat, **Still Standing After 40 Years**, presented by LaNCE TV Ballarat. A Panel discussions broadcast across Victoria with diverse rainbow representatives from across Victoria; discussing the intersecting standpoints of culture, gender, disability and ethnicity and reflecting upon historical, social and legislative issues which still affect LGBTQIA+ Victorians now.
- **Pop Up Pride Day** – Bendigo, December 2021. Including drag performances, live music, community stalls, Trans Clothing Swap, short films from the Bendigo Queer Film Festival.

- **I Do Take Pride** – Gippsland. An exhibition by artists PollyannaR celebrating LGBTQIA+ icons from across the Gippsland region and featuring watercolour portraits, documentaries and queer archives from the region.
- **Queer Country Pride – Our Time To Shine** - An online photographic exhibition that documents queer community stories from older rural and regional Victorians by award winning photographer Lisa White.
- **PIRNBIAL** – Sculptural work ‘PIRNBIAL’ (Rainbow in Woiwurrung language) examines the dual correlation between traditional culture and identity from Vince Partington’s lived point of view through carved and painted wood using traditional processes. Vince is a proud Nguri-Illum Wurrung / Dja Dja Wurrung/ Wurundjeri / Wemba Wemba artist. The finished exhibition was exhibited publicly at both the Hearth Gallery in Healesville; and at the Crumpler Shop Window, Fitzroy for Melbourne Pride on 13 February.
- **Pride Across The Ages** – A podcast series developed and presented, covering the lived experiences of ten LGBTQIA+ people who call the Mount Alexander Shire home. Each podcast episode discusses experiences of growing up and coming out, with a focus on the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Victoria 40 years ago, pride now and into the future.
- **Queers On The Catwalk** - Macedon Ranges. A project that supports LGBTQIA+ community members of all ages to express and celebrate identity through clothing and fashion. Selected clothing was chosen from an October workshop delivered by The Story Costumer and the TGD Clothing Swap.
- **Country Roads to Pride** - Photographic exhibition by artist and regional transgender Victorian, James Mephram. Twenty portraits with accompanying narratives celebrate extraordinary trans, gender diverse and non-binary regional Victorians. The theme speaks to the unique journeys or ‘roads’ trans, gender diverse and non-binary people travel in life.
- **Wangaratta Road To Pride** – A collaborative artwork by artist Lisa Bishop and local LGBTQIA+ community members depicting the individual stories along the road to pride. The artwork and a behind the scenes documentary was launched via an activation at the Melbourne Pride street event 13 February, along with a blank canvas that will act as an interactive art piece for attendees to contribute their own story. A prior public activation occurred in Wangaratta on 2 February 2022.
- **Celebrating Pride in all ages and Places** - A project focused on intergenerational connection to socially isolated LGBTQIA+ older people. Partnered activities and care packages were provided to participants of Switchboard’s Out and About program across Victoria.
- **SELF(ie) PRIDE** - A five-channel video artwork celebrating LGBTQIA+ led expressions of Pride and visibility across the Central Goldfields region.
- **QUEER HISTORIES** – An exhibition celebrating the lives of regional queer people from the past.
- **Warrnambool Pride and Diversity Wings** - the development of a public artwork in South West Victoria, and associated pride event to celebrate its launch.
- **CAMP** – Camp Photography Series celebrating the lived experiences of 30 LGBTQIA+ artists who are living and working throughout regional Victoria. An important artistic representation of LGBTQIA+ Victorians.

- **Goldfields Pride** – A podcast developed and presented online sharing LGBTQIA+ stories from the Goldfields region reflecting on the ‘Road to Pride’. The stories have also been presented to local councils and service-providers to say “we’re here, we’re queer, include us”, with recommendations on what local councils and service-providers can do to improve LGBTQIA+ inclusion in regional areas.
- **Think About It? Did It!** - A portrait exhibit/installation with artists showcasing regional Victorian LGBTQIA+ elders sharing their stories and history. The exhibition was also complemented by a series of podcasts capturing the joys and sorrows of being LGBTQIA+ over the last 100yrs in regional Victoria.
- **Rainbow Signpost** – The development and presentation of a new film documentary produced by local Bendigo community members and Trans and Gender Diverse Bendigo. The film follows the journey of two trans people 40 years apart in age. The film explores the difference between trans experiences across a 40-year generational gap, impact on community, social change and their significant others, while navigating the experiences of transitioning. The film was premiered at a film screen in in Bendigo in February 2022.

MIDSUMMA PRESENTS PROGRAM

Midsumma's strategic goals ensure diverse artistic representation and development are central to all the work that we do. Curatorially, a clear artistic vision underpins all of Midsumma's programming, with a focus upon our defined strategic priorities, and a goal to both strengthen the creative voices of LGBTQIA+ communities, whilst developing our leadership position at the forefront of LGBTQIA+ artistic development in our region of the world.

Every year Midsumma continues to seek to improve the depth, quality and variety of our own curated program Midsumma Presents, responding to the broad range of our artistic communities and audience demographics and ensuring we play a leadership role in the development of queer artists and arts practice nationally.

As a key strategy, recent years have seen Midsumma develop a signature program each year that focuses on the commissioning of a suite of connected new works, exciting collaborations based around key intersectional areas of our artistic communities which otherwise would not often be part of central artistic conversations.

These leadership projects, alongside all our Midsumma Presents programming, aim to break new artistic ground nationally in the development and profile of diverse artistic expression, focusing on often underrepresented artists and arts practice.

Midsumma has evolved a methodology for developing both artists and new work that is uniquely shaped to contextualise the experience of queer artists and audiences, whilst also sharing this work with broader communities.

It is the aim of Midsumma that the activities we undertake, and events we produce, have long-term cultural and industry impact beyond just immediate KPIs and outcomes.

A challenge for the year was the number of large institutions and venues that were, due to COVID impacts, no longer investing in presentation partnerships with events such as Midsumma or directly supporting independent artists at the level they were pre COVID. This impacted on both our Midsumma Presents and Open-Access program.

Due to the unique nature of COVID-19 this year, Midsumma Presented events spanned some dates outside of our core dates, continuing throughout March.

AND/OR - MIDSUMMA'S 2022 SIGNATURE PROGRAM

A highlight this year was the development and delivery of our new major 'signature' project produced and presented by Midsumma Festival. *AND/OR* was designed as a hallmark artistic exploration of identity(s) and celebration of intersectionality involving the commissioning, development, and creation of new works, across artforms, for diverse queer disability communities. The concept derived from significant groundwork that Midsumma has been doing over the last few years, building capacity within creative LGBTQIA+ disability communities, and striving to be a leader in access engagement for both artists and audiences.

With a strong track record in successfully developing frameworks for projects that are led from within marginalised artistic communities, projects within *AND/OR* were all disability led, exploring intersectional identities where people are often labelled as "and..... or.....".



Studies show 1 in 4 lesbian, gay and bisexual adults identify as living with a disability. This is even more common in the transgender community where the figure is 2 in 5 Adults. As this program showcases, Melbourne has a strong Disability arts sector that often has to perform or exhibit in isolation. *AND/OR* aimed to bring artists and audiences together. Unfortunately COVID lockdowns and restrictions severely impacted much of the development of new works throughout 2021 and as such two of the planned *AND/OR* projects were postponed for development in 2022 as part of the Midsumma Festival's 2023 program, whilst some others were refocused either as creative development's with public outcomes to inform future further development or as digital presentations.

The following projects formed *AND/OR* for 2022:

- *ELEPHANT* - Back to Back Theatre. Back to Back Theatre is primarily known for theatrical works that have been presented around Australia and the world for the past 30 years. The company's mission and goals are centred around the enhancement of the lives of people with a lived experience of disability. This extends beyond artistic ambitions and achievements to supporting them in a myriad of ways that they determine, in order to be a part of the community and society. This new work was refocused as a creative development due to COVID impacts on the timeline, with a public outcome held during the festival supported by ACMI. The new work was devised by and performed by ensemble member Sarah Mainwaring, created in collaboration with Artistic Associate Ingrid Voorendt (established dance/movement practitioner). The creative development held at ACMI on 6 February was presented free to a public audience.

- **A Resourceful Hero Struggling Against Incredible Odds – Rawcus Theatre** - LGBTQIA+ young people rarely see themselves reflected in the hero's they see on TV and comics. An immersive, site specific experience that reimagined verbatim text from 90s action films through the eyes of the Rawcus Ensemble and a group of young, queer performers with and without a disability; simultaneously a homage to and lambasting of Hollywood blockbusters. The show poses questions 'Are we all allowed to be heroes?'. An initial workshop exploring themes for this project occur with young participants as a workshop as part of previous Festival in April/May 2021. COVID impacts did significantly reduce rehearsal options during the latter part of 2021.

Developed and presented by an ensemble of 14 performers of neurodiverse actors/ artists. Several artists had worked with Rawcus across a number of productions with a number of artists being quite young and appearing for the first time on stage.

Receiving very positive feedback and with most performances at or near capacity, the production was presented at Malthouse Theatre with seven performances at Malthouse Theatre outdoor stage.

- **WHOLESELF** - A new curated mixed media visual arts exhibition at Incinerator Gallery that illuminated the over-lapping spheres of queerness and diverse abilities as an intersection of infinite possibilities. Running from 28 January through to 6 March, the exhibition critiqued a prevailing social issue that queer and disabled people are not whole, but seen as either one or the other, let alone in combination of the two. It challenged the perception of queer disabled people as deviant, broken, deficient or incomplete. Whilst addressing institutional and social discourse surrounding diversity, access, equity and inclusion, this group

exhibition celebrated queer disability through layered pluralities, complicated intersections, and multifaceted identities - which are not fractured or discrete parts, but instead represent and comprise a whole self.

Artists involved: Emiko Artemis, Blackgin, Penn Gabona, Sean Miles, Bon Mott, and Bianca J Willoughby

Through personal and collective experiences, *WHOLESELF* articulated a multi-verse of senses enriched through the exploration of mythology, lore, sex, magic, ceremony and dreaming. The exhibition navigated transcendent abilities to move between spaces, melding together inner and outer narratives, celebrating the over-lapping of spheres, whilst weaving a journey beyond barriers. *Wholeself* provided a platform for the artists involved to truly express daring queer, trans and indigenous art and ideas. The inclusion of passed down traditions, exploration of gender, mythology and storytelling was a stand-out example of Jake Treacy's curation. Artists talks and audio described tours were conducted as part of the project and a number if the artists have since secured future solo exhibitions at Incinerator Gallery as an outcome from this exhibition.

- **BENCHED written and performed by Jamila Main** - "*I don't think of myself as a sporty person. I didn't think I'd be disabled by my early twenties.*" In this new work award-winning playwright Jamila invited audiences in a one-on-one 15-minute experience, joining them on the bench for an intimate moment of ruminating on athleticism within a body whose access needs subvert the assumed binary of disability. Informed by Jamila's practice in dual careers, as a playwright and actor, this new live performance work explores autonomy, trust, joy, disabled, and intersectional feminist dramaturgies.

Benched continues Jamila's foray into autobiographical storytelling and wielding of their privilege as a palatable disabled person, to put frank portrayals of disabled bodies into public view. Jamila's work asks the able-bodied spectator to reconsider their assumptions of sick and disabled people and to confront their own temporarily abled body. Jamila joyfully presents representations of, and for, disabled and chronically ill people, and the opportunity to commiserate and celebrate disability together. This new work was presented multiple times each day across three days at Footscray Community Arts Centre.

