



**ANNUAL REPORT
2018/19**



midsumma.org.au

Image: *The Odditorium*
Image by Suzanne Balding
featuring Miss Amy

Cover image: by Alexis Desaulniers-Lea
and artwork by Matto Lucas
featuring Wade Tuck.

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WHAT IS MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL?

Midsumma Festival is Australia's premier LGBTQIA+ arts and cultural festival held annually in Melbourne for and by communities who live with shared experiences around diverse gender and sexuality.

Midsumma Festival showcases an average 180 events across 80 venues, during the 22-day festival each year through open-access events and a curated program – Midsumma Presents. Events include arts and cultural experiences such as theatre, music, comedy, dance, visual arts, digital arts and film – as well as forums, sporting, family and social events.

Image: Midsumma Extravaganza 2019 by Midsumma Festival and Arts Centre Melbourne. Image by Suzanne Balding featuring (left to right) Sheldon Riley, Steven Oliver, Geraldine Hickey, Rhys Nicholson, Carlotta, Joel Creasey, Libby O'Donovan, Beccy Cole, Mama Alto, Zoe Coombs Marr and Trevor Ashley.

Midsumma Festival also holds two annual signature events – Midsumma Carnival and Midsumma Pride March. Midsumma Carnival opens the Festival with a one day celebration at Alexandra Gardens in Melbourne's CBD and Midsumma Pride March is held on the third weekend of the Festival each year flowing through Fitzroy St in St Kilda to the foreshore of Catani Gardens.

Although the primary festival is held each year in summer, Midsumma works year-round to provide queer artists, social-changers and culture-makers with support, platforms and tools to create, present and promote their work, connect with their communities and tell their stories.

WHO ARE WE?

- We are a cultural connector and influencer.
- We are the intersection between people, ideas, stories and experiences.
- We are simultaneously a thought-leader and a learning organisation.
- We are active and constantly evolving. Progression and development lies at our core.
- We are committed to a culture of shared responsibility.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We create inclusive safe cultural and social spaces.
- We lead conversations and we listen.
- We champion collaboration.
- We provide platforms for shared experience in a world that often underrepresents us.
- We increase visibility, and amplify voices that might otherwise not be seen or heard.
- We imagine positive futures. We challenge, inspire and take risks in pursuit of these.
- We seek new perspectives and paradigms; yet never forget the value of our past.
- We offer time, place and space for our communities and allies to engage.

'Melbourne's Midsumma Festival has grown at the same outsized pace as the city it calls home.'

Cameron Woodhead, The Age



CHAIR'S REPORT

Reviewing the 2019 festival has been a complete joy. Having assumed the role of Chair four years ago, I am humbled each year at the achievements of Midsumma Festival and 2019 did not disappoint.

Whilst we saw once again growth across the Festival including audience numbers, breadth of community engagement, and record attendance at Midsumma Carnival, just to name a few, there are some numbers that make my heart sing even more; such as, 33% of people attending Midsumma Festival for the first time. Whether community members or allies, to think that we are reaching new people with compelling stories makes me so proud.

I am also thrilled to see that Midsumma Festival remains highly accessible for everyone, with 44% of events free to attend. On top of this our focus on accessibility for community members living with disability has been tremendous, our program guide was provided in multiple formats to maximize accessibility and we saw a 33% increase in Auslan interpretation. We also partnered with Arts Access Victoria, Description Victoria, Auslan Stage Left and Guide Dogs Victoria to deliver multi-layered access.

While our core activities are going from strength to strength, I am really proud of some of our year-round activities that have seen us deliver even more to our communities and ensure a more sustainable LGBTQIA+ arts culture in Victoria.

'Whether community members or allies, to think that we are reaching new people with compelling stories makes me so proud.'

On top of Midsumma Pathways, our year-round mentoring program for community members living with disabilities and Midsumma Futures, which focuses on mentoring up and coming artists, this year we also launched BODY which is one of the most impactful projects we have embarked upon in my time with Midsumma.

BODY is a trans/gender diverse project (a mini festival within a festival) in partnership with Arts house. This is a landmark project of national significance. BODY included works by 27 trans and gender diverse artists and 3 intersex artists, locally and internationally including new works commissioned by Midsumma especially for this program.

As this is my last year as chair I can't help but reflect on how far Midsumma has come over the last four years and be proud, but to reflect even further to the last 30 years and those who have come before me and thank them all for laying the foundations to allow our current team to build upon.

My gratitude to the board and the community for allowing me to be the custodian of this incredibly special festival for the last four years cannot be put into words. It's been the most special time of my life and I can't wait to support the organisation into the future, albeit from the sidelines.

John Caldwell
Chair, Midsumma Festival Inc.

2019 MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our Audiences

284,583

Attended Midsumma Festival 2019, an overall attendance increase of 54% in two years, and an increase of over 65% attendance for our arts and culture program

118,000 7,430

Attended Midsumma Carnival; highest attendance recorded

Marchers at Midsumma Pride March; largest number of marchers on record, 23% increase over 3 years

67%

Returning audiences; 33% new audiences

57%

Of audiences who identify as 'families' attended with children under 11 years old

Midsumma Carnival 2019 by Creative Edge Photography

Our 2019 Program

179

Events

Representing an increase of 43% in the last 2 years

11%

Of events sold-out or met full capacity

\$22

Average ticket price

33%

Increase of Auslan interpreted or audio described events

44%

Free events over last 3 years

11%

Of artists culturally and linguistically diverse

Our Online Communities

75%

Increase in social media engagement

26.5%

Increase in website visitors

Our Communities' Commitment

211 Volunteers

2,420

Volunteer hours over 23 days of the Festival – a 26% increase in 2 years

2019 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

80%▲

increase in total income over past 3 years with 7.7% in last year

52% ▲

increase in festival earned event income (bars, ticketing, registrations, stalls) in 3 years, with 12.5% increase in last year

75%▲

increase in corporate sponsorship in 3 years, with 5.8% increase in last year

54% ▲

increase in philanthropic donations in 3 years, with 10.5% increase in last year

Increased visitation and associated economic impact for Victoria

84% of attendees

were from metropolitan Melbourne

8% of attendees

were from regional Victoria

4% of audiences

travelled from outside Victoria

3% of audiences

were overseas visitors

\$14 Million

direct economic impact to Victoria, according to an independent analysis (up from \$8.02 Million previous year)

\$32 Million

broader gross economic impact for the festival to the state's economy across multiple employment sectors (up from \$18.6 Million previous year)

118 FTEs equivalent created

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

'Midsumma attracts a broad attendance across age ranges and demographics; truly representing inclusion and diversity in all its forms.'

Karen Bryant,
CEO, Midsumma Festival

2019 PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

Midsumma works hard to make 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. The 2019 Festival program was successful in highlighting the objectives from our current 3-year strategic plan. These were particularly evident in the following key performance areas:

- Significant growth in attendances (and therefore reach), the second year in a row that noteworthy audience increases have been recorded. The 2019 Midsumma Festival attracted **284,583** people. This was a **7.2%** increase over 2018 festival figures after a huge rise that year from

2017. Midsumma Carnival and Midsumma Pride March both recorded **highest ever** attendances in 2019. Over the past 2 years total attendances overall for Midsumma Festival have increased by **54%** with attendances to the arts and cultural program growing by **65.4%** over the same period.

- **Attracting new audiences whilst maintaining ongoing audience loyalty.** Our figures across multiple years show that we sustained new audiences from 2018 (for the 2018 festival 42% of attendees were new to Midsumma) and further built upon them with **33%** of 2019 attendees attending their first Midsumma Festival.

- **Significant growth in scale** of event. In the past two years the size of the Festival (number of events) has grown by **43.2%**. Our signature events Midsumma Carnival and Midsumma Pride March also both grew in both audience size and participation numbers. For Carnival: community stall numbers, and for Midsumma Pride March: numbers of people marching were both the highest ever recorded by Midsumma. **184 community stalls** at Midsumma Carnival (up from 168 the previous year and 142 the year before - **29.6%** increase in 2 years.) In 2019 **179 separate events** took place in over 70 venues across 23 days.

- Attendance surveys show that Midsumma Festival attracts broad attendances across age ranges and demographics, truly representing inclusion and diversion in all its forms.
- **Highly accessible** - The Midsumma Festival remains highly accessible. For 2019 **36.3%** of events were free with an average ticket price for ticketed events of \$22. Over the past three festivals Midsumma have averaged **44%** of events being free to participate in or attend.

Image: *Midsumma Carnival 2019 Main Stage*
by Suzanne Balding featuring DJ Dom De Sous



- **Continued increased in breadth of venues participating.** New Hub venues for 2019 included Theatre Works and Howler, and Melbourne Museum joined the growing list of major cultural institutions partnering with Midsumma for the first time.
- For the first time ever Midsumma produced a trans/gender diverse signature project **BODY** (a mini festival within a festival) in partnership with Arts House, with satellite projects at Arts Centre Melbourne and Incinerator Gallery. This landmark project of **national significance** included works by 27 trans and gender diverse artists and 3 intersex artists locally and internationally including new works commissioned by

the festival especially for this project. The sold-out Gender Euphoria showcased the first professional all gender diverse cast on a main stage in Australia, and touring production MDLSX (Italian company Modus): was the first professional international intersex production toured to Victoria.

- **11% of 2019 audiences identify as trans/gender diverse or an intersex representation.**

- Increased female attendance was a goal in the current 3-year planning period. Midsumma has seen an increase in female attendances of **10%** in the past two years since seeking to address this in both programming and marketing. (2019 - 45% male, 44% female)
- **8% of audiences identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.** Partnerships with Vic NAIDOC Committee and Yirramboi Festival, and employment of an Indigenous Engagement Coordinator have increased visibility for and cultural events by LGBTQIA+ First Nations peoples in the festival.
- **Increased international engagement.** It is vital that LGBTQIA+ artists present their work within a national and international context. Midsumma Festival has built its capacity to collaborate internationally and this year's festival included increased international presentations directly facilitated by Midsumma: Italy's Motus, South Africa's Nakhane & New Zealand's Kelly O'Shea as well as international annual online exhibition QueerTech.io. Increased international presentations featuring in our open-access program included works from UK, Ireland, USA; presented at venues including Arts Centre Melbourne, Theatre Works, Substation, and BalletLab.
- **Disability access and engagement initiatives** within Midsumma Festival saw a **33% increase** in Auslan interpretation (having achieved a 54% increase the year before). Our program guide was provided in multiple formats to maximise accessibility. Midsumma partnered with Arts Access Victoria, Slow Art Collective, Description Victoria, Auslan Stage Left and Guide Dogs Victoria to deliver multiple multi layered access and engagement initiatives. See specific access section of this report for further details.
- **Increased participation by seniors** (over 64 years of age). 4% of attendees in 2019 up from 2% in 2018.
- Continued high presence/participation in the festival program from People of Colour, Indigenous, youth, and diverse families.
- Increased social media reach as well as increased website traffic and PR reach (see further details within report). Facebook - **60% increase** in post reach and **75% increase** in engagement compared to 2018. Twitter - **56% increase** in post reach, **2%** increase in mentions, **213%** increase in followers compared to 2018. We also recorded a **26.5% increase** in website traffic during Midsumma Festival 2019 compared to the same period for Midsumma Festival 2018. On the day of Midsumma Carnival (20 Jan 2019) alone we recorded 12,178 visits to the Midsumma website.
- Maximisation of earned income through ticketing, bars and hire of stalls and food trader sites resulted in an increase in festival event earned income of **23%** from 2018. All earned income is used directly to support community and access initiatives.
- Significant increased economic impact for the state through both visitation of attendees from outside the state and local attendee event spend. **74.6% increase in direct economic impact and 72% increase in gross economic impact to the state's economy.**
- External recognition for the increased artistic quality and artistic breadth of programming in 2019.

