



Berry St and the Cultural Development Network

present

## **Meet, Meld, Merge II: Arts Bringing Communities Together**

***A one day public forum exploring the way arts can assist  
in recovery from trauma, in particular bushfires***

***Tuesday May 26, Yea Golf Club, Yea***

**9.00 am** Yea Pottery Studio members lead 'clean clay' project

**10.00** **Welcome and indigenous acknowledgement** *Lisa Rudd, Berry St*

**10.10** **Arts and bushfire recovery: some examples from around Australia**  
*Kim Dunphy, Cultural Development Network*

**10.20** **Responding to trauma and grief through the arts**  
*Anne Riggs, PhD researcher and artist*

**10.50** **A local artist's response to the bushfire experience** *Ali Griffin, Healesville*

**11.00** **Small group discussions: what are the issues for us?**

**11.15** **Morning tea**

**11.45** **How can arts projects respond to issues faced by communities?**

Artists and artswomen discuss their ideas and experiences

- Dandenong Ranges Music Council 1997 & 2005 Bushfire Recovery Music Projects *Bev McAlister, Community Music Co-ordinator*
- Grampians region 'Beyond The Smoke' Project,  
*Sue Strano, Regional Arts Victoria*
- FIRE - WATER - EARTH - AIR - SPIRIT - PEOPLE – PLACE: Towards Kinglake Ranges Fire Resilient Futures and Sustainable, *Daryl Taylor*
- Current and future arts activities in the Marysville, Buxton, Narbethong area in response to the Black Saturday Fires, *Julia Peddie*



**12.45 Small group discussion: how could we respond to our experiences through the arts?**

**1.00 Lunch, featuring local produce**

**2.00 Surprise Revitalise**

**2.15 'Toil Art' project case study: documentary and discussion:** Thinking outside the box for potential partners, funding sources and outcomes.

*Lisa Rudd, Berry St*

**2.30 Arts Victoria and Regional Arts Victoria's bushfire recovery response:** what does this mean for your community? *Sue Strano and Mandy Grinblat*

**2.40 Organisations offering support including funding**

*Cultural Development Network; Kim Dunphy, Arts Victoria, Mandy Grinblat  
Regional Arts Victoria, Sue Strano,  
Murrindindi Shire, Cr. Sally Abbott-Smith  
Community Recovery Fund*

**2.50 Small group discussion: shape up our project including partners and supporters**

**3.10 Report back on projects developed**

*Group representatives*

**3.25 Where to from here?**

*Cindy Ferguson, Berry Street*

**Chat and nibbles**

## **PRESENTERS**

### **Kim Dunphy, Program Manager, Cultural Development Network, Victoria**

Kim's role at the Cultural Development Network involves the promotion of cultural vitality and arts in community contexts to enrich the lives of all Victorians. She is also currently undertaking PhD research on the contribution of the arts to social change in East Timor.

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### **Cindy Ferguson, Youth & Community Arts Worker, Berry Street, Alexandra**

After the recent bush fires, Cindy's role has morphed from Youth Arts Worker into Youth & Community Arts Worker, with much time and energy being channelled into arts recovery initiatives, both for young people and for the broader community and in particular the arts communities of the Cathedral Cluster. Cindy is also a photographer and Founding Member of the new Art Co-operative in Alexandra.

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**Ali Griffin, visual artist, Healesville**, is Creative Director of Three Stories Artspace, Curator of *Resurrected - Objects, Memories, Stories*; an exhibition by and for people affected by the Black Saturday Bushfires to provide a place for reflection and education. Ali has spent more than twenty years in design and advertising and is now moving into the fine art world, where her real passion lies. She is a member of the Yarra Valley Open Studios committee, and her 'big picture' is to see the Yarra Valley become the cultural capital of Victoria.

[ali@threestories.com.au](mailto:ali@threestories.com.au)

**Mandy Grinblat, Senior Arts Officer, Arts Victoria** is responsible for the management of the Community Partnerships program at Arts Victoria which supports collaborations between professional artists and Victoria's diverse communities. Arts Victoria is the state Government body charged with advising on and implementing arts policy, developing the arts and cultural industries across the State and ensuring access for all Victorians.

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**Bev McAlister**, Community Music Co-ordinator, Dandenong Ranges Music Council co-founded of the Dandenong Ranges Music Council which won the Music Council of Australia Music in Communities Award in 2008 for All Ages, All abilities, All Musics. DRMC specialises in responding to community music needs, and has worked with the community on bushfire recovery and education projects since Ash Wednesday 1983, in partnerships with professional artists and music therapists. DRMC is currently partnering with MCA to replace musical instruments lost in the fires to bushfire survivors and schools through the Resound project. [drmc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:drmc@optusnet.com.au)

**Julia Peddie** is an artist, arts therapist and graphic designer living in Narbethong. Julia enjoys introducing individuals and communities of all kinds to Labyrinth Walking Meditation. Julia has created numerous temporary and permanent labyrinths, for community events and festivals, as well as with schools and on private properties. Julia is part of a Marysville & Triangle community group, establishing a kids art program and adults art therapy workshops, in the wake of the bushfires. [art@juliapeddie.com](mailto:art@juliapeddie.com)

**Anne Riggs, visual and community artist and PhD researcher** has an extensive community arts practice focussed especially on grief and loss, and that reflects her broader interests in working creatively with vulnerable people. She is in the final stages of a PhD at Victoria University, researching Trauma, Loss and Grief, specifically, what the artist and arts contribute to wellbeing following trauma. Her PhD is multi-disciplinary, incorporating two community arts projects working with people who have experienced trauma, and the creation of a body of artwork herself; it is grounded in arts practice and trauma and grief theory and practice. [ariggs@alphalink.com.au](mailto:ariggs@alphalink.com.au)

**Lisa Rudd: Artist and Community Arts Worker, Berry Street** works with communities to explore the opportunities for arts within the Shire of Murrindindi and beyond. She is now supporting artists and community groups as they seek ways to utilise the arts as a fire recovery tool. Lisa's community art projects include: Arts in Our Environment - functional, reflective artwork, affectionately known as "The Flat Plat; the Flora Fossil Path, Yea Wetlands and her most recent effort: Toil Art, clay murals now on the walls of the Yea Public Toilets. [www.berrystreet.org.au](http://www.berrystreet.org.au) [grangeworth@bigpond.com](mailto:grangeworth@bigpond.com)

**Sue Strano, Manager, Creative Communities, Regional Arts Victoria**  
Sue manages the Creative Communities area of RAV, which supports artists, organisations and communities in regional Victoria through advice, access to resources and opportunities. She manages the Regional Arts Development Officer network, the Regional Arts Fund, on behalf of the Federal Government. Her experience over the last 25 years spans theatre, community arts, international cultural exchange, program management and film and television production. [www.rav.net.au](http://www.rav.net.au) [SStrano@rav.net.au](mailto:SStrano@rav.net.au)

**Daryl Taylor, Director, integralevolution** has twice been a Board Member of the Cultural Development Network, and has taught Cultural Leadership in the CCD program at the Victorian College of the Arts. He has a long history of involvement in arts and health promotion / community development training program curriculum and in facilitating Community Arts projects and events. Currently, Daryl is co-President of KANDO, a Kinglake Ranges Peak Community Group, and has recently been elected to the Kinglake Ranges Representative Group to work with VBRRRA, state and federal government, 'not for profit' peak bodies and business peak bodies and donor corporations. [taylor.daryl@yahoo.com.au](mailto:taylor.daryl@yahoo.com.au) Phone: **03 5786 1804**