- **The Demographic Dance Off: Face To Face** - a physical and visual new work based initially on the experiences of pre-pandemic stories of isolation of Deaf, Disabled and BPoC (Black and Person of Colour) artists. The project scope was reshaped to a Creative Development and short season at Footscray Community Arts Centre of public showings of a new work in development, due to the impossibility of rehearsing a movement ensemble-based work adequately during COVID lockdowns in late 2021.

Core creatives for this project included Peral Blackk (Creative Access Director, Producer and Co-Creator), Elvin Lam (Choreographer/Co-creator, dancer and poetic auslan performer), Chelle Destefano (performer / Co-creator, dancer and poetic Auslan, Fleur Dean- Costume and Set design and make).

A major focus of this project and its creative team was the creation (and maintenance) of a culturally safe practise embedded in an understanding of the vast requirements of producing performance pieces that fully embrace and incorporate a large suite of accessibility features. The creative team worked tirelessly across the development and presentation period to develop and present access features in a creative and unexpected way, with

audience members able to physically engage with Auslan interpreters and other features of the production via the participatory tactile tour. The production successfully showed that productions can embrace deep and diverse access features and present these in a way that is embraced, engaging and enjoyed by the audience.

- **Queer My Head** - Group exhibition at Dax Centre. Curated by Jay Hayes who battles with chronic illness. Inspired by the curator's 'queering' of the Cunningham Dax Collection. The collection comprises thousands of artworks by people with lived experience of mental ill health and trauma collected over multiple decades. The absence of conclusive evidence of LGBTQIA+ artists within the collection's visual arts database prompted a queer reading of selected works. These artworks were presented as part of the *Queer My Head* exhibition to situate the contemporary artworks within the continuum of LGBTQIA+ history and to bring them into cross-generational dialogue with the missing queer voices of the past. *Queer My Head* recognises the power of queer art-making to clear our heads of the pervasive cis-hetero-normative expectations and biases that contribute to mental health issues for LGBTQIA+ people. The exhibition celebrates creative 'head queering' as an essential cultural practice of affirmation and repair. The *Queer My Head* exhibition featured Melbourne LGBTQIA+ artists with lived experience of mental health challenges and celebrated creative ways in which contemporary LGBTQIA+ artists are able to express their diverse lived experiences and help all to re-imagine their queer futures.

- **QUEERTECH.I.O. Presented by Midsumma Festival, ACMA and Queertech.i.o.** – An online and offline exhibition of artworks created by artists identifying as both queer and disabled. Curated by the Queertech.io artist collective and Midsumma Festival, works premiered online via exhibition on the queertech.io website and offline at a special screening at ACMI, Federation Square. Now more than ever, queer voices are vital to a continued socio-political discourse surrounding representation in a digital landscape. Queertech.io showcases a broad cross-section of the innovative, poignant and queer-as-hell works emerging from diverse queer communities. Disabled voices, like queer voices, are marginalised, and queer disabled voices even more.

Queertech.io provided the opportunity for a selection of queer, neurodiverse video artists to have their work displayed at one of Australia's most prestigious video art institutions, ACMI. The artists involved in Queertech.io have had their video art exposed to large audiences, leading to a number of these artists being approached in regard to having their work displayed in various institutions and spaces.

Audiences were invited to have a dialogue with artists about the work both in person (at the live events 5 February) and online conversations that deconstructed and reconsidered notions of queerness and art in a tech-saturated present.

- **Queers In Science: Neurodiversity** – Queers in Science is an Australian initiative aiming to build community and improve support for LGBTQIA+ people working in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) in Australia. Fitting within Midsumma's thought leadership programming stream, the group returned to Midsumma for the third year to present the Queers in Science Lecture Series. The lectures displayed the amazing work of queer scientists in areas of timely interest to the general public. This year's two lectures planned on the topics of Neurodiversity and First Nations Knowledge with the First Nations Knowledge event unfortunately cancelled due to COVID impacts. In Neurodiversity, it was recognised that the brain of every individual is unique and that not everyone learns or thinks the same way. To reduce the stigma around neurodivergence and mental illness, this event explored not only the science behind it, featuring queer neuroscientists with expertise, but also had a panel discussion with neurodivergent individuals sharing their day-to-day experience. Within the context of Midsumma and the *AND/OR* signature program, the lecture was framed around its relevance to creativity, expression, and the work of queer neurodiverse (as well as broader) artists. A digital recording was made of the event to ensure a legacy and enable the discussion to be shared with broader networks - spreading awareness of this work and the fascinating research and dialogue that is growing from it.

- **AND/OR Panel Discussion** – A panel discussion facilitated by Patrick Hayes (former Program Manager at Midsumma Festival), along with guest panellists; Jamila Main, Elvin Lam and Jodee Mundy OAM. These panellists all represent various diverse corners of our communities and all made valuable connections through this forum, informing their future practices. In particular Jodee Mundy, who was able to connect with the other artists whilst coordinating 'Fuse Festival' and has since had contact with a number of this Midsumma Festival season's artists to contribute to Fuse, ensuring immediate future work outcomes for many participants.

The panellists explored the ideologies behind "And/Or" as a program and concept, upholding the voices of queer, trans and gender diverse creatives having lived experiences with disabilities. How the two words within this signature program's name are meant to summarise the complexities of intersectional identities. Their observations were that AND/OR broke vital new artistic ground, shining the spotlight on our communities and centring their voices. Autonomy, expression, humour, agency, innovation, urgency, strength, access, collaboration, humility, visibility, showcase, experimentation, politics, affirmation, self-representation and more collided and amalgamated in endless recombination.

- **Access All Areas Workshop** – Midsumma Festival presented the *Access All Areas* workshop where a panel of indomitable creatives and individuals from varying queerness' and disabilities explored themes, stories, and intricacies of life with their identities and abilities. The event was facilitated by the CEO of Arts Access Victoria Caroline Bowditch with a panel of artists; Irene Zhong, Jax Jacki Brown, Sam Martin and Gemma Mahadeo of The Disabled QBIPOC Collective. The intimate relationships between one's queerness and disability are not often featured in the limelight, however, this workshop brought these themes to the forefront. The discussion created a platform, led by queer artists living with disabilities, to offer information, tools and tactics to help coach other queer artists with disabilities. The forum encouraged artists and others to take on creative opportunities and to build confidence and pride in their queerness and lived disabilities. The artists involved in the *Access All Areas* workshop were able to make connections and from this build future capacity. The digital stream/recording of this event has been shared more broadly by the artists involved on their social media platforms and has created a valuable resource for themselves and their communities in an ongoing way.

MIDSUMMA AND AUSTRALIA POST ARTS AWARD

The Midsumma and Australia Post Arts Award showcases submissions from LGBTQIA+ visual arts in any medium, from across the country. Finalists were exhibited in a group exhibition that took place in No Vacancy Gallery in the CBD from 1-13 February.

Ayman Kaake's work, representing identity from a multicultural perspective won the major award, announced at a VIP event held at the gallery on Thursday 3 Feb. Born in Tripoli, Lebanon, Ayman Kaake travelled to Australia in 2011 in pursuit of studying visual arts, leaving behind his parents and eleven siblings as he set off on his artistic journey. He uses his imagination to create a dreamlike world, documenting feelings and emotions, inspired by his move to Australia, stories he's been told, people he has lost and the confronting themes of refugee-inspired stories. In addition to the Major Award, finalists also can be awarded the **Bundooro Art Prize** and the **People's Choice Award**. This year, the **Bundooro Art Prize Award**, which comes with a paid residency or exhibition opportunity at Bundooro Homestead Centre, was awarded to artist Jack Lee for their work titled *It's Just a Preference*. Taking home the **People's Choice Award** was Marce King for their work 'Neophobia'. Winning a \$1000 cash prize, the win was well deserved with Marce receiving an overwhelming 43.4% of the total votes 'Neophobia' is one drawing from a series Marce is working on called 'F STOP'.

QUEER PLAYWRITING AWARD SHOWCASE (QPAS)

With the aim of identifying, nurturing, and profiling professional queer playwrights across Australia, Midsumma Festival partnered with Gasworks Arts Park in 2022 for a seventh year to present our annual program of staged play readings.

The purpose of this project is to identify promised new works in early stages of development and provide a range of staged development processes for these playwrights and their new works. Initial submissions were shortlisted down to eight works which were provided with development support to realise 15 minute excerpts ready for public readings.

Presented over two nights to elated audiences and a panel of industry professionals, the series of semi-finals of eight staged play readings provided audience exposure for these new queer plays.

Across the two nights, four playwrights were selected to participate in the Finalists' Showcase on 22 March at Gasworks Arts Park; *Besties* by Alice Tovey & Ned Dixon, *CROSS* by Rory Godbold, *No Asians* by Andrew Undi Lee, and *The Reasonable Grounds* by Emmanuelle Mattana. These four playwrights then receive additional support to further develop their plays for presentation of extended segments, responding to initial feedback received after the semi finals. The ultimate winner will receive support by Midsumma and Gasworks to develop the work through to full presentation stage – for a season within Midsumma Festival 2023.

For the first time in this process, Gasworks Arts Park and Midsumma Festival also recognised the brilliance of a work by Bravo Arts, with their stage readings of *Woolf* - A queer adaptation of Edward Albee's iconic play 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?', exploring themes of family and domestic abuse through a queer lens. The recognition is awarded with the inaugural QPAS Fast Track Award that identified that this work was already advanced and did not require the development processes of QPAS and instead could be supported directly through to a future full presentation season.

Midsumma also announced the first national tour as a result of the Queer Playwriting Awards, produced by Gasworks Arts Park and supported by Midsumma Festival. *Become The One* by Lab Kelpie was selected as the winner of the 2018 Playtime Award and will embark on their national tour across 2022.

The winner of the 2021 QPAS Queer Playwriting Award at Gasworks and the 2019 Mudfest Emerging Artist Award, *Coming Out*, written by Lucy Holz, reflects the lived experiences of young LGBTQ+ women and was presented within the 2022 Midsumma Festival's Midsumma Presents Program. The season sold out prior to commencing.

MISS FIRST NATION EXHIBITION

For the second year, The Metro Tunnel Creative Program partnered with Midsumma Festival, this year delivering the Miss First Nation photographic Exhibition.

In 2021, The Metro Tunnel Creative Program supported the Miss Photogenic contest at Miss First Nation as part of the 2021 YIRRAMBOI and Midsumma Festival dance/cabaret presentation of *Miss First Nations*. The *Miss Photogenic* contest featured the following contestants: Lady Gargles, Estelle, Cerulean, Karma Bites, Stone Motherless Cold and Peaches, with the 2021 Miss First Nations crown awarded to Cerulean.

Photographer Joseph Mayers shot the contestants at Holmesglen TAFE's Victorian Tunnelling Centre with selected images framed for public outdoor exhibition in the Scott Alley laneway off Flinders Lane and in the outdoor gallery found on the hoardings of the Franklin St acoustic shed, beside City Baths as part of the 2022 Midsumma Festival. The images were on display from 23 January – 28 February.

MUSICAL STORIES: INTRODUCING TEDDY

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Orchestra Victoria and State Library Victoria, *Introducing Teddy* is a gentle story about gender, being true to yourself and being a good friend.