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES 2019 FESTIVAL

Total attendances – 284,089 people (increasing from 264,895 in 2018, a 7.2% increase).

This was made up of 27,427 paid attendances to ticketed events and 256,663 attendances to free events. Midsumma Presents, the events we produce or co produce ourselves (made up of both ticketed and free events) made up 197,868 of total attendances for the festival (compared with 139,249 in 2018).

Rather than simply being a 'niche' festival we are now clearly one of the largest festivals in Victoria in terms of attendances.

Midsumma is successfully (and consistently) attracting new audiences as well as maintaining the loyalty of long-term attendees. **33%** of the 2019 Festivals audiences were attending their first ever Midsumma Festival.

Visitation from outside Melbourne is a key target growth area for Midsumma in future years. Whilst **84%** of attendees were from metropolitan Melbourne, **7%** of audiences survey travelled to Melbourne from outside the State specifically for the Midsumma Festival. Attendances from overseas were **3% of audiences** surveyed. A further **8%** of audiences surveyed travelled to Melbourne from regional Victoria for Midsumma 2019. On average, regional Victorian respondents stayed two nights, interstate respondents stayed four nights, and overseas respondents stayed 15 nights.

According to primary data collected (independent external analysis) on visitor spending and financial reports on organisational spending, the direct economic impact of the festival was **\$14 million** (up from \$8.02 Million in 2018). After application of relevant gross value add multipliers (using recognised ABS multipliers), the broader impact of the festival events on local economies has been estimated by Culture Counts at **\$32 million** (up from \$18.6 Million in 2018). This generated an estimated **118 FTE's** in terms of employment across the entertainment, retail, tourism and food and beverage sectors.

Audience demographics: (figures below not including youth or children attending with adults, see additional info on these figures below)

- 17% of adult audiences were under the age of 24.
- 39% of attendees were from the 25 to 34 year old age group.
- 19% were 35 to 44 year olds.
- 14% 45 to 54 year olds.
- 7% aged between 55 years and 64 years.
- 4% of audiences over 55 years of age.
- Of those above 2% of attendees were attending the festival with young people/children:
- 46% of these were attending with teenagers over 12 but under 18 years of age.
- 38% were attending with children between the ages of 5 years and 11 years of age.
- 19% were attending with children under 4 years of age.

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 2019

The 2019 Midsumma Festival opened on **Saturday 19 January and ran for 23 days, finishing 10 February.**

For this year, Midsumma continued to improve the depth, quality and variety of the Midsumma programming, a response to the broad range of our communities and audience demographics. A clear curatorial vision underpins all of Midsumma's programming, 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+ arts and cultural festival.

It is vital that LGBTQIA+ arts and culture events are presented within a national and international context. Over the past two years Midsumma Festival has built its capacity to collaborate internationally and this year's festival included increased international presentations directly facilitated by Midsumma within our Midsumma Presents program. Our success in this area could also be seen with increased international presentations within the open access program for 2019.

179 separate events took place across **more than 70 venues**. The scale of the Midsumma Festival has increased **43.2%** in program size over the past two years.

Overall 11% of ticketed events sold out or reached maximum capacity.

SIGNATURE EVENTS: MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL

The highlight of our opening weekend each year is Midsumma Carnival, the first of our large-scale signature events, this year held on Sunday 20 January 2019.

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. In itself Carnival is a huge single day event running from 11am until 10pm in Alexandra Gardens in Melbourne's CBD, with a massive 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.

This popular annual event is free to the public and whilst exact attendance numbers are impossible to count, stall holders and previous regular attendees repeatedly commented that they felt the event attracted far greater numbers than ever before, evidenced by people traffic across all key sites around the event (formally recorded hourly by external security staff) when compared with previous experiences.

For this year the Midsumma Carnival site footprint was extended to enable the introduction of additional areas and expansions of others, specifically to increase the engagement for a

broader range of our communities and demographics. All of these areas were full throughout the day (and night).

The Family Precinct returned for its second year (a new initiative in 2018) as part of our deepening exploration of programming for diverse families. 2019 saw Midsumma Festival collaborate with Rainbow Families Victoria and expand on the footprint and programming offering of Families Precinct. This precinct included a Kids Salon for costume-making, make-up, and arts & crafts by artist Discophoria; a Reading Corner by Hares and Hyenas; performances Northern Rainbow Music, Kirsty Letts, Discophoria and Jo Hirst; and talks events on topics including 'Being Rainbow Family Ready', 'Being A Trans, Gender Diverse & Nonbinary Parent' and 'Donors, Adoption & Surrogacy'.

We further expanded our under 18 Youth Precinct in 2019, run in partnership with **Minus18**, making improvements to the program offering and to the safety of young people. Based on the success and high-demand from the 2018 festival, we partnered for a second year with **Alice's Garage** to provide a space for LGBTI seniors (though people of all ages were welcome).

As a sign of Midsumma's ongoing commitment to access at Midsumma Carnival:

- 70% of the program was interpreted by **Auslan Stage Left**.
- Blind and low vision community members were assisted by **Description Victoria**.
- Access improvements across the site were made in response to an access audit conducted by **Guide Dogs Victoria** in 2018.

Midsumma Carnival continued to focus on **safety and well being**, with safety messaging throughout the site (from sun-smart through to sexual consent education) and a new partnership with **DanceWize**, who provided peer education and care for festival goers as part of our ongoing commitment to cultivating a safe festival environment for our audiences and communities.

Officially attendances at Midsumma Carnival have been estimated at a record-breaking **118,000** attendees.

184 community stalls (up from 168 the previous year and 142 the year before) participated, and multiple stages were programmed throughout the day and evening. The day-time programming for Carnival was focused around performers registered within the Midsumma Program, to provide maximum promotional opportunities for these artists/events; supplemented with guest artists and key fun community events specifically devised for the day.

Official proceedings on the Main Stage mid-afternoon included a Welcome to Country presented by **Alex Kerr** (Wurundjeri) and **Uncle Jack Charles** (Boon Wurrung) and accompanied by our queer Indigenous ambassadors, as well as speeches by The Right Honourable **Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp** (representing City of Melbourne), **Minister Harriet Shing MLC**, Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health, representing State Government of Victoria, **John Caldwell** – Chair of Midsumma Festival, and **Rachel Slade**, Executive General Manager Deposits & Transaction Services and Executive Sponsor of Pride @NAB (NAB is Principal Corporate Sponsor of Midsumma).

The daytime stage program included a comprehensive artistic line-up of performances on the Main Stage including **Ms CeCe Rockefeller** (previous

participant of Midsumma mentoring program, Midsumma Futures), **Victoria Falconer** (London-based cabaret sensation), **Dolly Diamond** (a Midsumma audience favourite) and excerpts from **Gender Euphoria** (a Midsumma Festival and Arts Centre Melbourne co-presentation showcasing leading trans and gender diverse artists).

Hosted throughout the day by Lou Wall (rising comedy-drag superstar) and Art Simone (one of Australia's premier drag performers) - both new to Midsumma Festival - Midsumma Carnival also saw the return of community groups **Melbourne Rainbow Band** and **Melbourne Gay and Lesbian Chorus**.

The Picnic Stage was the heart of participation by the Midsumma community, with the return of the festival-favourite **Dog Show** with new host Tristan Meecham (All the Queens Men) along with judges Ro Allen (Victoria's First Gender and Sexuality Commissioner), Councillor Beverley Pinder (City of Melbourne), Bray Otley (ZiwiPeak - Dog food supplier/sponsor) and Charlie Spendlove (Guide Dogs Victoria). **Dean Arcuri** returned to the Picnic Stage to host the ultimate lip sync competition with **Lip Sync Limelight** and this year we introduced Queer Yoga and a dance workshop with Marnie Newton.

As the sun went down Midsumma Carnival turned into **T Dance**, an ostentatious fun dance party. For a second year, T Dance took place across both the Main Stage and the Picnic Stage (traditionally T Dance was limited to only the Main Stage). 2019 saw the most sophisticated programming yet of leading queer indie musicians with a line-up including:

- DJ Magnus
- The Marion Cranes
- DJ Dom De Sousa
- DJ Ruby Slippers
- The Huxleys
- DJ SVETA
- Maribelle
- DJ Airhorn Mami
- DJ Jalé
- DJ Nature Girl
- Huntly
- Nefertiti La Negra (current Midsumma Futures mentorship program participant)
- Tanya George

The **Sports Precinct** was once again presented by partner community organisation **Team Melbourne** with special guests from Midsumma Partner, **Richmond Football Club** and a full day of programming which included a wrestling presentation by the **Melbourne Wranglers Wrestling Club** and flipper and buoy relay races by the **Glamourhead Sharks Aquatics Club**.

MIDSUMMA PRIDE MARCH

The second of our signature events was **Midsumma Pride March**, conducted for the 24th year, on Sunday **3 February 2019**. This iconic event brings together members of the community from all across Melbourne.

This year Midsumma Festival actively mitigated against the increasing heat of our summers by changing the start time of the event to 11am (previously held at 2pm, the hottest time of the day). The 2018 Midsumma Pride March was marred by extreme heat of 41 degrees and whilst the 2019 event was a hot day (peak of 38 degrees), the effects of extreme heat were avoided with all marchers having completed the march route before it reached 34 degrees.

7,430 marchers took to the streets down Fitzroy Street in St Kilda this year and it was estimated by St Kilda Police and Security representatives that **45,000** people lined the streets and balconies along the march route to show their support – making this the best-attended Pride March in Victoria's history with total attendance of **53,430** people present. In terms of scale, march

numbers for Midsumma Pride March are considerably larger than other annual march's held in Victoria.

Dykes on Bikes preceeded the marching contingent as per tradition with the march itself led by **Boon Wurrung Elders** and a Rainbow Aboriginal Float along with the Premier of Victoria **Daniel Andrews**, Minister for Equality and the Creative Industries, **Martin Foley** and Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality, **Ro Allen**.

