



away on it. Nothing else seems to come quite so close to allowing me to find that wonderful feeling, and so I continue to chase it through every artwork. I love painting for it's wide variety of materials – from paper to canvas and from oils to watercolour. Each one so different and yet all the same – we use a brush, we create a work and we share a message with our audience.

I run my own small business, through which I sell my original art, prints and other products. I have a small store at Barkly Square Ballarat and use this space to run workshops and connect with other community members from the creative world and beyond.

As someone who is mostly self taught, besides workshops run by my own wonderful creative peers in Perth (where I grew up), Melbourne and Ballarat, I've had to go through a lot of conversations with myself around self doubt and comparing myself to others. I think that is fairly standard practice as a human and as an artist! I try my best to overcome this with a great support network that I speak to regularly full of creatives from all different disciplines. They help to keep me grounded in reality and stop the negativity running away.

There are also huge financial barriers to being an artist. A stable income for many is a dream, and I am still working towards that but taking steps along the

way including making smart investments in equipment (buying good quality when you can!), having a part time job or stable income alongside your practice and collaborating with others to help you reach a new audience.

I never would have been able to attempt oil painting without funding from BAF. I am so grateful for their financial contribution so that I could test, try and wrestle with oil paints fearlessly. Oil painting is one of the more expensive forms of painting and because of that I never thought I'd be able to invest in everything I needed, but the cash allowed me to get set up with appropriate canvases, brushes, mediums and really good quality paint which has made all the difference.

Besides being able to get set up with some much needed materials, expanding my practice and allowing me the freedom to try something new, I have also met many of the other award winners and now have strong friendships across the Ballarat community. I was also educated on the other amazing work BAF does, and was a Mentee and now a Mentor in their mentoring program.

My advice for young artists who are just starting out is try. Try everything. Don't think something isn't right, good enough or bad until you try it because you don't know what's waiting for you on the other side of the try!"

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October 2022

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Aspirations

The Annual Award Winners Magazine of the
Ballarat Arts Foundation | Issue No.21, October 2022
 www.ballaratartsfoundation.org.au

BAF Mission: To encourage and develop, through strong community engagement, the aspirations and talents of emerging artists from all disciplines who have lived, worked or studied in Ballarat.

2022 – An inspiration

Individual applicants for the 2022 Grant Round, were of a very high quality and an inspiration as a group. The cohort represented all genres, with performing arts making a welcome re-entry after a couple of very trepidatious years.

This season saw 31 applicants apply for over \$350,000 worth of funding, to contribute to projects costing upward of \$800,000! This is a record for BAF and a most encouraging sign that Covid is all but dead, whilst the arts are well and truly alive and committed to making a comeback in the years ahead.

After a rigorous selection process, the Grants and Mentoring Committee interviewed 12 amazing candidates on-line, on August 13th. After further deliberation, it was decided that over \$20,000 was to be distributed, between 8 emerging artists. The grant recipients include visual artists, digital artists, performing artists, and artists needing support for international study in both Zurich and England.

The total of funds shared with the emerging artists of Ballarat is now over \$285,000. This includes the newly established Small Equipment Grant which is an example of BAF providing relevant and flexible grant offerings. This Grant offers the opportunity for artists to apply for up to \$350 for a piece of equipment, not necessarily tied to a project.

We encourage this cohort to stay in touch with BAF and with each other; the BAF network is a comprehensive collection of artists and alumni, supporters, donors, partners and importantly, the individual networks of all of these groups.

We have great pleasure in announcing two new named awards for this year, in the **Jess Crowe Memorial Award** for Tertiary Study and the **Stubbs Roberts Award** both of which have been allocated in this round. We are so grateful to have a loyal band of donors contributing to our granting program as we honour our value proposition: *Connecting art lovers with art makers; building community partnerships through direct financial support.*



Fabienne Blythe | weeping-cherry-shade

We hope you will be as encouraged as we are, as you read about the ambitious and unique projects taking place right here in Ballarat.