This new work by Sydney composer Christine Pan brings Jessica Walton's charming picture book to life and played a sold out season of 12 performances.

The author, Jessica Walton is a queer, disabled writer, teacher and musician. Illustrated by Dougal MacPherson, the book started as a self-published Kickstarter project but was published worldwide in English by Bloomsbury in 2016. It has now been translated into 9 different languages

The show was narrated by Janet McLeod and Julie Murray. Janet has over 25 year's experience as a comedy performer, producer, talent coordinator and behind-the-scenes whiz kid. Julie Murray is a music-maker and neuro-music educator.

Children were invited to participate in the storytelling and learn about the different instruments being played. This was a wonderful opportunity for families to introduce their children to the magic of live music with Orchestra Victoria!

This project was Midsumma's first collaboration with Orchestra Victoria, a world-class opera and ballet orchestra and part of Midsumma's planned expansion in the area of profiling queer classical and contemporary new music. Another collaboration *Pride and Joy* profiling queer composers past and present, was developed, launched and on sale but had to be cancelled due to COVID impacts.

FUN HOME

Presented by Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company in association with Midsumma Festival, Fun Home is based on the best-selling graphic novel by Alison Bechdel. A story about growing up and coming out, this ground-breaking multi-Tony Award-winning musical was presented in Melbourne following its acclaimed Sydney season. Fun Home is the first major musical to feature a lesbian protagonist and was a major mainstage inclusion within the 2022 Midsumma Festival program.

Directed by Dean Bryant (Torch the Place) and featuring a stellar cast that included Lucy Maunder (Ladies in Black), Fun Home is a very important LGBTQIA+ story, internationally acclaimed, and one we felt was vitally important for Australian and in particular Victorian audiences to see. Co-produced with Sydney Theatre Company the Australian premiere production featured a remarkable ensemble that in addition to Maunder also includes Euan Fistrovic Doidge (Pippin), Emily Havea (Wentworth), Adam Murphy (Shakespeare in Love) and more. A refreshingly honest and wholly original show about seeing your parents through grown up eyes and the difficulties of reconciling LGBTQIA+ identities across generations. Total attendances for Fun home across its extended season was 17,916.

TRANZ TALKZ - online forum and digital film presentation.

Tranz Talkz is a structured conversation held online about public harassment for trans and gender non-conforming people led by artist Travis Alabanza, over an intimate dinner of burger and chips.

In response to the lack of public archive present around how queer and trans people navigate public space, Travis Alabanza has held conversations across the UK, to discuss and talk with trans

folk about their experiences when going outside. The events were aimed at those who identified as trans and gender non-conforming.

In April 2016 someone threw a burger at Travis Alabanza on Waterloo Bridge (London) and shouted a transphobic slur. Over a hundred people saw the incident but did nothing. This event led to the creation of their award-winning theatre show BURGERZ which has been touring internationally since 2018. Whilst touring the international production to Australia at this time was impossible due to COVID we worked with its producers to engage the company in dialogue with Victorian gender diverse and PoC artists and held a live online event Tranz Talkz and also presented online via our website the specially commissioned film made by Travis Alabanza who invited three black UK trans artists to share food and discuss their experiences of working in the arts.

The events were supported by the UK/Australian Season Patrons Board, The British Council and the Australian Government as part of the UK/Australia Season. The event was coordinated by Arts Projects Australia (Adelaide).

FROM THE CLUB TO THE THEATRE

In this revealing discussion, a panel of gender diverse and QPoC shared stories of the journey from cabaret bars to some of the world's most prestigious stages both in terms of individual artist journeys and the development of queer arts practise more generally.

The award-winning panel consisted of theatre artist Travis Alabanza, joined by Lucy McCormick and Scottee, with all three having made their names on the queer club scene in Europe. Participants in the discussion included a wide range of Victorian and broader Australia queer artists across artforms as well as interested community members.

The digital forum was supported by the UK/Australia Season Patrons Board, The British Council and the Australian Government as part of the UK/Australia Season. The event was coordinated by Arts Projects Australia (Adelaide).

BECOMING YOU

The Immigration Museum's immersive new exhibition, *Becoming You*, evolving out of the project and exhibition of the same name developed for Midsumma's Festival in April/May 2021, focuses on coming-of-age moments by more than 70 real-life contributors and included people from the LGBTQIA+ community such as performance artist and writer Andreja Pejic, model Adolfo Aran juez, Nevo Zisin, actor Noel Tovey, Karen from Finance, disability activist Jax Jacki Brown and Frances Cannon. Their personal experiences traverse landscapes of time, gender, orientation, culture, age, and distance, reflecting Immigration Museum's commitment to celebrating our shared humanity.

The target audience for this project was young LGBTQIA+ community aged between 13-18 (and their parents) with an interest and involvement in live music and the arts, as well as on justice issues. By platforming artists from these communities on stage, as well as creating opportunities for members of these communities to take part in support roles, the project encourages ownership by young people / young artists, over the event itself, creating a space where young people and their families felt welcomed, celebrated, and empowered.

GALENTINES

Midsumma Festival, Melbourne Queer Film Festival and Immigration Museum joined forces to present Galentine's Under the Stars, an outdoor cinema event celebrating the magical bonds of friendship and chosen family. Galentine's Day - or Palentine's Day is all about surrounding yourself with your BFFs and revelling in the unbreakable bonds of friendship.

The feature for this program was *Tangerine* (2015) directed by Sean Baker. Sean Baker's breakout hit follows the day in the life of transgender sex-worker Sin-Dee (Kitana Kiki Rodriguez). Upon hearing that her pimp boyfriend hasn't been faithful during the 28 days she was locked up, the working girl and her best friend, Alexandra (Mya Taylor), embark on a mission to get to the bottom of the scandalous rumour.

In addition to *Tangerine*, two short films were also screened and included a film directed by Andrew Mills, *We're Doing Fine* (2021). This short film was the winner of Melbourne Queer Film Festival's Audience Choice Award for Best Short in 2021 and is a hilarious snapshot of friendship and frenemies, filmed locally in Collingwood. The second short film *Chosen Family* (2014) was directed by Neha Gautman and filmed in New York. *Chosen Family* highlights the story of 5 women identified people of colour, who create an intentional safe space in an attempt to foster community and build their 'Chosen Family'.

Tickets included after-hours entry to see Immigration Museum's exhibition, *Becoming You: An Incomplete Guide* until 8pm.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

The Night at the Museum Minus18 Youth Arts Party presented by Minus18 and Midsumma Festival was due to occur on January 29 from 6.30-9.30pm. Due to COVID impacts it was decided to postpone the event to Saturday 9 April from 7 - 10pm. In the interests of maintaining safety of participants it was decided the postponed event would occur as an online digital presentation with various artists/performances being staged at the Immigration Museum and presented via an online Zoom event.

FLYING THE FLAG

An exhibition of flags, depicting queer history from contemporary British artist Annabel McCourt's unique perspective. Presented at St Heliers Street gallery, Abbotsford Convent, this series combines seemingly naïve but powerful white-on-black designs, echoing the use of body inking and gang symbols by dangerous white supremacist groups, with bright flags with colours taken from a deconstructed 'Rainbow Flag'. The flags are also intended to question colonialism, representation, rule and identity. Accompanying the flags within an installation format were films highlighting McCourt's celebrated queer public artwork, Electric Fence. Inspired by homophobic hate speech this grim yet unforgettable work showcases hate crime and its ominous, prevailing presence in contemporary society; How borders, barriers and warning signs have come to be a part of our everyday life. Electric Fence is a thought-provoking and confrontational piece of art and encourages viewers to examine the perceptions, challenges and preconceptions that impact us all in modern life and compels us to turn to face them. Midsumma is in ongoing discussions for a future developmental process, in collaboration with Victorian queer visual artists, for the commissioning of a local version of Electric Fence for the 2023 or 2024 Midsumma Festival.

This is the first time McCourt has exhibited in Australia and the exhibition forms part of the British Council - UK/Australia Season 2021-22. The season has the theme 'Who Are We Now?'. The works were exhibited in the St Heliers Street gallery at Abbotsford Convent.

MINI BEAST DISCO

For kids aged 3 - 9 and their family as part of Midsumma's ongoing commitment to development and presentation of new work for young audiences, specially shaped to reflect the lived experiences of diverse families.

This hopeful offering celebrates togetherness and aliveness and was presented as part of Pivot, Abbotsford Convent's short-term residency program supported by the Australia Council for the Arts and Creative Victoria.

Sitting between performance and workshop, *Mini Beast Disco* reframes ideas of 'us' and 'community' to include the biosphere. Flying in the face of anthropocentric domination, Proud and Queer underground artists Betty Grumble and Dandrogyny encouraged an expansive view of the natural world to foster deep empathy, understanding and a sense of awe.

A COMPOSTING CABARET

A Cabaret for grown-ups but linked with and inspired by Mini Beast Disco. Devised and developed by Betty Grumble & Dandrogyny. The resulting performance was a joyful landscape of performance offerings that within the context of the last few years pandemic reflect, rekindle and re-wild our grown-up and maybe worn-out hearts. The performance was staged in both the Sacred Heart courtyard and the Convent's Heritage Garden and was followed by DJ Hip Hop Ho playing to a lively and colourful dance floor.

Composting Cabaret - Midsumma Festival 2022.
Photo by Alexis Desaulniers-Lea



MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL OPEN-ACCESS PROGRAM

A diverse range of works are showcased through the registered open-access program of events within Midsumma Festival each year, representing a variety of vital cultural conversations taking place amongst local and interstate LGBTQIA+ communities by extraordinary artists and culture-makers and showcased to diverse audiences in increasing numbers.

All producers and venues registered as part of the festival receive a range of support services from Midsumma ranging from co-presentations to marketing, ticketing, and producer capacity building support.

As Midsumma has repositioned itself artistically over the past few years and invested year-round in a much higher level in the development of LGBTQIA+ artists' and event producers and new work, it has become apparent that the depth, breadth, and quality of the open-access program

has also increased, though COVID impacts were also highly visible this year, with many shows developed for smaller indoor venues or venues with dance floors, or those simply impacted by cast/crew illness and/or isolation, having to be postponed or cancelled.

Heading up the Open-Access Program are Midsumma Venue Hubs, recognising venues regularly supporting LGBTQIA+ artists presentations in their venues throughout the festival period. What is significant about these venues, beyond their annual commitment within Midsumma, is that many go on to ensure significant queer programming of queer art throughout the year on the back of audience relationships built through the festival.



The 2022 Midsumma Festival Hubs included:

- **Midsumma @ Gasworks Arts Park.**
A longstanding partner with Midsumma with whom we also work to run the annual Queer Playwriting Award Showcase each year. This year they developed and presented the sold out season of Coming Out (the 2020 QPAS award winner) as well as a wide range of other performance and visual arts exhibitions throughout their venue.
- **Midsumma @ Immigration Museum.**
A vibrant living multicultural centre for the exploration of identity, history and multicultural life makes this venue the ideal partner for Midsumma showcasing diverse LGBTQIA+ stories and lived experiences through art.
- **Midsumma @ Abbotsford Convent.**
Australia's largest arts precinct presented Mini Beast Disco, Flying the Flag and A Composting Cabaret in partnership with Midsumma this year alongside other exciting events.
- **Midsumma @ Hare Hole.** The home of emerging artists, hybrid artforms and new work.
- **Midsumma @ Comedy Republic.**
It returned in its second year as part of Midsumma Festival (after a highly successful inaugural year in 2021), and its first as a hub venue, with a jam-packed program across all our festival dates.
- **Midsumma @ Theatre Works.** Theatre Works in St Kilda joined the festival as a hub in 2019 and returned for a fourth year in 2022 programming a range of performances, the realisation of which were unfortunately subsequently severely impacted upon by COVID-19.

