

Executive Officer's Report

25 years ago there was a huge cultural storm which resulted in the establishment of Multicultural Arts Victoria in Melbourne.

Multicultural Arts Victoria evolved from the Festival of All Nations, which was established 10 years earlier in 1973. Following on from the original mission of the Festival of All Nations, its first objectives were to widen the artistic expression of the community to ensure it reflected the diversity of different heritage and traditions. The organisation over the past 25 / 35 years has grown and made an enormous contribution to the arts and more broadly to the development of Australia's diversity since its establishment.

Multicultural Arts Victoria continues to celebrate and openly welcome diversity of culture, ethnic tradition and respect of heritage alongside contemporary practice in all disciplines of the arts in today's multicultural Australia. To acknowledge this 25 year milestone and to honour MAV's role in the community, Multicultural Arts Victoria and the Melbourne International Arts Festival collaborated on the opening 2008 program of the 23rd Melbourne International Arts Festival.

This collaboration with the Melbourne Festival reflected MAV's leadership in developing artistic exchange and intercultural dialogue through the arts. It was fantastic to be able to celebrate our 25th birthday with all of Melbourne and we would like to say a huge thank you to Kristy Edmunds, Artistic Director of MIAF, for supporting our exceptionally talented local, culturally diverse artists.

Multicultural Arts Victoria in 2008 is in the unique position that all the organisations former Chairs are still alive and well and living in Melbourne, Luciano Bini, Wellington Lee, Hass Dellal, George Papadopoulos and President of the former Festival of All Nations, Mike Zafiroopoulos. In honour of the past Chairs, an Anniversary dinner was held with current and past Board members, staff, and supporters celebrated the former Chairs and the organisations achievements. The anniversary dinner was held at the Park Hyatt in Melbourne which is built on the site of the original MAV offices.

At the 25th Anniversary Dinner our new identity designed by Cato Purnell Partners was launched. The development of this new unique visual corporate identity for Multicultural Arts Victoria is very exciting and reaffirms the organisations role as the peak multicultural arts body in Victoria.

Multicultural Arts Victoria saw its 25th anniversary as an opportunity to create an identity that its partners, sponsors, artists and members aspired to be aligned with. It is about acknowledging the past but laying the foundations for the future vision - the next 25 years for the organisation as the identity encompasses the contemporary as well as traditional and conveys integrity and our future vision. It aims also to raise awareness of the scope, breadth and diversity of multicultural arts in Victoria.

I would like to thank Ken Cato from Cato Purnell Partners and his team, including Aaron Turner, Trish Ennis and Jim Tarpkou for developing our new branding. I would also like to thank all Board Members and staff in particular Geraldine Kennett, for assisting with the extensive design brief.

2008 signified a new stage in the development of Multicultural Arts Victoria. To be working with Ken Cato, an Australian designer with an international reputation, was a real privilege. He has won numerous international and Australian design awards, and his work is represented in museums and galleries throughout the world.

This years Annual Report presents the 2008 year's work within Multicultural Arts Victoria. It covers the core work of the organisation and its achievements. 2008 was extensive in terms of our artistic program, our partnerships, profiling, quality, innovation, cultural development, community participation and audience engagement.

MAV toured work internationally and nationally, worked professionally in partnership with leaders in the arts in Melbourne. The cultural activity driven by the ethnic communities over the past 25 / 35 years has shaped the cultural landscape of Melbourne, and 2008 was no exception

The Mix It Up partnership program with the Arts Centre is a prime example of an innovative, inspiring cultural diversity initiative and is a milestone in the Arts for Victoria. Collaborations with key organisations in Victoria including the Arts Centre and Melbourne Festival reflects MAV's leadership role in the arts in the State in ensuring participation of CALD artists. Mix It Up won the national small-business marketing award. Head of International and Agency Channels Retail Banking Services, Commonwealth Bank, Andy Wright presented the Small Business Award to Jill Morgan, Executive Officer, Multicultural Arts Victoria in Sydney.

Other strategic partnerships included ABC Radio National, Arts Law Centre of Australia, Queen Victoria Market, AusDance (Vic), kultour and the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Our local programs continued to provide professional opportunities for our artists including the Emerge Festival, Visible mentoring program, Terrain and Black Harmony Gathering.

MAV also supported several important exhibitions and initiatives in 2008. Naomi Ota exhibited an installation 'Scent of Whiteness' as part of the Scapes and Senses at the Esplanade in Singapore. 'Passion' opened Arts Law Week in the Supreme Court and was then exhibited in 600 Bourke Place. We then had 'Journey' an exhibition of three Ethiopian artists in fortyfivedownstairs. MAV also branched into film and travelled to ACMI, where five emerging young film makers under the mentorship of Thomas Baricevic presented a series of short films. At the BMW Edge we presented a forum on the refugee issues Are We There Yet? in partnership with the Reichstein Foundation. MAV also supported Tony Yap and his Company (tyc) to tour to Asia and supported TYC in gaining key organisational funding from the Dance Board which will ensure cultural diversity in dance on a local, national and international level.

The development and continued success of MAV would not have been possible without the enormous contribution from our many valued partners and Board of Management. MAV has attracted volunteers to the Board of Management of the highest calibre. It is chaired by Stefan Romaniw OAM and is assisted by a strong skilled deputy team, Professor Ruth Rentschler and Natalia Moravski, plus Treasurer Brad Potter, Secretary Anne Tyedin, Marcello D'Amico, Geraldine Kennett, Geraldine Kennett, Roger Ouk, Paul Petran and Georgie Meyer.

Thank you's must go to each of the past Chairs and EO's and the current Board Members and staff of Multicultural Arts Victoria whose support has been vital in the development of the organisation. I would also like to personally acknowledge the extraordinary staff and the volunteers of MAV for their commitment and valuable contribution and thank them for their time and generous support of our artists and communities.

I would like to personally thank MAV's principal funding partners Arts Victoria, City of Melbourne, City of Yarra, Pratt Foundation, Victorian Multicultural Commission and the Australia Council for the Arts plus our other numerous supporters who have made the program, services and events at MAV so successful. Also I would like to sincerely thank George and Hakan from the VMC for their support in realising and celebrating the history of our organisation.

The work of MAV in cooperation with other stakeholders is now recognised as leading practice and has been showcased on the Victorian cultural platform. I look forward to continuing to grow our artistic presence locally, nationally and internationally in 2009 and beyond.

JILL MORGAN EXECUTIVE OFFICER