Hundreds 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 **LGBTQIA+ youth**.

For the second year Midsumma continued the **Midsumma Pride March Awards**, intended to encourage colourful and innovative contributions from March participants. This year's judging panel were Mama Alto (leading transgender performer); Ruby Mountford (Bi-Sexual advocate and community leader); and Adolfo Aranjuez (writer, editor and dancer, and previous participant of Midsumma Futures).

2019 Pride March Award winners were:

- **Most Fabulous:** VIKA
- **Most Significant Message:** Lifeview Residential Care
- **Most Innovative:** Rainbow Aboriginal Pride
- **Honourable mentions:** Victoria's bisexual community | Deaf-initely Pride | Minus18 | Melbourne Aces - Asexuals Australia

At the conclusion of the march, attendees were led into Catani Gardens for celebrations and entertainment including DJs and live performances from **DJ Renee Delay, Hans, Chela and Bec Sandridge** (as well as a surprise appearance from

Magda Szubanski) – all hosted by the indomitable **Yana Alana**. Formalities included a Welcome to Country by **N'arweet Carolyn Briggs**, the Minister for Creative Industries and Equality **Martin Foley** and the Mayor of City of Port Phillip **Cr Dick Gross**.

Media coverage for Pride March was once again very strong with all free to air TV stations covering both the march itself and a pre event media call, on their news broadcasts.

Image: Midsumma Pride March 2018
by Kate Arnott

MIDSUMMA PRESENTS PROGRAM

Over the last three festivals, Midsumma Festival has worked hard to steadily increase our capacity to play a proactive role in developing the queer cultural footprint of Melbourne. For the 2019 festival this was clearly seen by the increase of events directly produced by or co-presented by Midsumma. As the festival continues its leadership position and generated programming for and with communities that were underrepresented previously in the open-access arm of the program or that represents cutting edge or leadership work within the arts or LGBTQIA+ cultures.

We utilised partnerships with outstanding cultural venues and community groups to produce 44 separate events in 2019 (increased from 30 Midsumma presented events in 2018 and 5 Midsumma presented events in 2017).

Partnerships for co-presented events included Arts Centre Melbourne, The Coopers Malthouse, Arts House, Melbourne Museum, The Melba Spiegeltent, Dance House, Australia Post, No Vacancy Gallery, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Bus Projects, Incinerator Gallery, ACMI, Abbotsford Convent, QueerTech.io, Cocoa Butter Club, Gasworks Arts Park and YGender.

The 2019 festival also saw an increase in the number of international presentations by Midsumma Festival including Italian company **MOTUS**, New Zealand artist **Kelly O'Shea**, South African and London-based musician **Nakhane**, UK-based performance artist **Krishna Isha** and Taiwanese filmmaker **Chou Tung-Yen**. Online exhibition **QueerTech.io** also sees engagement with artists from across the world including France, USA and Canada.

Highlights included

BODY

A new major 'signature' project by Midsumma Festival amplifying the voices of trans, gender diverse and intersex peoples, BODY was a major new project featuring a suite of works by leading international and local artists. Produced in partnership with Arts House, Arts Centre Melbourne and Incinerator Gallery, BODY championed the notion that individuals should have sovereignty over their own bodies.

This was a project of national significance placing Midsumma at the very forefront of ground breaking trans and gender diverse arts events nationally. The project included the first fully trans/gender diverse professional cast presented on a main stage anywhere in Australia and the first professionally toured international intersex performance.

With the support of Australia Council for the Arts and Besen Family Foundation, the heart of BODY took place at Arts House across three days from 31 Jan to 2 Feb with a suite of performances, visual art, music events and talks by:

- **Silvia Calderoni** and **Motus** - MDLSX (internationally renowned intersex artist with a work that has wowed audiences across the world)
- **Raina Peterson** and **Govind Pillai** - Third Nature (an opulent dance work fusing trans politics and traditional Indian dance)
- **Krishna Isha** - Beast (a comedic exploration into the life of a trans person in 2019, directed by Zoe Coomba Marr)
- **Bonnie Hart** - HR (a durational performance exploring intersex experience by leading intersex artist and activist)
- **Kelly O'Shea** - POISE (visual art installation by New Zealand intersex artist)
- **Debris Facility** - De/Afficiency (visual art installation by Melbourne's leading trans artist)
- **Lou Fourie** - BodMod Salon (body casting workshop by emerging local trans artist)
- **Simona Castricum** - Panopticon (album launch by Melbourne trans vocalist and electronic percussionist)
- **Habits** and **V** (two leading indie music trans groups)
- **Lay the Mystic, Martinus Kraan** in a powerful discussion on First Nations peoples' experiences of gender diversity.

Arts Centre Melbourne worked with Midsumma Festival to co-present the sell-out success Gender Euphoria. Joined by a cavalcade of transgender legends, cabaret icons **Mama Alto** and **Maude Davey** led the first all-trans & gender diverse main stage production in Australia.

Incinerator Gallery (Moonee Valley) joined forces with Midsumma Festival to co-present Personal Touch, an exhibition of trans and gender diverse artists reflecting on trans experiences through self-portraiture.

Midsumma Extravaganza

After the sell-out success of the 2018 Midsumma Comedy Extravaganza in Arts Centre Melbourne's Fairfax Theatre, Midsumma Festival and Arts Centre Melbourne partnered again to present a bigger and better version for the 2019 festival. Midsumma Extravaganza at Hamer Hall continued Midsumma's work to capture a mainstream audience while profiling outstanding queer talent. Curated by Midsumma alumni comedian **Thomas Jaspers** and **Trevor Ashley** (Les Miserables, Fat Swan, Diamonds Are For Trevor), and

Image: MDLSX by Motus featuring Silvia Calderoni as part of Midsumma Major Project 2019 BODY

hosted by **Rhys Nicholson** (Gay Crashers, MICF Barry Award Nominee), the Midsumma Extravaganza featured:

- **YUMMY** (Bank SA Best Cabaret, Adelaide Fringe)
- **Geraldine Hickey** (co-host of RRR "Breakfasters")
- **Steven Oliver** (Black Comedy)
- **Mama Alto** (GLOBE Artist Of The Year)
- **Joel Creasey** (Take Me Out, Show Me The Movie)
- **Beccy Cole** (one of Australia's most successful singer songwriters)
- **Sheldon Riley** ("The Voice" Season 7 grand finalist)
- **Libby O'Donovan** (renowned for her nuanced interpretations and extraordinary voice)
- **Zoe Coombs Marr** (MICF Barry Award Winner)
- **Carlotta** (renowned for her trans visibility on Australian TV in 70s, 80s and 90s and much-loved day-time show host)

Midsumma and Australia Post Art Prize

Since its inauguration in 2016 the **Midsumma and Australia Post Art Prize** has quickly established itself as the nation's leading queer art award and exhibition.

With finalists selected from across the country, the Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize is a survey of outstanding queer artists reflecting their potent personal and political perspectives on the world.

This year, with an increased prize pool (\$10,000), the submissions were of an impressive professional standard, the best yet for this important visual arts event. The finalist exhibition for 2019 was of a quality that would have been at home in any visual arts gallery within Melbourne.

This is a nation-wide non-acquisitive annual award featuring early-career and established artists working in any medium. Judges of the major art prize of \$5000 include Francis Parker (MUMA), Madé Spencer-Castle (Centre for Contemporary Photography) and Gary Starr (Australia Post's Executive General Manager, Business and Government; and PostPride Executive Sponsor). Finalists also compete for the People's Choice Prize of \$1000, the Star Observer Prize of \$1000, and - a new award for 2019 - the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Residency Award (includes an artist fee, residency opportunity and public outcome).

The 2019 Midsumma and Australia Post Art Prize took place at No Vacancy Gallery opening with a VIP function and awards ceremony on the evening of 22 January and then running through until 3 Feb. An artist talk was held at the exhibition on 29 January to enable patrons to gain deeper understanding about the motivations and implications behind the artists' works.

The 2019 Midsumma and Australia Post Art Prize Winners were:

- Major Award Winner (\$5000): Dexter Rosengrave
- Star Observer Award (\$1000): Kate Just
- Bundoora Homestead Art Award (includes an artist fee, residency opportunity and public outcome): Sean Miles (Ngati Raukawa)
- People's Choice Award (\$1000): Paul Yore

Finalists of the 2019 Midsumma and Australia Post Art Prize were:

Alisha Abate | Alun Rhys Jones | Danielle Reynolds | Dexter Rosengrave | Ella Sowinska | Georgia Robenstone | Kate Just | Kate Power | Nicholas Smith | Olivia Koh | Paul Yore | Rosie Isaac | Sean Miles

Dancing Qweens

For the first time, Midsumma Festival partnered with Dance House, presenting James Welsby's Dancing Qweens - a new work exploring 50 years of queer dance history channelled into a highly interactive and surreal performance experience. This event represented Midsumma Festival's deepening of engagement with dance audiences and institutions.

Nocturnal featuring Nakhane

Another first-time partnership, Midsumma Festival joined forces with Melbourne Museum to present **Nakhane** as part of the museum's monthly Nocturnal program. Nakhane is a South African musician and queer rights advocate and performed for Midsumma Festival straight from Sydney Festival. Midsumma Festival were able to connect local Queer-and-Trans-People-Of-Colour performance collective, **The Cocoa Butter Club**, with Melbourne Museum who opened this unique event - indicative of Midsumma Festival's ability to afford opportunities to local queer artists with major institutions.

Consent Festival

As a thought-leader, Midsumma Festival collaborated with the Melba Spiegeltent and Mean Projects to present Consent Festival - a one-day talks-and-workshops symposium on the topic of consent and queer communities.

- Quinn Eades (author Rallying, All the Beginnings: A Queer Autobiography of the Body, and 2018 Mary Gilmore Award winner)
- Nevo Zisin (author Finding Nevo)
- Ayman Barbaresco (LGBTQIA+ disability advocate)
- Adolfo Aranjuez (editor Archer Magazine)
- Bobuq Sayed (founder QTPOC collective Colour Tounes)

- Margherita Coppolino (inclusion consultant and photographer)
- Sonja Hammer (Queer Geeks of Oz)
- Anita Thomasson (Undercurrent Victoria)
- Dr Gregory Phillips
- Dion Kagan (author Positive Images)
- Natalia Antolak-Saper (Monash University, Faculty of Law)
- Elise Nyhuis (intersex rights advocate)
- Amao Leota Lu (fa'afafine advocate)
- Sophie Ross (Vixen Collective and Safe Theatres Australia)

Playtime Staged Readings

With the aim of identifying, nurturing and profiling queer playwrights, Midsumma Festival partnered with Gasworks Arts Park for a fourth year to present our annual competition Playtime Staged Readings. Three playwrights (Angus Cameron, Rachel Edmonds and Glenn Saunders) presented staged readings of new scripts, with the winner (Angus Cameron for Cavemen) awarded a development and presenter opportunity with the support of Gasworks and Midsumma Festival.