- **Midsumma @ Fringe Common Rooms.**
This venues' first time as a Midsumma Hub, with events each night of the festival and the highly successful Get Bent Fest.
- **Midsumma @ Pride Of Our Footscray.**
Another first-time hub, showcasing camp drag, modern drag, cabaret, burlesque, queer comedy, a steamy male dance revue and even astrology!

Overall, the Open-Access Program provided a huge and diverse range of events from music, comedy, cabaret, film, visual and digital arts, circus, variety, social events, forums, and walks – with the breadth and quality of the works continuing to improve due to the investment Midsumma has made in building relationships (and providing capacity building developmental support) with producers, venues and artists over many years.

Across the open-access program highlights included:

- **HOMOPHONIC (Classical music)** presented by La Mama Theatre. Homophonic has been a staple of the Midsumma program for many years and always proves popular. An important showcase of both development of and presentation of queer contemporary new music.
- **AND SHE WOULD STAND LIKE THIS (Theatre)** at Meat Market and presented by Antipodes Theatre. Near sell out season.
- **BROAD (Cabaret)** – A night with Geraldine Quinn presented at Gasworks Arts Park.
- **LEMON COMEDY (Comedy)** – Back by popular demand after a sell out season in 2021, presented at Comedy Republic.
- **THE DEFIANT (Theatre)** – Powerful fierce circus at Gasworks Arts Park.
- **TRANS PRIDE CONCERT (Contemporary Music)** a hall mark new event for Midsumma held at Fed Square, featuring artists and performers from all over Melbourne's Trans community.

MIDSUMMA WESTSIDE

A partnership between Midsumma Festival and a coalition of western region councils (Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley, Wyndham City Councils). Midsumma Westside is a revived program based on a ten-year-old program, GOWEST. Midsumma Westside actively supports and encourages event producers and local council venues in the western region to participate in Midsumma Festival.

The importance of LGBTQIA+ visibility in our growing outer suburbs, in communities with rich intersectionality and cultural diversity is so important. With an incredible expansion this year 35 different events were programmed by Westside (up from a previous high of 18 events) including exhibitions, live music, outdoor community events, performances and storytelling. Participants received marketing support, participation in a dedicated launch event and additional advice and support from their local council partner and Midsumma.

2022 FESTIVAL ACCESS INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

At Midsumma we recognise our responsibility to achieve genuine outcomes beyond written policies and procedures, and legislative requirements. True accessibility and inclusion go far beyond whether a venue is accessible or not, and over the past few years we have implemented plans to develop and deliver a broad range of accessibility initiatives to ensure that all Midsumma events are inclusive of the broadest possible participation and meaningful direct engagement.

Our approach aims to facilitate both the active participation of members of the LGBTQIA+ communities who identify as living with a disability, but also build new audiences for LGBTQIA+ artists within the various disability communities. In this way, as well as ensuring that Midsumma Festival is as accessible as possible, our initiatives

aim to rebuild disabled, low vision and deaf peoples' confidence in engaging with arts and cultural events. Our leadership in this area can become a model and support for other community and arts organisations in the future.

After many years of building credibility and trust with disability communities, over a quarter of total attendees to Midsumma events (26%) identify as disabled, deaf or hearing impaired.

This year we increased our leadership position in disability even further.

Our Hero Image for the Midsumma Festival program in 2022 was by commissioned artist **Goneka** (Jacob Campbell) a visual artist based in Melbourne who was born Deaf. The imagery depicted words commonly used by queer communities in Jacobs first language, Auslan. The artwork aimed to share and teach all audiences the Auslan language while fostering inclusion.

Our signature program for the Midsumma Festival in 2022 was AND/OR focused on the work of LGBTQIA+ disabled, deaf and hearing-impaired artists with a range of disability led events commissioned developed and supported by Midsumma. This built upon the work of Midsumma with disability communities across many years. Nine separate group projects were developed through 2021 and presented in AND/OR with a further two projects unable to go ahead due to the impact of COVID throughout 2020 on the artists within these projects – both will be developed later in 2021 and presented as part of the 2023 festival program.

Our comprehensive disability activities have become integral to the whole culture of our organisation and Midsumma is committed to ensuring we continue to further develop our relationship with a variety of disability communities through improved access and engagement strategies. The festival actively partners with a wide range of established local disability organisations to both develop initiatives and to promote them including Rawcus, Back to Back theatre, Arts Access Victoria, Auslan Stage Left and Vita Veritas (from Audio Description services).

Access and engagement strategies delivered during the 2022 Midsumma Festival

Midsumma continued and extended its commitment to providing increasing and meaningful access to Midsumma communities living with disability and to modelling best practice for all Midsumma's own presented or co-presented events.

Ongoing partnerships with **Vitae Veritas** for Audio Description services, **Arts Access Victoria** and **Auslan Stage Left** enabled a diverse range of extended services aimed at disability access and engagement.

All staff and volunteers were provided training in disability access and engagement through Arts Access Victoria.

For the first time ever, Midsumma also provided personalised Audio Description services on the day for Carnival and Melbourne Pride for blind and low vision community members via the services of Vitae Veritas. For both major events two Audio Describers were stationed at the HQ tent and anyone requiring this service was directed to this area where they could connect with one of the Audio Describers. The Audio Describer would then accompany the patron to the relevant

area and describe the location and the entertainment. These services were promoted to relevant communities to a network of service providers.

Midsumma also increased the number of deaf Auslan interpreters employed for Melbourne Pride by arrangement for as many artists and speakers to provide written song lyrics or speech notes in advance so that we could take a leadership position in the employment of deaf describers where possible.

AUSLAN INTERPRETATION

In 2022 there was Auslan Interpretation available at 27 separate events, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to increasing access support for Deaf/hearing impaired audiences. In 2022, Midsumma worked closely with the Rawcus production of *A Resourceful Hero* to fund the Auslan Interpreter costs across the rehearsal and performance program.

2022 Midsumma Presents Auslan Interpreted events:

- A Resourceful Hero Struggling Against Incredible Odds
- AND/OR Panel Discussion at Immigration Museum
- Benched
- Fun Home
- Get Bent Fest
- Midsumma Carnival
- Midsumma Pride March
- Musical Stories: Introducing Teddy
- Night at the Museum (postponed to April 9)
- The Demographic Dance Off: Face to Face
- Whole Self
- The Midsumma Australia Post Art Award



2022 Midsumma Open-Access External Registered Auslan interpreted events:

- And She would Stand Like This
- Artemis: Utter Mess
- Cab Suave
- Expression of Interest: Queer Gestures – where is the queer body in dance.
- Footscray Laughs ft. Beastie Girls and Friends
- From All Who Came Before
- Globe Community Awards
- Park Lounge
- Queer Pasifika: The Rebirth of the Cool – POSTPONED
- SMASH: The Drag Show
- Composting Cabaret

Audio Description, Captioning and Tactile Tours

2022 saw the Midsumma Festival continue to offer a wealth of Audio Described, captioned performances or Tactile Tour initiatives for attendees who are blind or live with low vision.

AUDIO DESCRIBED EVENTS

Midsumma Festival engaged the services of Vitae Veritas this year in order to offer an Audio Description service and this occurred at Midsumma Carnival, Midsumma Pride March and Melbourne Pride.

Additional events:

- A Resourceful Hero Struggling Against Incredible Odds
- The Demographic Dance Off: Face to Face
- Fun Home
- Whole Self

2022 Midsumma Open-Access External Registered Audio Described events:

- And She Would Stand Like This
- Artemis: Utter Mess
- From All Who Came Before

AND/OR Panel Discussion. Image by Suzanne Balding

CAPTIONED EVENTS

Several events had closed captions, displaying captions on screens so the audience can read along with the work.

Midsumma Presents captioned events:

- Becoming You
- Elephant
- Fun Home
- Galentine's Under the Stars
- From the Club to the Theatre
- Tranz Talkz

RELAXED PERFORMANCES

For the fifth year Midsumma event producers were encouraged by Midsumma to consider Relaxed Performances intended specifically to be sensitive to and accepting of audience members who may benefit from a more relaxed environment, including (but not limited to) those with autistic spectrum conditions, anyone with sensory and communication disorders or learning-disabled people.

2022 Midsumma Presents relaxed performances:

- A Resourceful Hero Struggling Against Incredible Odds
- AND/OR Panel Discussion
- Benched

2022 Midsumma Open-Access External Registered relaxed performances:

- Artemis: Utter Mess
- Big Business Time Band
- Expression of Interest: Queer Gestures – where is the queer body in dance.
- Frankston and Mornington Peninsula LGBTQA+ Collaborative 5 Fabulous Days
- From All Who Came Before
- Homophonic
- Making Art, Words and Stories
- Rainbow Community Picnic
- Sick

TACTILE TOUR

2022 Midsumma Presents Tactile Tour performances:

- Fun Home
- The Demographic Dance Off: Face to Face

2022 Midsumma Open-Access External Registered Tactile Tour performances:

- Artemis: Utter Mess
- From All Who Came Before
- Sick

ACCESSIBLE VIEWING

At Midsumma Pride March, Midsumma managed an accessible viewing platform on the southern side of the elevated tram platform. The following volunteer area briefing sheet provides information relating to this service. It was in operation from 10am until people had safely exited the area following the Parade.

FIRST NATION ENGAGEMENT

Midsumma acknowledges that Indigenous Australians are the first peoples of these lands. We pay our respects to all Indigenous Australians, past and present, and we recognise their continuing spiritual and cultural connection to the land.

Midsumma Festival takes place between High Summer and Late Summer according to the Wurundjeri calendar of seasons, on whose land much of this Festival is taking place.

We continued our commitment to having an Indigenous Engagement Coordinator for this year's festival, having initiated this important role in 2017. **Craig Holloway** and **Rebecca Hunt** joined Midsumma, reprising their roles as Indigenous Engagement Coordinator. Craig did this role in 2020 and 2021 following on from Rebecca Hunt (2019) and Mark Nannup (2017 & 2018). This was the sixth year Midsumma funded this role, which is responsible for vital work in engaging Aboriginal communities, organising the Rainbow Aboriginal engagement at Midsumma Pride March and arranging cultural ceremonies and general first nations community engagement across Midsumma events.

In 2022 several Midsumma events engaged First Nation artists including Becoming You at Immigration Museum and shows at Abbotsford Convent in addition to the Pride of our Footscray Community Bar event, 4Play and First Nation Drag. Pop Duo, The Merindas also delivered an amazing set at the Pride March after party in Catani Gardens.

In addition to this programming The Metro Tunnel Creative Program supported the Miss Photogenic contest at Miss First Nation as part of the 2021 YIRRAMBOI and Midsumma Festival. The contestants were Lady Gargles, Estelle, Cerulean, Karma Bites, Stone Motherless Cold and Peaches and the 2021 Miss First Nations crown went to Cerulean.

