



# aspirations

## BAF's 20th Anniversary

**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.

At the Ballarat Arts Foundation, we always knew this was going to be a big year, but of course, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was bigger (and smaller) than any of us could have imagined. As some of you may be aware, this year marks our 20th Anniversary and we had many activities and programs arranged to celebrate such a momentous milestone. But like any creative organisation or individual, we have been able to soldier on with some of our plans being postponed, some moving on-line and some delivered in the traditional way.

One of these staples is our annual Grant Round, which required some re-thinking through the interview and selection process, but as always culminated in cash grants being offered to emerging artists with a connection to Ballarat. Despite the unusual year that is 2020, BAF had 41 applications for support, with over \$110,000 in

requests for funds. It comes as no surprise that this is the highest raw number of requests and the highest in monetary value since our inception. Whilst the arts may have had a tough time of it this year, inspiration for future work has clearly not been dampened and we are very pleased to be able to support 12 award winners with a total of over \$18,000 going towards projects across many genres.

Our delivery of these awards is made possible every year by our generous donors and sponsors, in-kind partners and supporters, the voluntary BAF Board and committees, Members, Associates, Alumni and all of our 'followers'. We thank you all for your loyalty and faith especially in these strange times. Combined, you have all underpinned our efforts for the past 20 years and it is clear that we have a very solid foundation with which to continue our work

well into the future. The current pandemic highlights organisations that are steadfast and strong, and the Ballarat community should be congratulated for maintaining the Ballarat Arts Foundation in its continued efforts to drive Arts and Culture in our city.

I invite you to turn the page and read about the 12 talented winners, their current projects and future dreams, along with some of our past winners and their subsequent achievements. We look forward to sharing our 21st birthday plans with you through our website ([ballaratartsfoundation.org.au](http://ballaratartsfoundation.org.au)) and our Facebook page, and hope to see you at a live and in-person event sometime very soon!

**Paula Nicholson**, Chair

Image: *Castlemaine Gothic*, Kirrily Urquhart



BAF

*Kirrily Urquhart*



# grant round thirty three



**Lucan Buckley** will be able to further develop his love of the trombone and the range of music he can perform with the *Louis Stevens Award for Musicianship* for classical or jazz musicians, composers or conductors. As well as funding the purchase of an instrument



stand and mute, BAF is thrilled, through their network, to have been able to provide some other essential equipment for Lucan.



**Tom Jenkins** is an aspiring musician currently completing VCE. As well as writing his own music, he enjoys contributing to the local arts community through busking and performing at various venues. The *BLOC and Lyric*



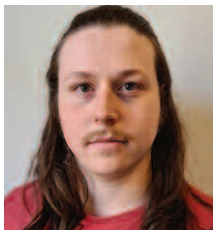
*Theatre Award for Performing Arts* will allow Tom to upgrade his equipment so that he can record his work and perform with a higher quality sound.



**Akasha Temple-Matthews** is a musician who is producing her first professional solo album *Traveller* after a long history as a music arts facilitator with a strong community focus. The *Isobella Foundation Award* will fund the



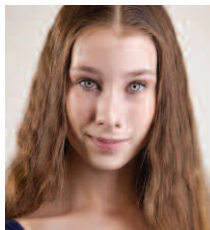
purchase of the required recording and performance equipment.



**Sam Dolan**, an actor in his final year of studies at Federation University, has shown initiative during COVID-19 times and is embarking on creating digital content as a response to how the performance industry is shifting in the current climate. The equipment



purchased through the *BAF Award* will help Sam write, produce and publish a diverse range of content including short-form videos, skits and sketches.



**Lily Minchenko** is a dedicated ballerina currently completing her final year of study in Stuttgart, Germany. The *VJ Award for Overseas Study* funding will enable her to purchase the uniform and specialist dance shoes that she requires to



complete her course. Lily has ambitions to be a world-class ballerina.



**Lizzie Tongway** is a ceramicist who is keen to produce high quality platters and to develop a range of garden décor. The *Rotary Club of Ballarat South Award* will allow Lizzie to purchase a slab roller which will enable her to produce even



slabs of clay to transform into platters as well as decorative tiles.



