



Chairperson's Report

George Papadopoulos, Hass Dellal, Luciano Bini, Hon James Merlino MP, Stefan Romaniw, Jill Morgan, Wellington Lee, John Boglis

As we enter our 26th year, it gives me great pleasure to present the 2008-2009 Annual Report to our members on behalf of the Board of Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV).

Reflecting on our achievements and challenges in the past 12 months this is also an opportune time to acknowledge those who over the past 25 years have grown the organization and made it what it is today. Central to this continue to be MAV's members, leadership, past chairs, Board Members and Executive Officers and staff.

Together with our many partners, MAV has grown into a formidable, respected and effective organisation.

2008-2009 saw our 25th Anniversary celebrated in a variety of ways. These celebrations afforded the opportunity for past and present connections to be involved. MAV was rebranded with a new logo – a new and fresh approach, the product of an intensive process.

But in unison with creating a menu of celebrations, the every day running of the organisation continued, new and existing partnerships were strengthened and formed.

Over the reporting period we have seen strong links in our major projects, the large stage – small stage model, giving members and artists the opportunity to develop. Overseas and national exposure is growing. Nationally our MAV model is being examined as a template for others. Internationally it is also being examined as something worth considering.

Some of the work of MAV in cooperation with other stakeholders continues to be recognised as leading practice and has been showcased on the Victorian platform, nationally through the Australia Council and internationally.

But most importantly our members have been given the opportunity to participate in Victoria's arts scene.

Our members whether from long established communities or settled in Australia recently have a valuable tool in MAV to enhance their presence as artists, arts groups - sharing their artistic prowess with the broader community.

In policy terms we have worked with the State Government through the Ministerial Advisory Council for Multicultural Arts. This Council is a direct result of the work undertaken by MAV together with the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) in consulting with members, community leaders and stakeholders and recommending to Government that a structure of this nature was required. Arts Victoria also benefits from this body as it receives valuable strategic advice.

In this reporting period the Board and Staff continue to deliver strong results in the areas of Board Governance, financial management, policy development, overall strategic planning, representation and networking. The overall positive outcomes for the year are another indicator of the hard work of our Executive Officer, Staff and Board.

Last year I wrote "The Board is very conscious of ensuring that 'we have our house in order'. This gives us the opportunity to move into new areas of activity and expand current activity and most importantly gives MAV credibility."

The Board has continued with this as it undertook our regular planning forum – a Strategic Planning Session to revisit and evaluate the previously set aims, objectives and plans and set the strategic direction for the next period.

The session involved the Board, management and staff.

Five areas were identified.

1. Raise Profile
2. Creative Leadership
3. Access / Outreach / Support
4. Increase Revenue
5. Philanthropy

Sub committees are being formed to address these issues. I take this opportunity to invite members to volunteer their knowledge and expertise in these areas and nominate for one of the subcommittees.

It has been another successful year and a Board was privileged to serve the members and represent MAV.

We express our gratitude to The Hon. Lynne Kosky MP the Minister for the Arts and The Hon James Merlino Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs Liz Beattie MP for their interest in the role of MAV as part of their portfolios.

MAV acknowledges the VMC, its Chair and staff who have been sound partners in our joint mission to raise the profile of the Arts in a Multicultural Victoria. Many thanks to Arts Victoria for their support and partnership.

A special thanks to our other partners, the City of Melbourne, the Arts Centre, Victorian Multicultural Commission, ABC Radio National, the City of Yarra, Australia Council, Vic Health, Pratt Foundation, Middletons and all other project partners that are acknowledged in this report, for their support, advice and counsel and to all our other supporters.

Our thanks and gratitude vote of appreciation go to our Executive Officer Jill Morgan for her strong leadership, commitment and drive.

Our staff and volunteers together with the EO work as a team and give so much of themselves. We appreciate you and your work. We collectively, Board and members are fortunate to have such a team.

Again I wish to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of my fellow Board members. Our deputy chairs are always willing to step in and all Board members contribute significantly to strengthening MAV.

Board members are always willing to give of themselves, not only by attending meetings, events and function, but making MAV part of their everyday life. They offer ideas, proposals, comment and advice to ensure the organization alive, focused and relevant

To our members we say - thank you for your creativity, initiative, drive and support. You are the face of MAV. You are what people speak about – quality performances, quality exhibitions, and quality relations.

I urge all who are associated with MAV to continue the fine work and stay focused to ensure MAV grows and maintains its correct place in Victorian and Australian society.

Happy 25th Birthday MAV.

Stefan Romaniw OAM CHAIRPERSON