The official event photographer, Joseph Mayers, shot the contestants at Holmesglen TAFE's Victorian Tunnelling Centre and these images were framed and placed on the hoarding in the Scott Alley laneway off Flinders Lane. They were on display from 23 January – 28 February

Formal Welcome to Country ceremonies were held at 3 Midsumma presented events including the program launch at the Malthouse, Pride March, Melbourne Pride and acknowledgement of the country undertaken at all other events where this was appropriate.

Within the Midsumma Festival Open-Access program there were a number of independently produced first nations arts events.

OUR REACH

Midsumma launched the 2022 Festival marketing campaign in November 2021 and concluded the campaign in February 2022 (Midsumma Festival launched on 22 Nov, the festival period was from 23 Jan to 13 Feb).

SURVEYING ATTENDEES

Each year Midsumma conducts an audience survey (through external analysis partner Culture Counts) to understand media consumption and brand recognition of Midsumma from festival attendees.

The Midsumma marketing campaign encompasses the following marketing methods, in order of success:

- Social Media (65%)
- Word of Mouth (37%)
- Midsumma Printed Program Guide (29%)
- eNews (13%)
- Outdoor Advertising (13%)
- What's On Melbourne (9%)
- Print Ads (6%)
- Radio (4%)
- Other (19%)

SOCIAL MEDIA

We recorded a significant increase in social media activity across the festival for 2022. Total activity across platforms was **1,789,069** (74% increase on 2021 results). Midsumma's social media followers for 2022 was calculated at **554,470** (10.88% increase on 2021 results, and 23.26% increase over 4 years).

PR / WORD OF MOUTH

Midsumma again engaged an external PR firm to work with us, ID Collective. This is the third year we have worked with this PR company, after achieving significantly increased results in our previous years with them.

Midsumma's PR campaign was active from Nov 2021 to Feb 2022, with a total of **338** media clips across TV, radio, print and online, reaching more than **230 million** Australians.

The quality of coverage this festival was exceptional, with key coverage highlights including:

- TV coverage for Midsumma Carnival on 7NEWS Melbourne, 9 News Melbourne, 10 News First National and SBS World News;
- Herald Sun Confidential Photo Opportunity;
- 10-minute segment on ABC Radio Evenings; and
- Regular mentions in top tier lifestyle publications including Broadsheet, Time Out, Concrete Playground, ESCAPE and Thrillist.

Total PR & AD value generated over the Festival period totals **\$9,807,505** (an increase of 62% from 2021 results) with an estimated total media circulation of **230,137,039** (an increase of 99% from 2021 results).

For only the second time we partnered with Yarra Trams for a Midsumma #ALLABOARD tram that was active / en route around Melbourne's tram tracks before and during Midsumma Festival across 12 weeks, promoting the festival dates and Midsumma and **reaching 560,100 people** at an average frequency of 2.9 times.



ENEWS

The Midsumma Festival eNews was able to feature every open-access and Midsumma Presents event during the campaign period by strategic clustering "like" events leading up to, and during, the 2022 festival.

- Total campaigns sent: 75 (10.29% increase on 2021 results)
- Total number of (main) subscribers: 10,759 (25.19% increase in subscribers compared to the 2021 festival).
- Average open rate = 34.10% (increase of 20.07% from 2021 results)
*Entertainment/Events industry average is 20.41%
- Average click rate = 3.50%
*Entertainment/Events industry average is 2.19%)
- Unsubscribe rate: 0.3%

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

During Nov 2021 to Feb 2022, 1000 Midsumma Festival **Promotional Posters** were distributed around Melbourne's cafes, cultural hotspots, 75 event venues and five Midsumma Hubs. During this time, 5 Midsumma **Billboard Posters** were displayed in Melbourne inner city, South, East, West, North and the Monash Freeway - all posters had customized copy for geographic targeting. Culture Counts reported a **160%** increase in attendees finding out about Midsumma Festival from Postering results in 2021.

Melbourne Pride ft Reuben Kaye. Photo by Suzanne Balding

WEBSITE

From program launch (Nov 2021) to the end of Midsumma Festival 2022 the Midsumma website saw:

- 189,881 users (an increase of 22,45% from the 2021 festival period)
- 785,890 page views (a 28% increase on 2021 results)
- 79.10% new visitors

PROGRAM GUIDE

After not being able to produce a printed program due to COVID impacted timelines we again had a printed program for 2022 as this proves very popular with our audiences and is much loved and well used by them. 35,000 printed copies of the Midsumma Festival Program Guide are distributed around interstate outlets in Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra, as well as 900 venues receiving copies in Melbourne and wider Victoria. The guide is also available to view or download from midsumma.org.au in a variety of accessible formats.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Midsumma Festival employs an external and highly experienced risk management consultant Frank Martinuzzo of Public Safety Australia. This is in line with current best practise for all major events. Frank and his company undertake risk assessments and management at events of scale all over Australia. This has become increasingly vital as external environmental pressures and event permit requirements become more complex for any events of scale/large public gatherings and has been even more critical for festivals in the last few years with rapidly changing COVID-19 requirements and conditions.

In the months leading up to the event Public Safety Australia completed a review of draft event plans and provided Midsumma with a comprehensive 'Principal Risk Assessment' which outlined all identified risks and mitigation strategies for all of our event sites. These included comprehensive new risk assessments and strategies related to COVID and were continually evolving and updated as COVID environment and associated government health requirements changed. Responses to multiple scenarios were developed for every aspect of our operations and a dedicated COVIDSafe plan was in place for all events. Formal dedicated COVIDSafe permit approval submissions were developed over many months in close consultation with State Government representatives for each of our large events, and were submitted, but in the end these were not required by the time the festival commenced.

All strategies identified to ensure the safety of participants, volunteers, staff and attendees were put in place. All event documentations are always treated as 'living' documents, continually refined as required right up until the event to address any changing environmental impacts.

Public Safety Australia is involved in all Midsumma event planning and closely liaised, with us, with Victorian Police, Altus (contracted Traffic Management company), security company (MA Security) and contracted first aid providers Colbrow Medics.

Public Safety Australia were involved in training / briefings for all event staff and volunteers and worked directly with us on the day of three of our largest events Midsumma Carnival, Midsumma Pride March, and Melbourne Pride, in the dedicated Event Operations Centre's (EOC) for each event. The Midsumma EOC is the key logistical management centre on the day of large events and is staffed inclusive of representatives from Ambulance Victorian, Victorian Police, contracted professional first aid company's, City of Port Phillip (Pride March only), Altus Traffic Management, Yarra Trams (Pride March only), Midsumma Festival and Security contractors. All representatives in the EOC are in direct radio contact with their contract teams on the ground, facilitating cohesive and immediate coordination for all areas across the whole event site and operations. EOC is coordinated and managed by Midsumma senior staff with support from Public Safety Australia. Professional communications staff are engaged to manage multiple radio channel communications coming into the EOC and responses out and ensuring that all incidents and responses/actions are formally recorded in the event log as they occurred throughout the day.

As occurs each year, an event tabletop forum was held for all Midsumma management staff and contracted event staff, where a range of emergency scenarios are put before all key event staff to test readiness for dealing with anything from managing assessment of a suspicious package, to handling protestors, COVID exposure, right through to a full-blown terrorist attack occurring. This process provides high level practical training for Midsumma staff and a level of confidence for Victoria Police that Midsumma staff are 'read for anything', as well as clear delineation and communication processes regarding lines of authority between event staff and external emergency agencies should any incident occur at a Midsumma event.

Extensive safety briefing for all staff and volunteers and separately for area wardens for the festival occur pre-festival with additional dedicated briefings held for Carnival, Pride March and Melbourne Pride.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL WE'VE DONE

Midsumma Pathways

Midsumma was proud to commence in 2020/21 the first of a new comprehensive three-year skill development mentorship project. Each year, up to twelve creative LGBTQIA+ members of the community who also identify as living with disability, Deaf/hearing impaired or living with chronic pain/illness, undertake this nine-month program. Midsumma Pathways is a companion project to our Midsumma Futures program and aims not only to develop practical arts industry skills but also to build capacity for participants in a broader context through introducing and interacting with LGBTQIA+ creative communities, venues and networks.

The workshop program was co-designed with the participants to feature a mix of topics and skills across artistic practice and the intersections of queerness, disability and the arts, including topics and speakers identified as priorities by Pathways participants and by Midsumma. All workshop sessions were Saturday afternoons, were on Zoom (due to COVID), were Auslan interpreted, with 2 interpreters, were live captioned, and ran between 60-90 minutes each.

Pathways partners with a range of disability led organisations and individual leaders as well as engaged broadly with external access providers.

The program actively increases the profile for LGBTQIA+ creatives with a disability. As well as providing capacity building through artistic and professional development, the Pathways program amplifies the achievements and artistic practices of our Participants, Mentors, Workshop Facilitators and other partners.

Midsumma Pathways Participants and their Mentors 2021-22:

Adele Aria
(writer and activist) mentored by
Jax Jacki Brown

Ben Goss
(actor and theatre maker) mentored by
Daniel Monks

Ebony Rattle
(sound designer, writer and director)
mentored by
Adena Jacobs

Ellen Cisneros
(artists - painting, illustrations and sculpting) mentored by
Jake Preval

Holly Craig
(dance artist) mentored by
Michelle Ryan

Lillian Paterson
(writer, director and video artist)
mentored by
Angus Cameron and Gianna Mazzeo

Purnima Padmanabhan
(writer and filmmaker) mentored by
Vidya Rajan

Rosanna Hewson
(musical theatre artist)

Sarah Carroll
(artist - live performance, writer, director)
mentored by
Victoria Falconer

Sarah-Jayde Tracey
(performer and theatre maker)
mentored by
Zoey Dawson

Vivien Triantafillou
(visual artists, dancer, choreographer and textile designer) mentored by



MIDSUMMA FUTURES

Midsumma Futures is a biennial nine-month mentoring developmental program designed for LGBTQIA+ early-career artists and future community leaders. Returning in 2023, Midsumma Futures will further invest in the next generation of LGBTQIA+ creative leaders, advancing participants' careers, deepening creative practice, amplifying artistic voices, increasing networks and profile, and leading the future of queer arts and culture in our region of the world.

Midsumma Futures brings together a diverse range of artists from across disciplines as well as producers, practitioners, community leaders, creative thinkers and culture-makers.

REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE

This year Midsumma piloted a new regional activation program state-wide which supported and presented 22 projects across multiple artforms. This program will be expanded to be active year-in 2023.

Cab Suave. Photo by Suzanne Balding

MIDSUMMA AND AUSTRALIA POST ART AWARD

Since its inauguration in 2016 the Midsumma and Australia Post Art Award has quickly established itself as the nation's leading queer art award and exhibition. Applications for this annual award come from the finest LGBTQIA+ visual artists all over Australia. With cash, public exhibition and future development/residency opportunities, the Midsumma and Australia Post Art Award is a survey that reflects artists' potent personal and political perspectives on the world. This is a nationwide annual award featuring both early-career and established artists working in any visual arts medium including 2D, 3D (Sculpture/crafts) and digital/film.

Finalists selected from across the country each year are exhibited publicly and showcased online.