The 2018 Playtime Staged Readings winner, playwright Adam Fawcett and Lab Kelpie, went on to present their astounding new work *Become the One* at Gasworks as part of this year's festival.

Queer Economies

Presented by Midsumma Festival in association with Abbotsford Convent, Bus Projects and Centre for Contemporary Photography with leading local curators Abbra Kotlarczyk and Madé Spencer-Castle, Queer Economies was a multi-exhibition inspired by the gift-giving practice of artist David McDiarmid.

This project featured:

- a curated exhibition of newly commissioned artworks by Australian LGBTQIA+ artists presented at Bus Projects;
- a series of contemporary video works screened after dark as part of the Centre for Contemporary Photography's Night Projection Window;
- a call-out for artwork gifts from the Midsumma community to be presented at Abbotsford Convent and then gifted to a loved-one on the final day of the festival.

QueerTech.io

For 2019, Midsumma once again took a leap into the digital queer realm, co-presenting with **QueerTech.io** in association with **ACMI**. This collaboration saw an extraordinary online gathering of artists at the frontier of creative practice from across the globe that saw almost 3,000 visitors engage online.

As a new initiative, Midsumma, ACMI and QueerTech.io presented a youth workshop with 14 young people (aged 14 to 21). Over two days, these participants experienced a free creative workshop making interactive internet artworks. For one of our most marginalised demographics, this workshop presented a major intervention into the lives of the participants, with some participants having not had a social interaction in over three months.

Midsumma Festival Bar at The Coopers Malthouse

After its inaugural success in 2017 Midsumma once again had its own official Festival club throughout the Festival period. Previously in a café-bar space at Arts Centre Melbourne, the Midsumma Festival Bar grew in size and scope through a new partnership with The Coopers Malthouse.

This venue provided a great place for Festival patrons and artists to meet

friends before shows or to continue their experience after shows well into the evening as well as to specifically attend programmed performances and talks/forums. The concept of the bar / meeting place proved very popular and attendances were considerably higher than the previous year.

All events in this venue were free to attend. Events programmed in the Bar included:

- Dolly Diamond's Piano Bar (each Monday night of the Festival),
- Jazz night with Mama Alto
- Queer zine-making workshop
- DJ FRANFINE (SA)
- Queer clothes swap in partnership with YGender
- Youth musicians Nia Dove-Adotey and Finn
- Rainbow Mob Storytelling Hour on the topic "Being Aboriginal and Queer"
- Music event curated by Sad Grrrls Club featuring Rachel Maria Cox, Lalic and Geryon
- MidsummaHAHA – a local comedy night featuring The Marion Cranes, The Travelling Sisters, Gabe Hogan, Neil Triffet, The Illegitimate Love Children of Bob Downe and Magda Szubanski, Levi Weston and Scout Boxall
- Drag make-up tutorial for young people with Ruby Slippers
- Music event with Xanadu Holliday, The Anxious Type and Erin Will Be Mad
- Screening of Looking For – a documentary film by Taiwanese filmmaker Chou Tung-Yen
- Queer Poetry Slam hosted by Charlotte Raymond
- Music night focused on femme identity featuring Ms CeCe Rockefeller, PO PO MO CO and Juniper Wilde



MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL OPEN-ACCESS PROGRAM

Overall Open Access Program

Heading up the Open Access Program are our Midsumma Venue Hubs. Two new Venue Hubs joined our suite of venue hubs for 2019. Midsumma Hubs support artists by committing to presenting work almost every night of the 23-day festival period. A diverse range of works are showcased, representing a variety of vital conversations taking place amongst local and interstate LGBTQIA+ communities by extraordinary artists and culture-makers and showcased to audiences as a great way to start navigating the overall program.

Midsumma at Arts Centre Melbourne

For the third year running Arts Centre Melbourne programmed within their venues with a greater diversity than previous years. Events included Gender Euphoria (SOLD OUT), Merciless Gods by Little Ones Theatre, Midsumma Extravaganza, Yana Alana's Auslan-

integrated rock event The Legend of Queen Kong Episode II: Queen Kong in Outer Space, and Las Vegas hit sensation The Miss Behave Gameshow.

Midsumma at Gasworks

Gasworks presented an extensive program including 2018 Playtime Staged Readings winner *Become The One*, music seasons Gays of Our Lives and Michael & The Mascos: My Vanity Project, early career artist Anna Thompsons' *Madame Nightshade's Poison Garden* (with direction and mentoring by Sarah Ward, Maude Davey and Rinske Ginsberg), exhibitions *My Milonga*, *The Dance of the Heart and Unbroken*, social event *Queer Quizmania*, nationally Fringe-touring work *The Odditorium*, new work *What Ever Happened to Jeremy Baxter*, and in partnership with Midsumma Playtime Staged Play Readings (theatre/writing).

Image: Midsumma and Australia Post Art Prize Exhibition by Eugene Howard

Midsumma at Hare Hole

A long-time supporter of Midsumma and of new and intimate works, Hares & Hyenas again presented a huge body of events across the 23 days of Midsumma. This included Doubling Down: A Discussion on Disability and LGBTIQ (talks/forum), Elton John: The Genesis of Glam (cabaret), Gay Life Drawing Melbourne (social), Gay Stuff Markets (social), I'll Have What He's Having (theatre), Jen Der Unpacks (comedy), Lisa Skye (spoken word), Once Upon a Drag Storytime (kids), Party Snake (performance), Preludes and Nocturnes (music), Rapid Fire (spoken word), TAIN'T (cabaret) and Woah, Alyssa! 2 (comedy).

Midsumma at Howler (Mini-Hub)

Joining Midsumma as a hub venue for the first time with a critical mass of events for a week of the festival, led by Highwire Entertainment (the producers behind Adelaide Fringe's Gluttony).

Midsumma at Theatre Works

Another new Midsumma venue hub for 2019, Theatre Works in St Kilda joined the festival as a hub. Performances included two works from the UK, Cake Daddy (cabaret) and The Butch Monologues (theatre), two new local works Give a F*ck Cabaret (cabaret) and Truly Madly Britney (theatre) and playwriting workshop Queer Quickies.

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, walks and markets – with the breadth and quality of the works improving significantly due to the investment Midsumma has made in building relationships (and providing capacity building developmental support) with producers, venues and artists.

New venues joined Midsumma for the first time and it was particularly important (and a strong indication of the shift in Midsumma's positioning) to see venues such as Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre, Bus Projects, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Howler, Dance House, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Mailbox Art Space and The Coopers Malthouse.

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.

19 events were part of this program that received boosted marketing support, participation in a launch event and additional advice and support from the local council partner.

Image: *Madam Nightshade's Poison Garden* by Suzanne Balding



BUT THAT'S NOT ALL WE'VE DONE

PRIDE MARCH BAKE-OFF 2018

A fundraiser for the annual Midsumma Pride March organised by Dean Accuri and other valued community members was held on Sunday 5 November 2017 at DTs Pub in Richmond with community member cakes competing for the crown in six categories. All funds raised go towards Midsumma Pride March. Judging categories included: Most Fabulously Delicious Cake; Most Marvellously Stunning Cake; Best Melbourne Cup Cake; Queerest Concoction; Perfect Pastry; and People's Choice - Best Looking Cake.

MIDWINTA GALA 2018

Midsumma Festival's fifth annual fundraising black-tie event Midwinta Gala, was held on Saturday 4 August 2018 in the splendid surrounds of the Melbourne Town Hall. With an underlying theme of "Ignite" it proved to be an exciting night

of celebration with television icon Gretel Killeen as emcee and entertainment from Casey Donovan, Sheldon Riley, Kate Nelson and Hannah Trott, and The Huxleys. At the Chair's VIP function prior to the main event, attendees were entertained by the illustrious Kimba Griffith. The event achieved full capacity and attendees were indulged with a delicious three-course meal and beverage package as part of their ticket purchase.

MENTORING INITIATIVES

Midsumma Futures

After a highly successful first year Midsumma Futures is now in its second year; a nine-month mentoring developmental program designed for LGBTQIA+ early-career artists and future community leaders. This program aims to advance participants' vocation, deepen their practice, increase networks and profile, and lead the future of queer culture.

Midsumma Futures brings together a diverse range of artists from across disciplines as well as producers, socially engaged practitioners, community leaders, creative thinkers and culture-makers. Once connections are made between early-career and established practitioners, participants attend a series of group workshops in professional skill and career development as well as their one-on-one sessions with a mentor. All participants receive VIP passes to attend the following Midsumma Festival, with increased support for those who register an event as part of the festival.

Twelve participants took part in the inaugural 2017/2018 and eleven participants are currently taking part in the second iteration of the program; representing young artists and culture makers in areas including: music, programming, cabaret, theatre performance and direction, set design, contemporary performance, visual arts, film making, literature, sound design and playwrighting.

Midsumma Futures Participants and their Mentors 2018/19

DAISY CATERALL
mentored by Ripley Kavara (Aus)

GENE SMITH
mentored by William Johnson (USA)

GEORGE MUNRO
mentored by Maude Davey and Mama Alto

GEORGIA BANKS
mentored by Chris Kraus (USA)

MERI LEEWORTHY
mentored by Morgan McWaters

MARK BROWN II
mentored by Fez Fa'anana

NADIA BAILEY
mentored by Hannah Kent (Aus)

ROMY SEVEN FOX
mentored by Lawrence English (Aus)

SAMUEL RUSSO
mentored by Declan Greene (Aus)

TOM BACKHAUS
mentored by Tim Smith-Stewart (USA)

HANNAH SAMUEL

Midsumma Pathways

Midsumma Pathways is the inaugural capacity building and skill development project working with seven creative LGBTQIA+ members of the community who also identify as living with disability. 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 project builds a strong foundation of skills and networks that can be further leveraged by participants in their future development.

Midsumma Pathways Participants and their Mentors 2018/2019

ABBIE MADDEN
mentored by Robbie Curtis

CHRISTOPHER BRYANT
mentored by Amelia Roper

CLAREO O'SHANNESY
mentored by Sapidah Kian

CREATRIX TIARA
mentored by Maude Davey

ELVIN LAM
mentored by Justine Miles

RUBY ALLEGRA
mentored by Quinn Eades

SOPHIE ROSE
mentored by Alison Bennett



FOCUS AREAS IN 2019

Midsumma attracts broad attendances across age ranges and demographics; representing inclusion and diversity in all its forms. For this reason we are ideally placed to make the many diverse queer communities in Victoria more visible.

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 are able to build stronger connections within their own groups and then with other groups they interact with.

Success in this area was particularly evident in 2019 in the following areas:

INCREASED FOCUS ON MULTIGENERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Young People

Over the past three festivals Midsumma has worked with youth organisation, Minus18, to create a strong presence of more than 400 young people at Midsumma Pride

March each year, alongside a dedicated Youth Precinct at our largest event Midsumma Carnival. As part of Midsumma's core values, this sends a clear message to other young people that they have a safe space for creativity, connection and artistic collaboration.