**Paige Duggan** is a multi-talented artist and musician well known in the local region. The focus of her visual art is hand drawn Australian native plants, especially wildflowers, which are transformed into colourful digital designs for print. The *Di Bresciani*



*Drawing and Painting Award* will allow Paige to upgrade the computer technology that is an integral part of her art practice.



**Sarah Morrison** has already made her mark on the professional world of Music Theatre as a performer. With the *Will Coltman Award for Writing* she will purchase the sophisticated 'Final Draft' software and will utilise the time of the



theatre closures due to COVID-19 to focus on, and further develop, her script-writing ventures.



**Kirrily Urquhart's** *Federation University Award for Creative Community Impact* will enable her to purchase equipment to capture professional standard digital imagery of the built and natural environment of the Ballarat region,



particularly the wrought iron lacework, and produce and promote her beautiful digital textile designs.



**Abby Ashmore, Matthew McEgan, Joshua Knight and Fletcher Wragg** form the band **Grove**. They have been playing across the State for over a year, prior to the COVID-19 lockdown. The *Nicholson Award* will enable the band to produce vinyl pressings of their debut EP and so reach a wider audience as they launch and distribute this recording.



**Megan Riedl** has developed a strong following in the world of poetry. The *Jack Anderson Award for Film* will enable Megan to reach out to a much wider audience in this time of pandemic restrictions, by producing a



professionally filmed and edited video of her spoken word poetry, a performance which can be shared widely online.



**Jade Walsh** has been awarded the *Norman Hofmaier Award for Contemporary Art*. This support will help her acquire essential materials to encourage her development as a contemporary artist in blending painting, printing and textiles in



larger scale works, and to promote awareness of her work.

# where are they now?



## LOUIS STEVENS

Louis Stevens received the *Benjamin Northey Award* in 2016 and has been achieving great things in music ever since. He has recently been writing a score for a short film called 'Will You Find Me?'

Produced by the production company *Golden Pineapple*, it has just been submitted to the *Sundance Film Festival*. There are plans to submit the film into the coming film festival circuit as well.

"It tells the story of Jesse and his birth-mother Ellie who begin to rekindle their relationship through their mutual skill and love for drawing and art. The soundtrack I wrote is used to create a bittersweet lens to the film. Although their relationship remains hopeful, there is still an underlying trauma from both perspectives."

Louis was also recently commissioned by Andrew Dale at Ballarat Grammar School to write a piece of music for the senior orchestra, with plans for it to be premiered at speech night later this year. This is his statement regarding this work:

"*Dawn* is an ode and celebration of resilience; an acknowledgement that we have the ability to adapt, overcome and endure. Although 2020 may be branded in our minds as a year of turbulence and uncertainty, we must also recognize the resilience, community and strength we have created in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we face adversity and brave ambiguity we become resilient. A resilience that moves us towards dawn."

## EMERGING ARTISTS

Don't forget to check the Ballarat Arts Foundation website early in 2021 for information regarding the next round of available funding.



## ALDONA KMIEC

### What first drew you to practice in your chosen field/genre?

Artistically, my motivation has always been to explore my imagination and express my feelings, both positive and negative, explore thoughts and ideas to influence my artworks.

Commercially, to be good at what I do, to work ethically and to take great photos for people.

My main motivation for practising photography is that I'm cultivating a job that facilitates the kind of lifestyle I want to have. I want to learn as much as I can on how to be savvy as a business owner and to succeed in my field.

### Are you still a practising artist? If not, what is your area of employment?

I am, absolutely. I also support myself by part-time employment, where I work in a Digital Marketing and content production role. This gives me a balance that I need right now, which is a life buoy.

### What do you love most about your chosen arts practice?

My work has an intrinsic value to me as it represents freedom of expression. Purpose, meaning and sustainability matter to me. I see my images as a manifesto, that represents values that I believe in, which are open-mindedness, equality, commitment and compassion.

### What challenges or hurdles have you overcome to continue in your arts practice, if applicable?

For me, the most difficult part about being a photographer is when I'm not taking images. It's that simple. If you are a photographer, you need to take images.

To be honest, it is a very difficult profession, one that is highly competitive. As a photographer, behind-the-scenes and research work takes up about 80% of the time, and the actual performed photography takes the last 10-15%. So having motivation to do the more mundane tasks is key. Having to constantly adapt to the technological changes within the photographic business can be challenging. Knowing how to 'switch off' from work is not always easy.