Paula Nicholson, Chair

KELSIE WHITE

Kelsie White received a BAF Award in 2021 toward her work as a visual artist. Here are some of her thoughts around her own arts practice.

"The first memory I have of painting and drawing was using the pink and yellow wind-up crayons on countless reams of A4 paper, or my Dad drawing me fantastic artworks in Microsoft Paint which he would print so I could colour in. I love using colour. Painting and drawing have always allowed me to find my 'flow state' – where time disappears, and nothing else exists except the artwork in front of me as I work

GET INVOLVED WITH BAF

BAF would like to thank our vast network of donors, supporters, benefactors and friends for their ongoing assistance as we strive to deliver our objectives. There are many opportunities for you or your organisation to become involved with the Foundation, be it through a partnership, sponsorship, a donation or as a volunteer. If you wish to make a donation, please find the details below. If you would like to discuss other options, please contact Paula: info@ballaratartsfoundation.org.au

We look forward to revealing the possibilities that exist through building relationships with the arts community of Ballarat.

MAKE A DONATION OR BECOME A BAFA

The **Ballarat Arts Foundation Inc. Gifts Account** is a tax deductible fund listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations under Subdivision 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1977. **Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.**

It is easy to support artists who live and work in the Ballarat region. Just go online to the BAF website: www.ballaratartsfoundation.org.au/make-a-donation

Here you may choose to make a one-off donation or a recurring donation. By making a recurring or monthly donation of between \$10 and \$100, you will become a **Ballarat Arts Foundation Ally** or a BAFA! In return, a BAFA receives advance notifications regarding our core program, invitations to our exclusive events, regular updates on our Alumni, as well as a warm inner glow knowing that you are supporting local artists.

BECOME A BEQUEST FRIEND

Contribute to the work of BAF through a bequest. Discuss with us the various options of creating a named award or a scholarship in your will.

Grant Round Thirty Five

Where are they now?



ADRIAN LISTON

Adrian has been awarded the **BLOC and Lyric Theatre Award for Performing Arts/Musical Theatre**. These two community-based organisations are highly valued ongoing supporters of BAF and local theatre and are always proud to see emerging artists forging careers in the performing arts. Adrian is a percussionist who is a regular performer in local theatre companies and ensembles. BAF's support will enable Adrian to acquire an electronic percussion pad that will improve the versatility and range of percussion sounds within his performances.



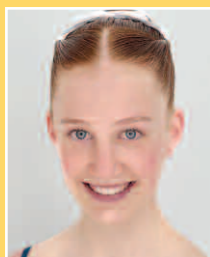
SEBASTIAN ALLEN

Sebastian been awarded the **Jess Crowe Memorial Award** in support of tertiary education. This is offered in memory of Jess Crowe and celebrates her passion for education. Sebastian is a composer and musician beginning tertiary study in music. BAF's support will help Sebastian acquire a clarinet and participate in masterclasses to advance Sebastian's composing and performance skills.



CHARLOTTE CHIVERS

Charlotte has been awarded the **Isobella Foundation Award**. The trustees of the Isobella Foundation are committed to supporting the community of Ballarat across many areas including the Arts. Charlotte is a ballet dancer studying dance in Zurich and aspiring to fulfill her ambition to be part of a world-class dance company. Charlotte first received a BAF grant in 2019 and BAF's continued support through the Isobella Foundation will help Charlotte with the costs of pointe shoes and ancillary expenses essential to her study.



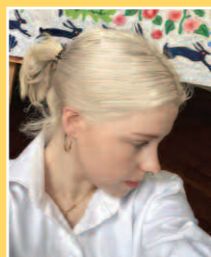
MADISON SPARKMAN

Madison has been awarded the inaugural **Stubbs Roberts Award**. The award reflects the deep commitment to the arts, of Michael Stubbs and Malcolm Roberts. Their establishment of an annual opera prize with Victorian Opera, demonstrates their passion to connect Ballarat to the wider arts community. Madison is a ballet dancer who will begin studying with the Australian Ballet School in 2023. The grant will help Madison with purchasing pointe shoes and to defray the costs of full-time study as she goes beyond Ballarat with her talent.