In partnership with QueerTech.io and ACMI, Midsumma presented a hands-on two-day workshop for queer young people to learn skills in digital art making providing an essential opportunity for connection with like-minded young people. We continue to seek new ways for young people to be represented broadly across all areas of our program.

Older Audiences

In 2019 Midsumma categorised the program specifically for older audiences. The category was established to encourage older audiences to participate in Midsumma Festival and to feel safe and connected to the program and their local and broader

Image: Body and Country



communities. For the second year, Midsumma hosted Alice's Garage Tea Tent at Midsumma Carnival. The Tea Tent was not only serving tea and coffee for older LGBTQIA+ and their allies but also provided a space where older audiences could meet like-minded people. The increase in older audience engagement saw audiences who were over 55 years-of-age double from 2018 to 2019.

Increased Engagement with Aboriginal Communities

Midsumma continued strong and meaningful engagement with the LGBTQIA+ Aboriginal community for the 2019 Festival and throughout the year.

Rebecca Hunt was commissioned by Midsumma for the role of Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator. This was the third year Midsumma funded this role, which is responsible for vital work in engaging Aboriginal communities, organising the Rainbow Aboriginal contingent at Midsumma Pride March and arranging cultural ceremonies for Midsumma Carnival and Midsumma Pride March.

For the second time, Midsumma partnered with the Victorian NAIDOC Week Committee to crown two members of the Aboriginal community as the "Faces of Aboriginal Pride" for the Festival – a role which allowed them to lead the Rainbow Aboriginal Float in Midsumma Pride March and feature in events throughout the Festival.

Midsumma produced two sell-out Aboriginal events for the 2019 Festival: Body and Country talks event featuring proud Gurnu-Barkandji non binary/trans costume designer Martinus Kraan and First Nations Tongan poet Lay the Mystic; and Rainbow Mob Storytelling Hour at the Midsumma Festival Bar featuring a range of queer Aboriginal artists telling their stories. We were also proud to feature the renowned Aboriginal comedian Steven Oliver on the main stage of Hamer Hall in Midsumma Extravaganza.

Over the past two years there has been a significant increase in First Nations artists and events in both the open access and 'Midsumma Presents' programs of Midsumma.

Increased Engagement with Disability Cultures

Midsumma is proud to be a leader in disability access and engagement initiatives. Our Midsumma Program Guide is made accessible through multiple formats with plain text, audio described, screen readable versions and Auslan video.

We saw a 33% increase in Auslan interpreted and audio described events across the 2019 program, building further upon a 54% increase on the previous year.

Midsumma partners with Description Victoria, Auslan Stage Left and Guide Dogs Victoria to deliver multiple multilayered access and engagement initiatives. For the first time an accessible viewing area was provided at the 2019 Midsumma Pride March for blind and low vision attendees of the march.

Midsumma also produced tailor-made braille and tactile maps for both signature events Midsumma Carnival and Midsumma Pride March. For a second year Relaxed Performances were included, shows 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.

Image: Midsumma Pride March 2018
by Suzanne Balding

Increased Engagement with the Transgender Community

For the first time ever in 2019 Midsumma produced a trans and gender diverse signature project BODY (a mini festival within the Festival) in partnership with Arts House, with satellite projects at Arts Centre Melbourne and Incinerator Gallery. This landmark project of national significance included works by 27 trans and gender diverse artists and 3 intersex artists locally and internationally including new works commissioned by the Festival especially for this project. The sold-out Gender Euphoria showcased the first professional all gender diverse cast on a main stage in Australia and touring production MDLSX (Italian company Motus) was the first professional international intersex production to have toured to Victoria. Not only have we seen an increase in audience attendance from our trans and gender diverse communities but an increase in our volunteer workforce identifying as trans and gender diverse.

Increased Engagement with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Audiences and Artists

For the 2019 Festival, Midsumma continued to build increased participation for and by Victoria's LGBTQIA+ multicultural communities through our curated arm of the program, Midsumma Presents, including:

- Musician and pop sensation Nakhane (South Africa) and Cocoa Butter Club (Aus CALD ensemble - various) at Melbourne Museum
- Film screening by Yen Chou (Taiwan)
- Theatre production MDLSX by Motus (Italy)
- Dance production Third Nature by Raina Peterson & Govind Pillai (Aus/India) and Beast by Krishna Isha (UK/India)
- Cabaret event Gender Euphoria featuring Miss Bailee Rose Farnham (Asian-Australian) and Amao Leota Lu (Aus/Samoa)
- Consent Festival featuring Ayman Barbaresco (Aus/Jordan/Italy), Adolfo Aranjuez (Aus/Philippines), Bobuq Sayed (Aus/Afghanistan)
- Midsumma Carnival featuring Creatrix Tiara (Aus/undisclosed), Maribelle (Aus/Philippines), DJ Airhorn Mami (Aus/Peru), Nefertiti La Negra (Aus/US) and Dani Boi (Aus/Sri Lanka)

Testament to Midsumma's ability to create safe and inclusive spaces for CALD communities, Midsumma Pride March saw the first-time participation of VIKa, an advocacy group for Pacific rainbow families and friends, who took home the Pride March Award for "Most Fabulous" marching group.

For the 2020 Festival, Midsumma is developing a major project - a suite of works by queer artists from across the Indo-Pacific alongside queer Aboriginal artists.

Our Leadership Position

Midsumma has repositioned itself as a globally-relevant cultural influencer with artistic and thought leadership as well as learning and diversity at its heart. We have experienced rapid growth in audiences, breadth and scope of artists, community engagement and depth of artistic partnerships and new work developed.

2019 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 goes far beyond whether a venue is accessible or not, and over the past two years we have commenced plans to develop and implement a broad range of accessibility initiatives to ensure that all Midsumma events are inclusive of the broadest possible participation.

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.

Our comprehensive disability activities have become integral to the whole culture of our organisation and the Festival 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.

Image: Gender Euphoria presented by Midsumma Festival and Arts Centre Melbourne. Image by Alexis D.Lea featuring Harvey Zielinski

Access and engagement strategies delivered during the 2019 Midsumma Festival

In 2019 Midsumma continued its commitment to providing access to Midsumma communities living with disability. Ongoing partnerships with Description Victoria, Arts Access Victoria, Guide Dogs Victoria and Auslan Stage Left enabled a diverse range of extended services aimed at disability access and engagement. Guide Dogs Victoria are currently producing an access audit of the Midsumma Pride March site, due to be delivered to Midsumma Festival in the coming month, to assist with planning for 2020.

The Midsumma Program Guide was produced in multiple formats designed to facilitate increased access to those less able to access/read standard printed program guide or websites and therefore often less likely to attend / engage with events.

Alternative Format Program Guides

- Program Guide 2019: Plain Text PDF guide in plain English with a large font and no images.
- Program Guide 2019: a screen-readable PDF of the guide
- Audio Guide 2019: produced by us with Description Victoria, this audio guide provided a tailored overview of the festival to audiences who are blind or have low vision.

- Auslan Video Guide 2019: produced by Midsumma with Deaf queer community member, Bethany Robinson, providing a tailored overview of the festival for Deaf audiences.
- Increased events were Audio Described or Auslan Interpreted for the 2019 Midsumma Program.
- Auslan Description. In 2019 the number of events with Auslan Interpretation saw a 33% increase on the previous year (2018 having been a 54% increase from 2017).

Not only were there more Midsumma Presented events interpreted, but we also saw an increase in open access producers who saw the opportunity of further promotion as a valuable way to extend audiences for their events. This was a direct result of significant advocacy work by Midsumma in this area over the past year, and the modelling of best practice by Midsumma for all of its own-presented events in the 2017 and 2018 festival programs.

Midsumma Presents events with Auslan Interpreted sessions

Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize exhibition opening	22 Jan
Midsumma Carnival (2x stages)	20 Jan
Midsumma Pride March (1x stage at post-Pride celebrations in Catani Gardens)	3 Feb
Midsumma Extravaganza	29 Jan
Beast by Krishna Isha	1 Feb
Body and Country	2 Feb
Dancing Qweens	31 Jan
Gender Euphoria	24 Jan
MDLSX by Motus	1 Feb
Midsumma Festival Bar	1 Feb
Playtime Staged Readings	30 Jan

Open-Access events with Auslan Interpreted sessions

Cake Daddy	4 Feb
Doubling Down: A Discussion on Disability and LGBTIQ	10 Feb
Kong's 6th Birthday Blowout	25 Jan
Mama's Little Gayby	7-8 Feb
Merciless Gods	9 Feb
Once Upon a Drag Storytime	9 Feb
Park lounge	2 Feb
Queer Stories	23 Jan
Radical Rituals	7 Feb
Speak Up! I Can't Hear You	29 Jan
The Butch Monologues	29 Jan
The Legend of Queen Kong Episode II: Queen Kong in Outer Space	16-20 Jan
Unicorns the Festival	2 Feb

Audio Description

2019 also saw the further rise of Audio Described events and initiatives for attendees with low vision well above previously available services. These included:

Midsumma Presented Audio Described sessions

Dancing Qweens	31 Jan
Third Nature	2 Feb

Audio Description of Program Guide narratives

Midsumma partnered with Description Victoria to create an audio version of full event descriptions for events that enhanced the experience of attending for people with low vision. The events fully described were:

Midsumma Carnival
MDSLX by Motus
Third Nature by Raina Peterson & Govind Pillai
Beast by Krishna Isha
Gender Euphoria
Personal Touch
HR by Bonnie Hart
POISE by Kelly O'Shea
De/Afficiency by Debris Facility
BodMod Salon
Panopticon by Simona Castricum
HABITS and friends
Body and Country
Celebrating Intersex Bodies

Tactile Tour

Tactile tours of the venue/event space were conducted prior to the event or performance to allow low vision attendees to familiarise themselves with the venue. The events offering tactile tours were:

Homophonic!	31 Jan
Midsumma and Australia Post Art Prize	22 Jan
Midsumma Carnival	20 Jan

Relaxed Performances

Midsumma event producers were once again encouraged 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. Events that contributed with Relaxed Performances included:

Rainbow Family Storytime	1 Feb
Speak Up! I Can't Hear You	29 Jan
The Butch Monologues	29 Jan
The Legend of Queen Kong Episode II: Queen Kong in Outer Space	16-20 Jan

2019 ARTISTIC OUTCOMES

It is the aim of Midsumma Festival that the projects we produce will have long-term cultural impact beyond immediate KPIs and outputs.

Midsumma has repositioned itself as a globally relevant cultural influencer with artistic leadership, learning and diversity at its heart. We have experienced rapid growth in audiences, breadth and scope of artists, organisational capacity, and depth of artistic partnerships and new work development.