This year's **Major Award** - a \$6000 cash prize, was awarded to **Ayman Kaake** for his mixed media work *Ar*, presented by Australia Post EGM Customer & Commercial and PostPride Executive Sponsor **Gary Starr** and Midsumma CEO **Karen Bryant**.

Midsumma and Australia Post Finalists 2022:

Martin John Lee

Blue

Acrylic and oil on Belgian linen

Ange Jeffery

Brothaboy Sistagirl

Brass, Emu Feathers, Hemp Brass Black

Jane Makela

Never Wanna Forget

Stoneware

Fast Fashun

Accelerated Vestments

Craft, painting, wearable art, photography

Thanh Vuong

Zephyrus Announcing Spring

Photographic Inkjet Print

Ayman Kaake

Ar

Mixed Media

Alun Jones

The Gay Agenda Series.

Archival Print on Canson Rag Photographique 310 gsm

Marce King

Neophobia

Pen and Acrylic Paint on Paper

Simon Welsh

Queers of a Clown Series

Paper Art. Collage

Jack Lee

It's Just a Preference

Digital Artwork on screen or projection

Gideon Wilonja

Kijana Mzuri

Photography, Creative Direction

Belinda Zipper

You're so lucky being transgender, you get the best of Both Worlds

Progresso graphite pencils, paper

Emiko Artemis

"walking through worlds, basket mouth", " Walking through worlds, the weight of knowledge" and "walking through worlds, the expansion of breath dissolved into all"
Photomedia

Marc Savoia

Selected works from the 'Wunderkammer' series: Sacramento, Primitive Instincts, Modern Features

Photomedia

Holly "Colourfull" Walton

Rainbow Goddess

MicrAdor ink textas on Paper

Award categories

- Major Award - \$6000
- People's Choice Award provided by Australia Post - \$1,000
- Bundoora Art Prize Award - a paid residency/exhibition opportunity

QUEER PLAYWRITING AWARD

The annual Queer Playwriting Award is a collaboration between Gasworks Arts Park and Midsumma Festival, as part of the Midsumma Presents Program. Creators of new or developing works of theatre are invited to submit their proposals for consideration by a panel of supportive industry professionals.

Queer Playwriting Award Showcase Finalists 2022:

Mon 24 Jan 2022

- **Emmanuelle Mattana - The Reasonable Grounds:** A queer black-comedy about privilege, power and high school debating.
- **Andrew Undi Lee - No Asians:** Set on the fringes of Sydney's housing commission, we follow a delicate relationship between two Korean Australian boys and their devastating fear of letting go.
- **Reuben James - Coming Home To You:** An intimate, authentic play about the lives of three queer people, and the inherent dichotomy between monogamy and queerness. A raw and emotionally-charged piece of LGBTQIA+ theatre.
- **Bravo Arts - Woolf:** A queer adaptation of Edward Albee's iconic play 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?', exploring themes of family and domestic abuse through a queer lens.

Tue 25 Jan 2022

- **Rory Godbold - CROSS:** Jasper's a teacher, and he's gay. When a colleague David ignores a homophobic slur made about Jasper in his class, their lives begin to unravel.
- **Alice Tovey - Besties:** A musical about love & self-loathing set in the world of an on-screen romantic comedy. When two straight-presenting leading women fall in love, their gay best friends have a full-on identity crisis.

- **Guy Stephen Webster - Driftwood:** Two brothers come together to pack up their Father's apartment after his death. They soon discover what really haunts the empty apartment, while a storm threatens to bring the place down into the Pacific.
- **Emily White - That's Not Big Mac Sauce, That's Ectoplasm:** This is the story of a Maccas playground and the ghosts that haunt it. Some dead, some living, all gay as hell.

Across the two nights, four playwrights were selected to participate in the Finalists' Showcase on 22 March 2022 at Gasworks Arts Park; *Besties* by Alice Tovey & Ned Dixon, *CROSS* by Rory Godbold, *No Asians* by Andrew Undi Lee, and *The Reasonable Grounds* by Emmanuelle Mattana. These four playwrights then received additional support to further develop their plays for presentation of extended segments, responding to initial feedback received after the semi-finals. The ultimate winner will receive support from Midsumma and Gasworks to develop the work through to full presentation stage - for a season within Midsumma Festival 2023.

For the first time in this process, Gasworks Arts Park and Midsumma Festival also recognised the brilliance of a work by Bravo Arts, with their stage readings of *Woolf* - A queer adaptation of Edward Albee's iconic play 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?', exploring themes of family and domestic abuse through a queer lens. The recognition is awarded the inaugural QPAS Fast Track Award which identified that this work was already advanced and did not require the development processes of GPAS and instead could be supported directly through to a future full presentation season.



TREASURER'S REPORT

2022 saw some significant changes to Midsumma's financial statements. We saw festival income and corporate sponsorship bounce back (though not quite to pre-pandemic levels), and Midsumma took on the role of running Melbourne Pride, resulting in a surplus of \$881 for the 2022 financial year.

Given the changes Midsumma has seen, comparing the last two years is like comparing apples to oranges in some ways. Any comparison, though, should start by acknowledging our communities' support. To see so many people come out and celebrate with us after a quieter 2021 was spectacular. We are not at the levels of income seen in 2020 from the festival, but we are well on the way.

It is important to acknowledge that Midsumma could not deliver the events and experiences we do without the continuing support from our corporate partners and sponsors. Despite the ongoing impacts of the pandemic on the economy, 2022 saw our corporate sponsorship grow to only a few percent less than 2020.

Melbourne Pride was a new addition to our financial statements (and the Victorian streets). With \$1.5m in funding, this event saw our turnover almost double, though Melbourne Pride saw little impact on our bottom line, with this funding going to running the event.

As we find our way through these new and uncertain times, thank you to our communities, attendees, staff, donors, sponsors, and government for your continued support. I look forward to everything Midsumma has to offer in the coming year and beyond.

Michael Fuller-Smith
Treasurer, Midsumma Festival Inc.

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Income		
Members Fees	809	936
Festival income	367,441	60,658
Donations & patron support	57,241	60,028
Public Funding - Federal, State & Local (Note 2)	2,289,654	1,207,042
Corporate Funding & Sponsorships	409,573	245,770
Grants (Note 2)	95,009	113,375
Interest received	23	
Other income	23,134	43,409
JobKeeper payment		184,200
Cash flow boost		50,000
Rebates and refunds	6,972	
Total income	3,249,855	1,965,420
Expenses		
Accountancy & audit	4,367	8,095
Advertising and promotion	129,791	79,273
Amortisation Expense	7,240	7,967
Bad Debts		3,864
Bank & Merchant Fees And Charges	3,526	1,567
Board Amenities	612	258
Cleaning/rubbish removal	95,147	17,512
Computer expenses	49,040	50,673
Consultants fees	44,820	29,398
Contract payments	40,209	24,513
Donations		24
Festival expenses	1,329,313	687,249
Hire/rent of Plant & Equipment	65,982	21,212
Insurance	20,284	18,508
Printing & stationery	7,219	11,918

Midsumma Festival Inc.
 ABN 50 783 159 198
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
 For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Production expenses	88,327	42,969
Rent on land & buildings	37,143	10,495
Replacements (tools, etc)	11,229	1,424
Research & development	16,000	8,000
Security	92,322	16,092
Staff recruitment	2,712	4,021
Superannuation	102,856	73,207
Telephone	21,754	12,058
Ticketing expense		540
Travel, accom & conference	9,418	5,226
Wages	1,057,767	735,954
Workcover	11,896	7,095
Total expenses	3,248,974	1,879,111
Profit from ordinary activities	881	86,309
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit attributable to the association	881	86,309
Total changes in equity of the association	881	86,309
Opening retained profits	322,118	235,809
Net profit attributable to the association	881	86,309
Closing retained profits	322,999	322,118

Midsumma Festival Inc.
 ABN 50 783 159 198
Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets	5	1,076,423	1,535,512
Receivables	6	71,091	77,018
Other	7	14,557	
Total Current Assets		1,162,071	1,612,529
Non-Current Assets			
Intangible assets	8	19,249	26,489
Total Non-Current Assets		19,249	26,489
Total Assets		1,181,320	1,639,018
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	9	1,917	2,564
Current tax liabilities	10	65,067	120,575
Provisions	11	104,505	113,862
Other	12	686,833	1,079,900
Total Current Liabilities		858,321	1,316,900
Total Liabilities		858,321	1,316,900
Net Assets		322,999	322,118
Members' Funds			
Retained profits		322,999	322,118
Total Members' Funds		322,999	322,118

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2022

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	3,255,760	1,908,154
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(3,714,871)	(1,040,532)
Interest received	23	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 3)	(459,088)	867,622
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(459,088)	867,622
Cash at the beginning of the year	1,535,512	667,890
Cash at the end of the year (note 3)	1,076,423	1,535,512

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of Victoria. In the opinion of the committee the association is not a reporting entity because it is not reasonable to expect the existence of users who rely on the association's general purpose financial statements for information useful to them for making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of resources.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act of Victoria, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements, AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB 1031: Materiality and AASB 1054: Australian Additional Disclosures.

The association has concluded that the requirements set out in AASB 10 and AASB 128 are not applicable as the initial assessment on its interests in other entities indicated that it does not have any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Hence, the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The association has not assessed whether these special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Accounts Receivables and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

(b) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(c) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(d) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(e) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

The association has applied AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) and AASB 1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) using the cumulative effective method of initially applying AASB 15 and AASB 1058 as an adjustment to the opening balance of equity at 1 July 2021. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be presented under AASB 118: Revenue and AASB 1004: Contributions.

Midsumma Festival Inc.
 ABN 50 783 159 198
 Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities To Net Profit		
Operating profit (loss) after tax	881	86,309
Amortisation	7,240	7,967
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade and term debtors	5,927	(53,401)
(Increase) decrease in prepayments	(14,557)	3,637
Increase (decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	(647)	2,474
Increase (decrease) in other creditors	(393,067)	682,085
Increase (decrease) in employee entitlements	(17,482)	40,691
Increase (decrease) in sundry provisions	(47,383)	97,900
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(459,088)	867,662

Note 4: Revenue**Operating Activities:**

Interest revenue	23	
Other operating revenue:		
Members Fees	809	936
Festival income	367,441	60,658
Donations & patron support	57,241	60,028
Public Funding - Federal, State & Local	2,289,654	1,207,042
Corporate Funding & Sponsorships	409,573	245,770
Grants	95,009	113,375
Other income	23,134	43,409
JobKeeper payment		184,200
Cash flow boost		50,000
Rebates and refunds	6,972	
	3,249,855	1,965,420

Midsumma Festival Inc.
 ABN 50 783 159 198
 Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
Note 5: Cash assets		
Bank accounts:		
Cash at bank - Midsumma Donations	130,971	81,328
Cash at bank - Midsumma Operations	820,010	1,336,817
Debit card - NAB	17,460	9,894
Midsumma Interest Bearing Acct	107,416	107,393
Petty cash	567	79
	1,076,423	1,535,512

Note 6: Receivables**Current**

Trade debtors	69,339	77,018
Other debtors	1,752	
	71,091	77,018

Note 7: Other Assets**Current**

Prepayments	14,557	
	14,557	

Note 8: Intangible Assets

Other intangibles:

- At cost	39,837	39,837
- Less: Accumulated amortisation	(20,589)	(13,349)
	19,249	26,489
	19,249	26,489

Note 9: Payables

Unsecured:

- Trade creditors	1,917	2,564
	1,917	2,564
	1,917	2,564

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
 Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the year ended 30 June 2022

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
 Statement by Members of the Committee
 For the year ended 30 June 2022

2022 2021

Note 10: Tax Liabilities

Current

GST clearing	42,798	97,311
PAYG withholding	22,269	23,264
	65,067	120,575

Note 11: Provisions

Current

Employee entitlements*	77,680	95,162
Sundry provisions	26,825	18,700
	104,505	113,862
* Aggregate employee entitlements liability	77,680	95,162

Note 12: Other Liabilities

Current

Advance payments	686,833	1,079,900
	686,833	1,079,900

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Midsumma Festival Inc. as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Treasurer



Board Chair

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Midsumma Festival Inc. (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2022 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on :



James Babbage – Auditor # 7215

Babbage & Co.