BEN ANDREWS

Ben has been awarded the **Jack Anderson Award**. This award is a dedicated award in the area of Film and associated work and will ensure the recognition of Jack's passion and dedication to Film and to Ballarat. Ben is a visual artist with a background in film, now working in the rapidly emerging practice of digital arts. With BAF's support, Ben will acquire a high-capability graphics card that will enable him to produce larger-scale, richer, and more complex works.



FABIENNE BLYTHE

Fabienne has been awarded the **Norman Hofmaier Award for Contemporary Art**. This award recognises Norman Hofmaier's contribution to contemporary art and Ballarat's art scene and exists through a donation of work to BAF by his family. Fabienne is a visual artist and painter wishing to expand her arts practice to larger and more complex works. BAF's support will enable Fabienne to acquire an easel and ancillaries that will help Fabienne achieve her goal of establishing a studio practice.



NICHOLAS COLLINS

Nicholas has been awarded the **VJ Award for International Study**. The donors behind this award firmly believe in the opportunities that international study can deliver and understand the challenges associated. Nicholas is a singer who has been accepted to study at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. BAF's support will help Nick in defraying the costs of his international study, especially with transporting the annotated musical scores that are essential to his continuing study.



SPENCER HARRISON

Spencer has been awarded the **Haymes Family Foundation Award**. The family is tireless in its support for Ballarat and are very pleased to be able to offer support for the emerging artists of our city in this way. Spencer is a visual artist establishing a practice in digital and video arts. BAF's support will enable Spencer to acquire a high-performance computer with the capabilities necessary to support Spencer's development in this rapidly evolving field.



OLIVIA FRENCH

"There is no beauty without some strangeness"

Edgar Allan Poe

What a very strange few years we've endured but, fortunately, a lot of beauty has come from it too. My day job is a literature and history teacher but I moonlight as an actor and director. Of the productions I've been a part of, one I cherish is Ballarat National Theatre's 2018 stage production of *Pride and Prejudice*. Under Alexandra Meerbach's direction, I breathed life into the OG obstinate headstrong girl, Elizabeth Bennet and I loved every damn minute of it. From this beloved story came an idea that would connect countless people, as well as help me discover a new kind of performance art.

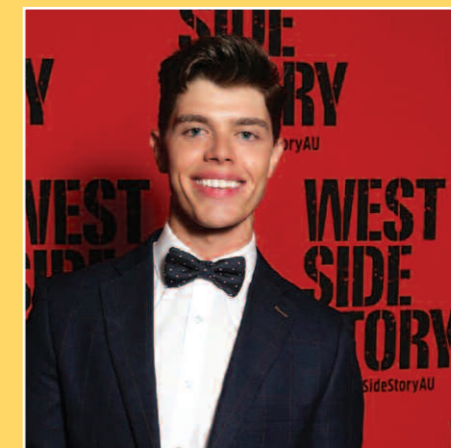
During 2020 and 2021, I was one of the creators behind two audiobook projects with Ballarat National Theatre: *Pride and Prejudice Podcast* and *Peter Pan*. These experiences gave me the momentum, experience and audacity to develop a new project with support from the Ballarat Arts Foundation. I received the 2021 **Jack Anderson Award** to create *RavenMad*. Combining my love of literature and my passion for presenting classic texts in accessible, engaging ways – this project is in two parts. First adapting the poetry and prose of Edgar Allan Poe as a podcast – with a team of talented voice actors, composers and sound designers to share these works with long-time fans and new audiences alike. Secondly, we've been working with a range of artists to develop visuals to create short film adaptations – everything from watercolours, Lego stop motion, sand art and digital illustrations. These will be released on YouTube, with supporting teaching resources to follow.