We have gained artistic recognition for our curatorial direction and the vital role we play in the development of queer culture across Victoria and nationally.

Increased quality or creative/artistic work

"Watching them express themselves, unhindered by someone else's standards, was liberating. The piece inspired a sense that everyone should be free to explore their own beliefs and standards, a message as lovely as the performance itself." - Sophia Dickinson via Arts Review, saw Third Nature as part of BODY.

Image: Beast by Bryony Jackson featuring Krishna Isthia

"Krishna created a wonderful set that resonated with me as a QTPOC (and by the howls around me I gather many others as well), and honestly was probably the best therapy I've gotten in years." - Sumarlinah Raden Winoto via Liminal, saw BEAST as part of BODY.

"Dance is an extremely visual thing. I can't see. It's as simple as that. Which was why, when I heard that Dancing Qweens (a Midsumma Presents Event)... was offering an audio described performance, I was beyond intrigued. I can honestly say that I wasn't bored for a single second... It was contagious from the moment I walked into the performance space." - Olivia Muscat, Blind Critic via Whiteness Performance experienced audio described performance of Dancing Qweens - a Midsumma Presents event.

Enhanced culture

43% increase in overall program size since 2017 across art forms. Curatorially, there is a focus on intersectionality of diverse artistic communities and art forms.

65% audience growth of the curated arts program attendance over two years. Total audience 284,098 (54% growth in two years) of which 197,868 was to the Midsumma curated new work program, Midsumma Presents. Midsumma Presents is made up of both ticketed and free events.

44% of all events were free. Of ticketed events, average ticket price **\$22**.

External industry recognition of the increased artistic quality and breadth of programing in 2019.

Midsumma has evolved a methodology (first of its kind) for developing work that is uniquely shaped to the experience of queer artists and audiences.

Diversity of Representation

2% of audiences identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Partnerships with Vic NAIDOC Committee and Yirramboi Festival, and employment of an Indigenous Engagement Coordinator has increased visibility for and cultural events by LGBTQIA+ First Nations peoples in the Festival.

54% average increase in disability cultures with engagement built into the DNA of the organisation through Auslan interpretation and description services, staff training, Pathways mentorship program and in 2018 the commissioning of a tactile installation created for and by blind/low vision LGBTQIA+.

52% of the respondents attending with children under 18 years, just over half indicated to have attended with teenagers over 12 years old (52%). This is a direct result of increased youth engagement including presentation of works by young artists in Midsumma Youth Spectacular (Melba Spiegeltent), QueerTech.io and a youth ambassador program.

58% culturally and linguistically diverse. This is a direct result of increased CALD engagement through a partnership with Arts Centre Melbourne in the presentation of The Cocoa Butter Club in 2018 and upcoming Queer Unsettled 2020.

11% of audiences identify as Trans and gender diverse and intersex representation. Increase of these audiences through BODY, an unprecedented leadership project commissioning and profiling works by 27 trans and gender diverse artists and 3 intersex artists, locally and internationally. Included the first all gender diverse professional cast on a main stage in Australia and first professional international intersex production toured to Victoria.

WHO ARE OUR AUDIENCES?

Sexuality Diversity

Gay	38%
Heterosexual	15%
Lesbian	14%
Queer	13%
Bisexual	11%
Pansexual	5%
Asexual	1%

Gender Diversity

Male	45%
Female	44%
Non-binary	7%
Transgender	2%
Other	2%
Prefer not to say	1%

Diversity (other than sexuality or gender)

26% of those surveyed also answered the following questions.
Of them:

58% Come from a non-English speaking background	23% Identify as a person with disability	11% Identify as a carer of a person with disability	2% Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	2% Identify as a person of Intersex variation
----------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------

Age

39%	17%	19%	14%
25-34 year olds	18-24 year olds	35-44 year olds	45-54 year olds

Midsumma Carnival 2019 by Creative Edge Photography

Household Structure

28%	32%	21%	20%
Single	Couple	Share house	Family

Income (per annum)

19%	27%	54%
Under \$40,000	\$40,000 – \$80,000	\$80,000+

Residence

84%	4%	8%	3%
Melbourne	Interstate	Regional Victoria - an increase of 1% on 2018	International

\$14 million

Direct economic impact for the state of Victoria, according to independent analysis. Broader gross economic impact for the 2019 Festival, to the State's economy was estimated at \$32 million.



OUR REACH

Public Relations

Midsumma again engaged an external PR agency, Zilla & Brook, who have a long history in conducting publicity for Melbourne Fringe and other lifestyle events/ festivals – and business owner Fiona Brook also produces a show on JOY 94.9.

Increased PR activity was noticeably higher than last year through this continued investment. **Total PR value generated over the Festival period is estimated at \$11,276,992** with an estimated total reach (people) of 537,069,221 (up from 214,972,675 in 2018).

Midsumma billboards were provided through a partnership with Ooh! Media, with a profile highlight being the largest of these in a key CBD location which was live throughout Midsumma Festival 19 Jan – 2 Feb reaching 560,100 people at an average frequency of 2.9 times. Also, through Ooh! Media we received promotion for a 4-week period on 50 digital screens at 50 venues across Melbourne Café and Office sites.

Website

From program launch (14 Nov) to the end of Midsumma Festival 2019 (10 Feb) the Midsumma website saw:

- 126,526 individual users
- 79% new visitors
- 20% returning visitors

We recorded a 26.5% increase in website traffic during Midsumma Festival 2019 compared to the same period for Midsumma Festival 2018. On the day of Midsumma Carnival (20 Jan 2019) alone we recorded 12,178 visits to the Midsumma website. Other than English speakers (as well as users for whom English is not their first language) the most common language spoken by our audiences in terms of website translation was (in order) German, Chinese Simplified, French, Spanish, Chinese Traditional.

Social media

We recorded a significant increase in social media engagement across the festival.

Facebook - **60% increase** in post reach and **75% increase** in engagement compared to 2018. Twitter - **56% increase** in post reach, **2% increase** in mentions, **213% increase** in followers compared to 2018.

Current followers on each platform		End of last (2017) festival	% increase
Facebook	25898	22418	+15.5%
Instagram	7602	5701	+33.3%
Twitter	7271	7023	+3.5%

Printed publications and focus editions

Midsumma worked with the popular Time Out magazine to curate a Midsumma edition of Time Out magazine for their December 2018 / January 2019 period. Midsumma was provided with guest editor responsibilities, decisions for the front cover, two pages to promote Midsumma Festival events and four feature articles. Karen Bryant, CEO of Midsumma Festival,

undertook the role of guest editor, and provided a 400 word editor's introduction preceding a two-page Midsumma feature in the edition.

LGBTIQ national magazine Star Observer also worked with us to curate a Midsumma edition. Midsumma was provided with the front cover, three double page articles (Third Nature, Consent Festival and Gender Euphoria) and a back page ad.



TREASURER'S REPORT

As incoming treasurer for 2018-19 and a new face to the Midsumma community, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Jamal Hakim for his amazing service to Midsumma during his time as treasurer and for helping to build the financial stability that I was presented with.

The ongoing stability and growth of Midsumma couldn't have happened without the dedication of the entire team in the office, the board and the many volunteers who support the Festival. As treasurer though, I can't possibly overstate the role that our finance manager Angus has played in supporting the board to make financially educated decisions through the reports and analytics he provides.

The financials for the year are presented in addition to the auditor's notes. This year has seen growth across all of Midsumma's revenue streams, with the exception of the Midwinta Ball. These results were great for the community as all additional revenue was invested directly back into the Festival and other Midsumma programs.

Our CEO Karen should be commended for her leadership and management throughout the year, with our overall financial performance resulting in a net surplus of \$1,946, slightly down from \$6,138 in 2017-18.

As an organisation, we rely heavily on donations and support from the community to continue to deliver the experiences that Midsumma brings and we appreciate any assistance received. In addition to the tremendous volunteering and in-kind support we receive from our community, I would like to recognise the significant support from our sponsors and various levels of government.

For the 2019-20 year, board members have renewed their declaration to make a financial commitment above their in-kind donations and board commitments through Midsumma's Patron Program. For those of you who have joined us, I thank you and urge those able to contribute, or interested in joining, to reach out to us.

Finally, I look forward to the 2020 Festival and I hope to see you there.

Michael Fuller-Smith
Treasurer, Midsumma Festival Inc.

Midsumma Festival Inc. ABN 50 783 159 198 Income and Expenditure Statement For the year ended 30 June 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Income		
Government Funding and Grants (Note 6)	\$644,338	\$581,181
Corporate funding & Sponsorships	\$409,711	\$387,162
Donations, Patron support & Membership	\$71,191	\$64,389
Festival income	\$428,944	\$390,289
Non-operating income	\$31,038	\$48,862
Total Income	\$1,585,222	\$1,471,883
Less: Expenditure		
Administration expenses	\$161,826	\$235,239
Festival expenses	\$1,421,450	\$1,230,506
Total Expenditure	\$1,583,276	\$1,465,745
Net Surplus	\$1,946	\$6,138

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<u>Assets</u>			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets	2	\$361,424	\$440,376
Accounts Receivable	3	\$4,262	\$11,945
Prepayments	4	-	\$31,500
Total Current Assets		\$365,686	\$483,821
Non-Current Assets			
Plant & Equipment		\$16,643	\$16,643
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(\$16,643)	(\$16,643)
Intangible Assets work-in-progress		\$21,720	-
Total Non-Current Assets		\$21,720	\$0
Total Assets		\$387,406	\$483,821
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Current Liabilities			
Payables		\$34,702	\$39,760
Current Tax Liabilities		\$9,010	\$30,758
Provisions		\$32,869	\$36,232
Other Current Liabilities	5	\$169,880	\$238,072
Total Current Liabilities		\$246,461	\$344,822
Total Liabilities		\$246,461	\$344,822
Net Assets		\$140,945	\$138,999
<u>Equity</u>			
Current Year Surplus		\$1,946	\$6,138
Retained Surplus		\$138,999	\$132,861
Total Equity		\$140,945	\$138,999

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	1,595,836	1,549,416
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(1,676,022)	(1,449,832)
Interest received	1,233	1,973
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(78,953)	101,556
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(78,953)	101,556
Cash at the beginning of the year	440,376	338,820
Cash at the end of the year	361,424	440,376

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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, the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals 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) 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.

(b) 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 reasonably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(c) 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.