Melbourne

Dated: 19 August 2022

OUR PEOPLE

MIDSUMMA BOARD

Chair

Judy Small

Deputy Chair

Michael Parry

Treasurer

Michael Fuller-Smith

Secretary

Fraser Orford

Ordinary Board Members

Rhys Cranney
 Chloe Gordon
 Amity Mara
 Joel McGuinness
 Richard Noonan
 Aaron O'Shannessy

Volunteer to the Board

Amanda Edwards

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL TEAM

Chief Executive

Karen Bryant

Program Manager

Brendan Cooney

AND/OR Program Coordinator

Aamer Ahmed

Artist Development Manager 2022

Harriet Devlin

Artist Development Manager 2021-22

Nicole La Bianca

Head of Production & Operations

Sasha Catalano

Technical Production Coordinator

Siobhan Briggs

Finance & Administrative Manager

Mark Griffiths

Marketing & Communications Manager

Felicity McIntosh

Social Media and Content Coordinator

Jacqui Essing

Video, Streaming and Media Coordinator

Edwina Landale

Ticketing & Presenter Services Manager

Jason Marsiglia

Volunteers Coordinator

Martin Broadley

Administration / Stalls and Vendor Coordinator

Kat Celikaite

Production Administrator

Dominique Marconi

IT & Applications

Alan Drummond

MELBOURNE PRIDE

Project and Programming Manager

Bec Cooen

Production Manager

Dawn Holland

Community Engagement Manager

Ashlee Hints

Community Engagement Manager

Ashlee Hints

CURATORIAL ASSISTANCE

AND/OR Program

Patrick Hayes and Mama Alto

Midsumma Presents

Mx Sly

MIDSUMMA'S SUMMER WORK PLACEMENTS

Production

Ida Talbäck

Programming

Gabriel Taburet

Programming Admin

Harry Van Manen

Marketing

Emma Shaw

Arts Admin

Kate Babic

Midsumma and Australia Post Art Prize Coordinator

Aamer Ahmed

Risk Consultant

Public Safety Australia

OUR VALUABLE PATRONS

Midsumma would like to thank the wonderful and generous patrons of the 2021/22 financial year:

Diamond Patrons (\$5,000+)

Anonymous patron

Gold Patrons (\$2,000 - \$4,999)

Luke Butler
 Jamal Hakim
 Leigh Johns OAM
 Adam Lowe
 Kean Mac
 Judy Small
 David Sellin & Brett Condon
 Tim Smyth - Guyra Ardee Pty Ltd

Silver Patrons (\$1,000 - \$1,999)

Brad Danaher
 Tony Dang
 Tony Egan
 Kovi Levin
 Jason May
 Michael Parry
 Gail Veal
 Marcus Williams

Rainbow Patrons (\$500 - \$1,000)

Dennis Altman
 Liz Austin
 Craig Amundsen
 Rhys Cranney
 Jason Forde
 Michael Fuller Smith
 Ian Gould
 David Imber
 Nick Johnson
 Amity Marantelli
 David Marantelli
 Mark Meierjohann
 Jason Murphy
 Carol Nichols

Richard Noonan
 Charlotte O'Leary
 Garry Oliver
 Fraser Orford
 Julie Peters
 Aswin Ratheesh
 Rohan Shearn
 Donna Sheppard
 Sam Szwed
 Jo Whyte

Life Members

Ray Arthur
 Angela Bailey
 Tim Bateson
 Claire Beckwith
 Dean Bryant
 Scott Campbell
 John Caldwell
 Glyn Cryer
 John Cummins
 Sasha Cunningham
 Michael Dalton
 Kris Darmody
 Alan Drummond
 Jeff Dycer
 Peter Edmonds

Sue Fletcher
 Luke Gallagher
 Brenton Geyer
 Ian Gould
 Jeffrey Grad
 Nigel Higgins
 Crusader Hillis
 Leigh Johns
 Geraldine Kirby
 Matto Lucas
 Lee Matthews
 David Micallef
 Letizia Mondello
 David Owen
 Kaye Sera
 Ron Thiele
 Rowland Thomson
 Danny Vadasz
 Tracey Wall
 Will Walton
 Lisa Watts
 Roxy B. Wilde

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The festival is much loved by the Victorian & broader LGBTQIA+ community and we received a large number of volunteer registrations (increased from recent years) at 354. The timing of the festival this year however, and its alignment with COVID cases peaking in Melbourne, meant that we did have a significant drop from volunteers in the few weeks before the festival commenced either through direct illness/isolation or community concerns about exposure to COVID in any large public settings. Despite this, **176 volunteers** did take part and contributed **1,849 volunteer hours** to assist the delivery of events.

Volunteer ages	This Year	Occupation	This Year	Volunteer ages	This Year
Under 20	5%	Employed	49%	Under 20	5%
20-29	38%	Retired	4%	20-29	38%
30-39	19%	Self-employed	5%	30-39	19%
40-49	15%	Student	18%	40-49	15%
50-59	13%	Unemployed	10%	50-59	13%
Over 60	0%	Arts & Culture related field	10%	Over 60	0%
Didn't say	11%	Didn't say	4%	Didn't say	11%

APPENDIX

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CARNIVAL COMMUNITY STALLS PRECINCT

There were two main stall blocks: the Sports Precinct at the St Kilda Rd end of the park and the main Stalls Village at the other end, in the Picnic Precinct. The stalls are listed alphabetically and the organisation name is included in brackets when it differs from the stall name:

- **STALLS VILLAGE:** a grid reference is listed in brackets, where a letter indicates the row and a digit shows the column within the Stalls Village Map.
- **SPORTS PRECINCT:** the reference in the brackets indicates where the stall is located within the North (river) or South (Alexandra Ave) side.

Alphabetical List of Stalls (as registered)

- #StrongSafeFabulous (F4: Prosper Project Australia)
- AFL Pride Collective (Sports Precinct: S9 and S10: Bulldog Pride)
- AGL (D2)
- Animal Justice Party (D7)
- Anybody Anytime - Anytime Fitness Prahlan, South Yarra and Hampton East (Sports Precinct: N12: Jags Fitness)
- AO Glam Slam & VicTennis LGBTIQ+ Club (Sports Precinct: S8: Tennis Australia)
- ARCSHS/Rainbow Health Australia (E4: ARCSHS @ Latrobe university)
- Australian Education Union Pride (C4: Australian Education Union Victoria Branch)
- Australian Financial Complaints Authority (E10)

- AUSTRALIAN QUEER ARCHIVES (B4)
- Blonky Shop (F12)
- Boofhead Bites (F7)
- Carer Gateway (F6: Merri Health)
- ChillOut Daylesford (D7)
- City of Port Phillip (G5)
- Crime Stoppers Victoria - Community Safety (C6)
- Dan Murphy's (G1)
- Dee Zee Weddings (D3: Custom Celebrations By Dee / DeeZee Weddings / Zee Scott Celebrant and Baker)
- Defence Force Recruiting (C6)
- Ella+Friends Photography (F9)
- Emergency Management Pride Network Victoria (E12: Emergency Services Telecommunication Authority)
- Eurovision Song Contest Fans of Australia Network (OGAE Australia) (F7: ESCFAN Inc.)
- Gambler's Help (F15: Gambler's Help at IPC Health)
- Gay & Lesbian Immigration Task Force (B5)
- Gay Ski Week Australia / LGBTIQ+ Tours, Travel and Events (C5: Points of Difference Travel & Events)
- Glamazon (G7)
- Glamourhead Sharks (Sports Precinct: N5: Glamourhead Sharks Aquatic Club)
- GLOBE (F14)
- HAAG (Housing for the Aged Action Group) (F5: LGBTIQ Older Person's Working Group)
- Hidden Lions (F11)
- Humane Research Australia (D7)
- IEU Victoria Tasmania (C4)

- Info Tent - Main (south of Sports Precinct, shown by an "i" icon on the precinct map)
- Info Tent - Picnic (B4, shown by a paw icon on the precinct map)
- Isadora Nim - Women's Custom Suits (E5: Isadora Nim)
- Itchy Paws (F9)
- JOY 94.9 (F2)
- Liberal Pride with David Davis MP (C6)
- Lifeview - LGBTIQ+ Friendly Aged Care (F5: Lifeview Residential Aged Care)
- Lifeworks (F15)
- L'Oreal (G2)
- Low Rez Melbourne Male Choir (F7)
- MADE TO STAND OUT by MAINE+MARA (E5: MAINE+MARA)
- Maurice Blackburn (F14)
- Melbourne Argonauts Rowing Club: (Sports Precinct: S11)
- Melbourne Chargers R.U.F.C (Sports Precinct: N7)
- Melbourne Frontrunners (Sports Precinct: N2)
- Melbourne Inclusive Church (D6)
- Melbourne Motorcycle Tourers (F6)
- Melbourne Rainbow Golf (Sports Precinct: N3: Golf Australia)
- Melbourne Rovers Soccer Club (Sports Precinct: N6)
- Melbourne Smashers Badminton Club (Sports Precinct: N10)
- Melbourne Spectres Basketball Club (Sports Precinct: N11)
- Melbourne Spikers Volleyball (Sports Precinct: N9)
- Melbourne Surge Water Polo (Sports Precinct: N4)
- Melbourne Wranglers Wrestling Club (Sports Precinct: N1)
- Merri Health (F6)
- Motafrenz Car Club - Driving with Pride (F6)
- NAB (G3)
- Navy Health (C5)
- nbn co (F12)
- Newlife IVF (F15)
- No.1 Fertility (F8)
- Nurses and Midwives Health (C4)
- One Tribe Beauty (E9: One Tribe Hair & Makeup)
- Out for Australia (F3)
- Out Publication (F12)
- Planetdwellers Travel (D4: Planetdwellers)
- PRIDE Department of Transport (E13: Department Of Transport)
- Pride Cup (Sports Precinct: S4, S5, S6)
- Proud 2 Play (Sports Precinct: S3)
- Proud Minority (F8)
- Psoriasis Australia Inc (F14)
- Purple Haven (E6)
- Queer Fame Apparel & Accessories (F13: Queer Fame)
- Queer Greens Victoria (D3)
- Queer Sporting Alliance (F13)
- QueersInScience hosted by Swinburne (F3)
- queerspace - drummond street services (F12)
- RACV (C2)
- Rainbow Expression (B4: Expression Australia)
- Rainbow Labor Victoria (C5)
- Rainbow Store (F7)
- Reason Australia (E14)
- Rising Violet Press (E5)
- RMIT University (F13)
- Roma's Boutique (E5)
- Rotary (B5: Rotary International)
- Rude Rainbow (F9)
- Sea Shepherd Australia (D6)
- Seek (B2)
- Serco and Proud (E15: Serco)
- Southern Lights Ice Hockey Club (Sports Precinct: S7)

