



President's | Artistic Director Report 2023

Where we are in September 2023

The SHAC is the Southern Highlands Artisan Collective, a 4 year old not-for-profit arts organisation based in Robertson.

We are excited to announce that we will return to our original hometown at the beginning of November, 2023 after a year in Bowral. We'd like to thank the WSC for supporting our transition to the Old Bowral Town Hall over the past year.

The SHAC at 91 Hoddle St., Robertson will comprise 3 flow-through galleries, and will continue to be a vibrant arts organisation that has high visitation from both locals, tourists and online followers alike.

Along with other exciting businesses in Robertson - Moonacres Kitchen, Pecora Dairy, Trotter's Lane, Elwrays, The Old Cheese Factory, Native Grace, Lucinda's Pantry, Urban Tribe- we have become a stand alone Destination.

We have had a busy 12 months largely due to moving our operation temporarily to Bowral. This logistical move was done with much help from our Volunteers who are always willing and able to jump in when needed.

Our year in the Old Bowral Town Hall was a good time to reconsider where we might settle in the long term. After many real estate visits, it was unanimous with both the Committee and Volunteers that we return to Robertson as soon as we could. We soon realised that commercial leases were few and far between so we looked at purchasing our own land and building a new SHAC. Our greatest hitch was that we couldn't get any funding to build without a material site. The Committee has been actively seeking land to buy or lease and we are pleased to table that we currently have two possibilities. Whichever avenue is most suitable, will take at least two years to get DA approval to build. So we continue to pursue our goal.

In the meantime we are thrilled to have a home back in Robertson. We have lots of plans and programs to invigorate our new premises. We invite you along with us on the journey. Many hands really do make light work so we welcome support from our local and broader community. This can take many forms: our valued Volunteers who give regularly to sit the galleries, help out with installation or assist at Openings.

We have always been run by many generous Volunteers and we have a Committee made up of 6 professionals:

Jane Cush. Pres/Artistic Director
Jeremy Perrott. Vice Pres/Marketing
Doug Spahn. Treasurer
Sonya Phillips. Sec/Public Officer
Annabel Baxter. Volunteer Educator/coordinator
Ian Hardy. Ordinary member

All with a passion for the Arts and one part-time gallery administrator, Christine Richards. I thank them all for the unwavering support they give the SHAC.



We are proud to be the only model of this kind in the region, giving artists an accessible and affordable space to exhibit in professional, well visited galleries with contemporary, changing exhibitions.

We are grateful to have a generous and very fun local sponsor - Trolley'd- who provide in-kind support with remarkable botanical cocktails at our Opening events. They are in 'high' demand around the state so we are very happy to have them work with us.

There are as many ways to be a part of our growing, exciting arts community as there are potatoes in Robertson! If you'd like to support us in some way please be in touch or visit our website under the support tab <https://www.theshac.com.au>

Jane Cush
President/Artistic Director