I've loved Poe's writing for years. The language can be a bit of a hurdle but we're sure that the podcast and short films will bridge any gaps and help to connect audiences with these texts. The

stories deal with universal themes and very human emotions – love and loss, beauty and fear, connection and isolation. And the occasional (read: regular) inclusion of crime and hints of the supernatural make for fascinating tales. They're certainly very prevalent in modern entertainment media – so why not delve into the classics and explore poetry and prose that have stood the test of time.

What else have I been up to? I played Shelby in BNT's *Steel Magnolias* in December last year, and recently, I helped out as literary consultant, accent coach and Q&A panel host for BNT's *Mr Bennet's Bride*, directed by BAF's Megan Riedl. Next, I'm taking on a marketing role with Cygnet and Swan's production of *Fantastic in Plastic* at La Mama through their 2023 Explorations season, and I'll be narrating the C&S adaptation of *Jane Eyre* next year too. Some beautiful works but not without strange-ness, and I'm so excited to keep creating.

You can find the *RavenMad* podcast via ravenmad.buzzsprout.com and all major podcasting platforms. To learn more about *RavenMad*, visit sites.google.com/view/ravenmad



TODD JACOBSSON

Originally from Ballarat, Victoria, Todd grew up training at BBC Studios under Trudy and Lisa Harris, before venturing off to tour the world at the age of eighteen. He received a BAF Award in 2009 for Music and Music Theatre.

Todd has performed as a Guest Entertainer on board some of the world's greatest ships, working for companies such as Royal Caribbean, Princess, Cunard, Oceania and Celebrity Cruise Lines.

Most notably, he performed the iconic role of Tony to great acclaim in the 2019 Australian and International tour of *West Side Story* (Opera Australia, GWB, BB Group), and previously performed in the *Helpmann Award* winning Australian premiere production of *The Book Of Mormon* (GFO), understudying the role of Elder Price. Most recently Todd spent two years in the national tour of Disney's

Frozen The Musical, understudying the role of Hans.

Todd made his professional musical theatre debut with The Production Company's *The Pirates Of Penzance* at Hamer Hall, followed by *Guys And Dolls* at The Arts Centre Melbourne. Further theatrical credits include the Australian and International tours of *Scooby Doo Live! Musical Mysteries* and *Scooby Doo Live! Level Up* as Fred, which took him to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and as a performer/percussionist on Rhonda Burchmore's *Vinyl Viagra* tour.

Television appearances include the Nine Network's *Mornings* and Seven Network's *The Morning Show*. He also performed as a top six finalist for the prestigious *2018 Rob Guest Endowment Award*.

Todd is currently playing Fender and understudying Link Larkin in the Australian tour of the Broadway smash hit musical *Hairspray*.

JORDE HEYS

A recipient of the **Rotary Club of Ballarat South Award** in 2012, Jorde Heys is an award-winning composer now based in Sydney. His output traverses a range of mediums, from concert works to music for stage and screen.

With a background in classical performance, Jorde was awarded the **Music Faculty and Os Nelson Scholarships** to attend Queen's College whilst undertaking his Bachelor of Music at The Conservatorium of Music at The University of Melbourne in 2013, studying piano under Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell and Dr. Donna Coleman. He subsequently majored in composition under composers Assoc. Prof. Elliott Gyger and Dr. Katy Abbott. In 2016, he completed his Honours year in composition at the same institution under Prof. Stuart Greenbaum, winning the **Melbourne Recital Centre and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music Composition Prize** for a commission of a piece, *ego folium*, which was premiered in April 2018 by early music specialists *Latitude 37*.

Jorde was awarded the **Avid Award for Best Original Music** in an Australian Short Film at *Flickerfest 2021*, and most recently, his music is currently exhibiting in commissioned work for both Sydney Opera House and University of Queensland Art Museum in collaboration with new media artist Xanthe Dobbie.

Tell us your story

BAF Alumni Survey
www.ballaratartsfoundation.org.au/alumni-central

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 Calling all
 emerging artists

Don't forget to check the Ballarat Arts Foundation website early in 2023 for information regarding the next round of available funding.