- Stalls HQ (F5, for enquiries from Stallholders)
- Star Health (E6)
- Switchboard (F3: Switchboard Victoria)
- Sydney WorldPride 2023 (E6)
- Taking Pride in Heart Health: Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute (B5)
- Teachers Health (C4)
- The Melbourne Rainbow Band (F3)
- The North is Coming Out (F12)
- The Wilderness Society (D6)
- Thorne Harbour Health & Thorne Harbour Health Services (E8)
- Trans Central Station (F4: Seahorse Victoria)
- Victoria Police LGBTIQ Liaison Officers (C6: Victoria Police)
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (E10)
- Victorian Pride Centre (F8)
- Visit Gay Australia / GALTA (B5: Gay and Lesbian Tourism Australia (GALTA))
- VMIAC (E3)
- WHAT FROGGY BAKES (D4)
- WorkSafe Victoria (E11)
- Yarra Trams (G4)
- Your Pride, Your Community Health (E4)
- Zivi Pet Food (B4: "Number 1")

MIDSUMMA PRIDE MARCH 2022 - Registered March Participants, In Order

Wave A1: Pre-March Procession

- A1: Dykes on Bikes Melbourne
- A2: Rainbow Riders Victoria
- A3: Melbourne Motorcycle Tourers

Wave A2: Indigenous Pride & Council Representatives

- A4: Indigenous Contingent
- A5: City of Port Phillip

Wave B: Youth

- B1: headspace - National Youth Mental Health Foundation

- B2: GASP Geelong
- B3: Youth Projects
- B4: Family Access Network
- B5: St Kilda Park Primary School
- B6: St Kilda Primary School
- B8: Swinburne Senior Secondary College
- B9: Carey PRIDE Group
- B10: Coburg high school standout
- B12: PRIDE WGS - Westbourne Grammar School
- B13: McKinnon Secondary College Pride Club
- B14: Xavier College
- B16: Eltham High School
- B17: Collingwood College - Pride Club
- B18: Overnewton Anglican Community College
- B19: VSV LGBTQI Students
- B20: Celebrating Diversity and Scouting's Commitment to Inclusion
- B21: Girl Guides Victoria
- B22: Knox City Council Youth Services
- B23: Manningham Youth Services
- B24: Lord Somers Camp and Power House

Wave C: Access & Inclusion

- C1: Liberty Disability Services
- C2: Homestyle Aged Care - You Are Welcome Here
- C4: QSAM - Queer South Asians of Melbourne
- C5: Performing Older Women's Circus / POW Circus
- C6: Matrix Guild Victoria
- C7: Victorian Disability Worker Commission
- C8: Latin American & Hispanic Rainbow Community: LAHRC
- C9: Rainbow Expression
- C10: Deaf-initely Pride
- C11: Rainbow Family of the Pacific Islands
- C12: Pride of our Footscray
- C13: BridgeMeals

- C15: Many Coloured Sky
- C16: Seahorse Victoria
- C17: Love For All
- C18: Adelaide and Melbourne Convents - Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence
- C19: Lifeview Residential Aged Care

Wave D: Queer Community Groups & Organisations

- D1: Motafrenz Car Club
- D3: Pride Of East Gippsland
- D4: Victorian Pride Centre
- D5: Thorne Harbour Health
- D6: The Pinnacle Foundation
- D8: Melbourne Bisexual Network
- D9: Melbourne Bisexual/Pansexual Community
- D10: Aces+ Melbourne
- D11: Goulburn Valley Pride Inc.
- D13: Vicbears
- D14: VicPAH - Victorian Pups and Handlers
- D16: queerspace - drummond street services
- D17: Low Rez Melbourne Male Choir
- D18: Melbourne Rainbow Band
- D19: Skirt Club Australia
- D20: Spaced Out LGBTI Sci Fi Group
- D21: Rainbow LARP
- D22: Pride in Community Law - LGBTIQ Legal Service
- D24: Proud and Pawsome
- D25: Queer Nature Connection
- D26: Rainbow Dads Victoria
- D27: BONEZ Queer Party
- D28: Folsom Down Under
- D29: Drag Kings of Melbourne
- D30: Support Melbourne Drag
- D30b: JOY
- D31: ChillOut Daylesford Inc

Wave E: Organisations Showing Pride

- E1: NAB
- E2: Pride in Finance
- E4: Belong Mobile and Internet

- E5: Seek
 - E6: AGL - Shine
 - E7: RACV
 - E8: Dan Murphy's
 - E9: PostPride - Australia Post
 - E10: L'Oréal Australia
 - E11: Corrs Chambers Westgarth
 - E12: Richmond Football Club
- Wave F1: Cultural and Spiritual Organisations**
- F1: Jews Of Pride - Aleph Melbourne
 - F2: SKIF Melbourne
 - F3: Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria
 - F4: Hashomer Hatzair Australia
 - F5: Pathways Melbourne
 - F6: Habonim Dror Melbourne
 - F7: Anti-Defamation Commission
 - F8: Zionism Victoria
 - F9: AJDS - Australian Jewish Democratic Society
 - F10: Jewish Community Council of Victoria and Temple Beth
 - F12: Acceptance Melbourne
 - F13: Melbourne Inclusive Church

Wave F2: Sports Clubs

- F14: Rainbow Sports Alliance - Proud2Play
- F15: Queer Sporting Alliance
- F16: Melbourne Argonauts Rowing Club
- F17: Bent Kranks
- F18: The Nomads Outdoors Group
- F19: 69ers Ten Pin Bowling
- F20: Melbourne Spikers Volleyball
- F22: Melbourne Smashers Badminton Club
- F23: Shuttlecats
- F24: Melbourne Wranglers Wrestling
- F25: Glamourhead Sharks
- F26: Melbourne Frontrunners
- F27: Melbourne Chargers R.U.F.C
- F28: Melbourne Surge Water Polo
- F29: Melbourne Spectres Basketball Club

- F30: St Kilda Bowling Club
- F31: Cricket Victoria
- F33: St Kilda Football Club & AFL
- F34: Hawks Pride
- F35: Kingston City Rollers

Wave G1: Emergency Service

- G6: Emergency Management Pride Network
- G7: Emergency Management Victoria
- G5: Inspector-General for Emergency Management
- G1: Fire Rescue Victoria
- G2: CFA: Country Fire Authority
- G3: Victoria State Emergency Service
- G4: Life Saving Victoria
- G8: Victoria Police
- G10: Ambulance Victoria
- G11: St John Ambulance

Wave G2: Individuals, Friends & Families

- G12: Individuals, Friends and Family inclusive of: Families who Love & Support their LGBTQ+ Children, Finn Toohey, Nevo family, Rainbow friends, JJ Entertainment, Rainbow Gelato, Jorja Lirsch, Yeshani Weerakkody, Ashleigh Morris, Team Heron, Best Friend Squad, Jade & Sian's Clan, Sanjana, Randier Andrea, Mengyu He, Tess Parton, The Kinetic Sculpture Race's Rutabaga Queen Shaye, Nan Ma, Nellie Malseed, The Lads, Elizabeth Wei, Nunga And Very Take Over The World"

Wave H: Organisations Showing Pride & Political Representatives

- H2: Australian Association of Social Workers
- H3: Rotary
- H4: Rainbow Labor
- H5: U.S. Consulate Melbourne
- H6: Pride Tribe - Great Southern Bank
- H7: Ernst and Young
- H8: City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band
- H9: Ashurst Australia
- H10: Deloitte
- H11: Norton Rose Fullbright

- H12: JLL Pride
- H13: PRISM: CPA Australia's LGBTQ+ Network
- H14: Nike
- H16: Proud at Woolworths Group
- H17: Yotpo Pride
- H18: GRV and GAP
- H19: Coles Group

Wave I: Community Care & Healthcare

- I2: Fostering Connections & Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
- I3: The Y: YMCA Victoria
- I4: Mid West Area Mental Health Service
- I5: Whittlesea Community Connections
- I6: Better Place Australia
- I7: Tandem
- I8: Sacred Heart Mission
- I9: Clean and Sober

- I11: SECASA: South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence
- I12: TaskForce Community Agency
- I13: Odyssey House Victoria
- I15: Uniting Network - Uniting Church LGBTIQ Network
- I16: Uniting Vic.Tas

Wave J1: Educational Institutions & Student Union Groups

- J2: Pride in Action Network: University of Melbourne
- J4: Melbourne University Physiotherapy Student Society
- J5: Monash University
- J6: MDQueer
- J7: MSA Queer
- J8: TAFE Victoria
- J9: Victoria University
- J10: RMIT University
- J10b: Monash University Queer Health Collective
- J11: LCI Melbourne
- J12: La Trobe University Law Students'

- Association
- J13: Australian Institute of Music (AIM)
- J16: Keypath Education
- J18: Burnet Institute
- J19: Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI)
- J20: Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Wave J2: Primary Health Care

- J21: Royal Childrens Hospital Gender Service
- J22: The Royal Children's Hospital
- J24: Pride in the North: DPV Health
- J25: Pride in the North: Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health
- J29: Melbourne IVF
- J30: Star Health
- J31: cohealth
- J32: Your Community Health

Wave J2: Primary Health Care

- J21: Royal Childrens Hospital Gender Service
- J22: The Royal Children's Hospital
- J24: Pride in the North: DPV Health
- J25: Pride in the North: Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health
- J29: Melbourne IVF
- J30: Star Health
- J31: cohealth
- J32: Your Community Health

Wave K1: Local Councils & Organisations Showing Pride

- K1: LGPro
- K3: Moreland City Council
- K4: City of Whittlesea Council
- K5: Darebin Council
- K6: Nillumbik Shire Council
- K7: Yarra City Council
- K8: Glen Eira City Council
- K9: City of Kingston
- K10: Manningham City Council
- K11: City of Stonnington
- K12: Bayside City Council

- K13: Greater Dandenong Council
- K14: West for Midsumma: City of Melton

Wave K2: Government Affiliated Organisations & Unions

- K17: Union Pride: Victorian Trades Hall Council
- K18: AEU Pride
- K19: Independent Education Union
- K20: VPS Pride Network
- K21: Library Pride: Public Libraries of Victoria
- K22: Parks Victoria
- K23: Pride in Water
- K24: TIO: The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman
- K25: WorkSafe Victoria
- K26: nbn co
- K27: Yarra Trams Pride Alliance

Wave L: Organisations Showing Pride & Political Representatives

- L1: Ford Motor Company of Australia
- L2: John Holland Pride Network
- L3: AIG
- L5: Northern Trust
- L6: Liberal Pride
- L7: Kmart - Pride Network (VIC)
- L8: Queer Greens
- L9: Animal Justice Party
- L10: Viva Energy Australia
- L11: Jacobs
- L12: Fiona Patten and Reason Victoria
- L13: Lubrstore.com
- L14: Compass Group Australia
- L15: bp pride
- L16: House of Airline Internationale - "Survival!"
- L17: Zhong Centre
- L18: Vespa Club of Melbourne

Wave M: Midsumma Festival

- M1: Midsumma Festival