(d) 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.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(e) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

(f) Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2019

2019 2018

Note 2: Cash assets

Bank accounts:		
Cash at bank - Midsumma Donations	93,236	11,448
Cash at bank - Midsumma Operations	259,164	409,363
Debit card - NAB	9,024	16,480
Paypal primary	—	2,910
Other cash items:		
Cash in Transit	—	175
	361,424	440,376

Note 3: Receivables

Current

Trade debtors	4,262	11,945
	4,262	11,945

Note 4: Other Assets

Current

Prepayments	—	31,500
	—	31,500

Note 5: Other Liabilities

Current

Advance payments	169,880	238,072
	169,880	238,072

Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2019

2019 2018

Note 6: Government funding and Grants

Creative Victoria	75,000	75,000
City of Port Phillip	90,000	88,803
Department of Premier and Cabinet	225,000	283,442
City of Melbourne	90,000	90,000
Australia Council	97,338	-
Department of Health and Human Services Victoria	55,000	-
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Org.	7,000	-
City of Yarra	-	9,050
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust	-	25,000
Arts Centre Melbourne	-	8,286
Others	5,000	1,600
	<u>644,338</u>	<u>581,181</u>

Note 7: In-Kind Contributions

We note that significant in-kind contributions have been made by various organisations, including but not limited to the Creative Victoria, City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip

Note 8. Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities To Net Profit

	1,946	6,138
Operating profit (loss)		
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade and term debtors	7,683	79,506
(Increase) decrease in prepayments	31,500	8,134
Increase (decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	(5,907)	(31,121)
Increase (decrease) in other creditors	(67,342)	56,589
Increase (decrease) in employee entitlements	21,999	10,997
Increase (decrease) in sundry provisions	(68,832)	(28,687)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(78,953)</u>	<u>101,556</u>


Midsumma Festival Inc.
ABN 50 783 159 198
Statement by Members of the Committee
For the year ended 30 June 2019

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 Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Midsumma Festival Inc. as at 30 June 2019 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:



 President

mam

 Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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, Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019, 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 2019 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:

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

- 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.



James Babbage

Principle
Babbage & Co

Melbourne
15/08/2019

OUR PEOPLE

MIDSUMMA BOARD

- Chair**
John Caldwell
- Deputy Chair**
Aaron O'Shannessy
- Treasurer**
Michael Fuller-Smith
- Secretary**
Stephen Hanlon
- Ordinary Board Members**
Tori Berquist
Rhys Cranney
Michael Daly
Alex Francis-Yu
Sebastian Norman
Andrea Pearman
Jo Whyte
- Volunteer to the Board**
Amanda Edwards

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL TEAM

- Chief Executive**
Karen Bryant
- Program Manager**
Daniel Santangeli
- Finance & Office Manager**
Angus Li
- Marketing Manager**
Felicity McIntosh
- Production Manager**
Douglas Brook
- Program Coordinator**
John Pyburn
- Administrator**
Matt Hirst
- Ticketing Manager and Producer Services**
Evan Lawson
- Volunteer Coordinator**
Kellie Jayne Chambers

- Communications & Website**
Alan Drummond
- Summer Work Placements**
Theodore Murray
Programming
Laura Barnes
Production
Con Karampelas
Marketing
Shaun Pirovano
Marketing
- Midsumma and Australia Post Art Prize Coordinator**
Sheena Colquhoun
- BODY Programmer**
darcy t. gunk
- Festival Bar Producer**
Alexina Coad
- Brand & Program Guide Design**
Sweet Creative
- Website Interface Design**
Grindstone Creative
- Annual Report and Partnership Assets**
Forde + Nicol
- Risk Consultant**
Public Safety Australia

OUR VALUABLE PATRONS

- Diamond Patrons (\$5,000+)**
Queeraz
Stomping Ground Brewery Co.
- Gold Patrons (\$2,000 - \$4,999)**
Elizabeth & Alan Botton
Swisse Wellness

- Silver Patrons (\$1,000 - \$1,999)**
John Caldwell
Adam John Lowe
Leigh Johns OAM
Jude Munro
Michael Trovato

- Rainbow Patrons (\$500 - \$1,000)**
Tori Berquist
Rhys Cranney
Michael Daly
Alex Francis-Yu

- Michael Fuller-Smith
Brenton Geyer
Cameron Goers
Ian Gould
Stephen Hanlon
Stuart Kollmorgen
& Rodrigo Reis
Mark Meierjohann
Sebastian Norman
Aaron O'Shannessy
Andrea Pearman
John Timms
Gail Veal
Jo Whyte

Life Members

- Ray Arthur
Angela Bailey
Tim Bateson
Claire Beckwith
Dean Bryant
Scott Campbell
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 and broader LGBTQIA+ community and for this year's festival **236 volunteers** contributed **almost 2,420 volunteer hours** to assist the delivery of events over the 23 days.

Volunteer ages	This Year
15-24	39.5%
25-34	35.8%
35-44	10.6%
45-54	5.8%
55-64	6.4%
65+	1.9%

OUR PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

SILVER PARTNERS



PRESENTING PARTNERS



COMMUNITY MEDIA PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS

APPENDIX COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL COMMUNITY STALLS

There were two main stall blocks at Carnival 2019: the Sports Precinct adjacent to the main stage area (near the St Kilda Rd end of the park) and the main Stalls Village at the other end, within the Picnic Precinct.

Alphabetical List of Stalls

- Aged Care Assessment Services Victoria: Yellow 5C
- AGL: White 1
- Alfred Health Carer Services: Red 4B
- Alfred Pride Network: White 10A
- Ambulance Victoria: Green 15B
- Amnesty International LGBTQ+: Red 2D
- Anglicare Victoria: Green 4C
- Animals Australia: Green 8C
- Astute Financial: White 14A
- Australia Post: Blue 4CD
- Australian Education Union: Blue 16B
- Australian Federal Police: Green 14A
- Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council (AGMC): Blue 12C
- Australian Hearing: Red 11ABw
- Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives (ALGA): Green 8B
- Australian Unity: White 15AB
- Beagle Freedom Australia: Blue 7B
- Berry Street: Green 4A
- Better Place Australia: Blue 8C
- Blackdog Institute and North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) and RUOK?: Blue 13A
- Boutique Homes: Blue 15D
- Burnet Institute: Green 13CD
- Carers Victoria: Green 5D
- ChillOut Festival: Blue 10A
- CHRISTALIGNMENT: Red 11CD
- City of Melbourne / YMCA: Red 2AB
- City of Port Phillip: Yellow 3AB
- City of Stonnington: Blue 6AB
- cohealth: Blue 13B
- Coral Covey Jewellery: Blue 11A
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth: White 3AB
- Crown Pride: Yellow 5B
- Dan Murphy's: White 2
- Defence Force Recruiting: Green 15AB
- Dr. Bronner's ALL-ONE!: Red 8B
- Dykes on Bikes Melbourne: Blue 8A
- EACH: Blue 8D
- Elder Abuse Prevention (North West Aged care Assessment Service): Yellow 5D
- Emergency Services Pride: Green 14B
- Expression Australia/WorkingOUT: Blue 9D
- Family Planning Victoria: Green 4B
- Fostering Connections: Green 6A
- Frog Dog Studios: Green 7D
- Gambler's Help: Red 4A

- Gay & Lesbian Immigration Task Force (GLITF): Green 2A
- Gay and Lesbian Foundation of Australia (GALFA): Green 2B
- Gay and Lesbian Tourism Australia: Blue 2A
- Gay Community Periodic Survey: Red 9
- Gay Ski Week Australia / Points of Difference Travel & Events: Green 3C
- Glamourhead Sharks Aquatics Club: Sports Precinct - South 9
- GLHV: Red 5B
- Global Surrogacy: Green 3B
- GLOBE: White 11
- Go Thai Be Free: Blue 2B
- Goulburn Valley Pride Inc.: Blue 10B
- Guide Dogs Victoria: Yellow 5A
- headspace: Green 3A
- Ice Hockey Victoria: Sports Precinct - North 13
- Insurance4PrEP.com.au: Green 9C
- Intersex Community: Blue 12D
- Jetstar Airways: Blue 2CD
- JOY 94.9: Red 8A
- Keshet Australia: White 12A
- KNOTbound Ltd: Blue 8B
- Kong's Kings: Blue 9A
- La Trobe University: Green 7C
- Liberal Party of Australia (Tim Wilson and Kelly O'Dwyer): Blue 5C
- Liberal Party of Victoria - Southern Metropolitan Region: Blue 5D
- Life Without Barriers: Blue 9C
- Lifeview: Red 6AB
- Love and Luck Podcast: Green 10B
- Love is Love Photography: Yellow 3D
- Low Rez Choir: Green 11C
- MacKillop Family Services: Green 5B
- Many Coloured Sky: Red 3D
- Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.: Blue 7B
- Maurice Blackburn Lawyers: Yellow 3C
- MCC Melbourne: Green 4D
- Melbourne Argonauts: Sports Precinct - South 10
- Melbourne Chargers Rugby: Sports Precinct - North 9
- Melbourne City Mission: Red 5D
- Melbourne Frontrunners: Sports Precinct - North 12
- Melbourne Gay and Lesbian Chorus (MGLC) and shOUT Youth Chorus: Green 12A
- Melbourne Homeless Collective: Red 7AB
- Melbourne Inclusive Church: Green 3D
- Melbourne Motorcycle Tourers: Sports Precinct - South 8
- Melbourne Queer Film Festival (MQFF): Green 7B
- Melbourne Rainbow Band: Blue 11A
- Melbourne Rovers Soccer Club: Sports Precinct - North 10
- Melbourne Smashers Badminton Club: Sports Precinct - South 11
- Melbourne Spikers Volleyball: Sports Precinct - North 7
- Melbourne Surge: Sports Precinct - North 5 & N6
- Melbourne Wranglers Wrestling Club INC.: Sports Precinct - North 11
- MelbourneIVF: Green 6B
- Mercer Pride: Blue 15C
- Mind Equality Centre: Green 10A
- Monash Health Gender Clinic: Blue 15A
- Motafranz Car Club: Sports Precinct - South 7
- NAB: White 4
- nbn co.: Blue 7D
- Northern Metro Local Governments- Banyule, Darebin, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Yarra: Blue 4AB
- Northside clinic: Blue 14B
- Olivia - The Travel Company for Lesbians: Green 2D
- Out For Australia: Blue 7A
- Out West: Western Metro LGBTQIA+ Local government network: Red 3A
- PAN - PrEPaccessNOW: Green 15C
- Parents of Gender Diverse Children: Green 10B
- Pink Magpies: Sports Precinct - South 6
- Prahran Market Clinic: Green 15D
- Pride Cup: Sports Precinct - South 5
- PRONTO!: Red 10
- Proud Minority: Blue 11C
- Psoriasis Australia: Green 14C
- pwc: Blue 1
- Queer Greens Victoria: Green 5C
- queerspace - Drummond Street Services: Blue 6CD
- Queers In Science: Green 8D
- Rainbow Families Victoria: Family Precinct
- Rainbow Fertility: Green 5A
- Rainbow Labor Victoria: Green 12B
- Rainbow Rights and Advocacy: Blue 10CD
- Rainbow Store: White 12B
- Reason Victoria: Blue 13C
- Richmond Football Club: Sports Precinct - South 1 & 2
- RMIT Pride: Green 6CD
- Rotary International: White 14B
- Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) Limited: Yellow 4AB
- Ruby Dance: Green 9D
- RYAN CARLISLE THOMAS LAWYERS: Green 2C
- Safe Steps Family Violence Repsonse Centre / No To Violence: Green 7A
- SEEK: White 4AB
- Shuttlecats: Sports Precinct - South 12
- SKYN: White
- South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA): Red 2C
- St Kilda and Fitzroy Legal Service: Blue 14D
- Star Health: Green 12D
- Star Observer: Green 8A
- StartOut: Blue 5B
- Swinburne University: Sports Precinct - South 3 & 4
- Swisse Wellness: White 7
- Switchboard Victoria: Green 9B

- Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras: Green 10C
- Teachers Health/ Nurses and Midwife Health: Blue 16C
- Team Melbourne - Proud2Play: Sports Precinct - North 8
- Telstra: White 3
- The AFL Pride Collective (Purple Bombers): Sports Precinct - North 1 - N4
- The Channel Giving Circle: Red 4C
- The Cullen: Blue 3ABCD
- The Melbourne Clinic: Blue 15B
- The Pinnacle Foundation: Blue 5A
- The Wilderness Society: Red 4D
- Thorne Harbour Health: Red 9
- Thorne Harbour Health Services: Red 10
- Trans Central Station: Green 11AC
- Trans Medical Research: Green 10D
- Uniting AgeWell: Yellow 4CD
- Val's LGBTI Ageing & Aged Care: Red 5A
- VicBears Inc: Blue 12AB
- VicTennis Glam Slam: Sports Precinct - North 13
- Victoria Legal Aid - Helping Stop Discrimination: Blue 13D
- Victoria Police: Green 13A
- Victoria Police Legacy: Green 13B
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission: Blue 14C
- Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby (VGLRL): Blue 12C

- Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council: Red 3B
- Victorian Ombudsman: White 13B
- Victorian Pride Centre: Green 9A
- Victorian Public Sector Pride Network: Blue 7C
- VincentCare Victoria: Supporting people at risk of or experiencing homelessness: Red 5C
- We Are Union Pride: White 13A
- Wear it Purple: Red 3C
- Wellways Well Proud: Blue 16A
- Western Bulldogs Football Club: Sports Precinct - South 14
- White Warrior Health : Holistic and Natural Therapy Professionals: Blue 11D
- Women*s Circus: Sports Precinct - South 13
- Your Community Health: Blue 14A
- Merri Health: Blue 9B

2. MIDSUMMA PRIDE MARCH 2019

Midsumma Pride March 2019 – Registered March Participants, in order

Pre-March Procession

- 1: Dykes on Bikes Melbourne
- 2: Melbourne Motorcycle Tourers

Wave AA: Rainbow Aboriginal Pride & VIPs

- 1: Rainbow Aboriginal Pride
- 2: City of Port Phillip

Wave B: Youth Groups

- 1: Minus18 What's your pronoun?
- 2: The Gay Avengers
- 3: Hume City Council - Glitter Crew
- 4: CanTeen

- 5: Knox Youth Services
- 6: Hey Partners Youth Contingent

Wave C: Youth Groups

- 1: FitzPride
- 2: Northcote High School
- 3: Buckley Park College
- 4: Carey Baptist Grammar PRIDE group
- 5: University High Spectrum
- 6: Banyule/Nillumbik Schools Network
- 7: Cranbourne East Secondary College
- 8: Overnewton Anglican Community College
- 9: Swinburne Senior Secondary College
- 10: McKinnon Pride
- 11: headspace Has Your Back
- 12: Lord Somers Camp & Power House

Wave D: Youth Groups

- 1: Parents of Gender Diverse Children
- 2: Royal Children's Hospital Gender Service
- 3: Royal Children's Hospital
- 4: Transcend
- 5: Rainbow Connections Youth and Family group
- 6: NorthWest Rainbow

Wave E: Youth Groups

- 1: St Kilda Park Primary School (SKiPPS)
- 2: Scouts Victoria - Everybody welcome
- 4: Rainbow families inner south east

Wave F: Groups representing Diverse Genders & Sexualities; Marchers with access needs; Queer organisations

- 1: Transgender Victoria
- 2: The Shed

- 3: Victoria's bisexual community
- 4: Vixen Collective (Victoria's peer only sex worker organisation)
- 5: Salome's Circle
- 6: RhED - sex workers and allies supporting full decriminalisation of the sex industry in Victoria
- 7: Melbourne Aces - Asexuals Australia
- 8: Ace of Hearts
- 9: VicBears Inc
- 10: Victorian Leather Inc
- 12: Melbourne Furies
- 14: Guide Dogs Victoria
- 15: Lifeview Residential Care
- 15A: Eastern Health
- 16: Rainbow Rights and Advocacy
- 19: POW Circus

Wave G: HIV + AIDS Organisations; Queer Organisations; LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Groups; LGBTQIA+ representatives of Political Parties

- 1: Riff Raff Radical Marching Band and friends
- 3: Harm Reduction Victoria
- 5: Latinx & Hispanic Fiesta
- 6: VIC-PAH Puppies
- 6A: Victorian Pride Centre
- 7: 40 Years of Star Observer

- 8: Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.
- 9: Rainbow Labor Victoria
- 10: JOY

Wave H: Queer Organisations; LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Groups; LGBTQIA+ representatives of Political Parties

- 1: LOW REZ MELBOURNE MALE POP CHOIR
- 2: LGBTIQ - Support and Protection Services
- 4: Greater Shepparton's LGBTI+ Pride Organisations
- 6: Jews of Pride
- 7: GLOBE
- 8: Melbourne Queer Film Festival
- 9: No Pride In Detention
- 10: Yellow Kitties
- 11: SQuAT (Subtle Queer Asian Traits group)
- 12: VIKA
- 13: Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby
- 14: Amnesty International LGBTIQ+
- 15: Liberal Victoria

Wave I: Queer Events, Venues & Social Groups; Individuals; LGBTQIA+ representatives of Political Parties; Religious Organisations; Queer led Groups

- 1: Melbourne Rainbow Band
- 2: Miss Gay & Miss Transsexual Australia International
- 3: The 86 Cabaret Bar

- 4: DT's Hotel
- 5: Queer Greens Victoria
- 5A: GLAM Pride Victoria: Queering the catalogue and curating the revolution
- 6: Melbourne Gaymers
- 7: LARP LGBT+
- 8: Spaced Out - A Science Fiction club for the LGBTI community
- 10: It's the ADELAIDE Sisters
- 12: Individuals
- 13: Very Greer Impressive
- 14: MCC Melbourne
- 15: Acceptance Melbourne LGBT+ Catholics
- 17: Reason Victoria
- 18: Melbourne Gay and Lesbian Chorus and shOUT Youth Chorus
- 19: NAB Pride

Wave J: Team Melbourne

- 1: Melbourne Surge Water Polo
- 2: Glamourhead Sharks
- 3: The NOMADS Outdoors Group
- 4: Bent Kranks
- 5: Melbourne Frontrunners
- 6: Melbourne Spikers Volleyball
- 7: Melbourne Wranglers
- 8: Melbourne Dragons Martial Arts
- 9: 69'ers Bowling League Melbourne
- 10: Melbourne Argonauts
- 11: Smashers and Shuttletcats
- 12: Melbourne Chargers Rugby
- 13: Motafrenz

Wave K: Organisations & Groups Showing Pride

- 1: PwC
- 3: Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- 4: Dan Murphy's
- 5: Proud at Woolworths Group

Wave L: Organisations & Groups Showing Pride

- 1: Swisse Wellness
- 2: Jetstar Airways
- 3: SEEK
- 5: Swinburne Queer Collective (Hawthorn)
- 5A: Richmond Football Club
- 6: KIIS 101.1

Wave M: Emergency Services

- 1: Emergency Management Victoria
- 2: Victoria State Emergency Service
- 3: Ambulance Victoria (AV)
- 4: Victoria Police
- 5: CFA PRIDE
- 6: St John Ambulance Australia (VIC) Inc
- 7: St Kilda Lifesavers

Wave N: Government Affiliated Organisations

- 1: Post Pride
- 2: Victorian Public Sector Pride Network
- 3: Department of Justice and Regulation (Vic)
- 4: Victoria Legal Aid
- 5: Parks Victoria
- 6: Metro Trains Melbourne
- 7: V/Line Corporation
- 8: WorkSafe Victoria

- 9: Environment Protection Authority Victoria
- 10: Mental Health Complaints Commissioner
- 11: Refract - Melbourne Water's LGBTI+ network

Wave O: Organisations & Groups Showing Pride

- 1: AFL Pride Collective (Saints Pride)
- 2: St Kilda Football Club
- 3: South Melbourne Districts Football Club
- 4: Proud Cricket
- 5: Believe in Yourself

Wave P: Local Councils & Local Council Affiliated Groups

- 0: LGPro
- 1: The North Is Coming Out! (Local Governments)
- 2: Melbourne PRIDE
- 3: Out West - Western Region Councils
- 4: City of Kingston
- 6: City of Whittlesea
- 7: Cardinia Shire Council

Wave Q: Organisations & Groups Showing Pride

- 1: The University of Melbourne
- 2: Monash University
- 3: Monash Queer Department

- 4: La Trobe University
- 5: Rotary International
- 6: RMIT Pride
- 7: Pride at Cummins

Wave R: Health & Wellbeing

- 1: Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
- 2: Florey Institute
- 3: Queers In Science
- 4: Crisis Services Network
- 6: Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)
- 7: Deaf-initely pride
- 8: VincentCare Victoria
- 9: Expression Australia
- 11: Western Health
- 13: Austin Health
- 14: Berry Street
- 15: CLEAN AND SOBER
- 16: Family Planning Victoria
- 17: Wellways Well Proud
- 18: Australian Association of Social Workers
- 20: Queer Health Collective

Wave S: Organisations & Groups Showing Pride

- 1: The Walt Disney Company (Australia)
- 3: We March With Pride
- 4: CPA Australia
- 5: Zendesk
- 6: EY

- 7A: Life Without Barriers
- 8: AIG Australia - Insuring with Pride

Wave T: Organisations & Groups Showing Pride

- 1: The City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band
- 2: Victoria Trades Hall Council
- 4: Society of Australian Sexologists
- 5: Community lawyers fighting for LGBTI rights
- 7: AccorHotels
- 8: BP Pride
- 9: IAG
- 10: Pride@NBN
- 11: Baptcare
- 12: Better Place Australia

Wave U: Organisations & Groups Showing Pride

- 1: Timeless Pride
- 2: CUA
- 4: Prism
- 5: Pride@KPMG
- 6: Northern Trust
- 7: Nicholes Family Lawyers
- 8: Victorian LGBTI Interbank
- 9: Vodafone
- 10: Melbourne City Mission

Wave V: Organisations & Groups Showing Pride

- 1: Midsumma Festival



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festival



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