Right now, as COVID-19 has entered our world and all work has been put on hold, it has never been more important to be innovative in how we market ourselves, the ways we present our work online, how we connect with our clients and how we care about them. It is important to use this time to tidy up or completely rethink work processes, to try something new (within the constraints that currently apply to us in Victoria) and perhaps see the world from a completely different angle. It is hard but it is also an opportunity to slow down from the unsustainable race we were in before COVID-19 happened.

The photography industry is ever-changing with technology, law and ethics. It will never be a stagnant profession, it'll probably become even more precarious in the future.

### How did the BAF award/BAF connection further your work as an artist?

When I received my photography grant from BAF nine years ago now, it was the time when I was very new to Ballarat and I didn't have many local connections than other artists already had through their families, school or friends. I moved here from London, where I lived for six years. So I moved from a city of nine million people to a city of 95 thousand people without knowing anyone! Being a migrant in a new country means it takes time to find your tribe and confidence again; starting something anew takes a huge amount of energy.

Getting involved in BAF has certainly helped me feel part of a community that is professionally supportive. Being part of the ever growing alumni has been a positive experience for me, especially valuable with gallery exhibitions that alumni get invited to take part in. And having a regional organisation like BAF supporting regional artists is hugely important.

### Have you undertaken any training (formal or informal) in your creative pursuits?

I would've loved to go to an art school when I was growing up, but there weren't any art schools around in our region in Poland. I'd learnt to play piano accordion as a child, which has become a chosen object in some of my photographs, but I didn't become a musician. I always thought of myself as a visual person.

I studied Photography at London Metropolitan University prior to relocating to Australia.

### What long-term benefit or other effect has the award had on you or your arts practice?

The 2011 BAF photography grant has been a great incentive in chasing my dream, as by then, I had already had my ABN registered and started working on commercial and art photography projects in Ballarat and Melbourne. I was very motivated to work with new clients and expand my technique and services. In 2013, I won the *Eureka Art Prize* in Ballarat and a few months after that, I won a small image prize at *Leica Salon* at Centre of Contemporary Photography in Melbourne.

That was followed by being a finalist in *Head On Photography Festival* in Sydney and being one of the finalists in the prestigious *2014 Bowness Photography Prize* at MGA in Melbourne.

All of that while renovating a house. I think the biggest effect was the motivation to do my own thing and being proud of achieving it from a regional town.

### What advice do you have for young artists who are just starting out?

My hope for the arts industry, after the horrendous impacts and changes of 2020, is that the world recovers soon. Undoubtedly, the world will always need art to tell people's stories and to inspire others – but it's crucial that these stories are valued by our leaders, and that artists are supported and recognised as valuable members of our economy. I hope that young artists will want to be leaders in their field and not be afraid to challenge the status quo.



# aspirations



## Supporting the local community

Flatpack furniture, 2 min assembly with no tools! Our new product range 'Formed by Function' has enabled local staff to work through the COVID-19 pandemic. With your help we continue to support our friends and colleagues in the Arts Industry.

Shop the range at [www.formedbyfunction.com](http://www.formedbyfunction.com)



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IMA  
GINATION

Storylines: Wendy Rechenberg and Paula Nicholson

Photographs courtesy of BAF or the Artists

Layout: Peter Lambert Design

Printing: Baxter & Stubbs

Printed on EcoStar Silk 100% Recycled

### BAF BOARD MEMBERS

September 2020

Paula Nicholson – Chair  
Andrew Henwood – Vice Chair  
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Associate Professor Sam Henson  
Jo Kruse  
Wendy Rechenberg  
Malcolm Roberts  
Kiri Smart  
Tim Sullivan  
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Or follow us on... 

### 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](mailto:info@ballaratartsfoundation.org.au)

We look forward to revealing the possibilities that exist through relationships with the Ballarat Arts Community.

### MAKE A DONATION TO BAF

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](http://www.ballaratartsfoundation.org.au/make-a-donation)

### BECOME A BALLARAT ARTS FOUNDATION ALLY (BAFA)

From a small donation of only \$10 a month up to \$100 a month you can become a BAFA. You will be invited to openings and exhibition previews, be offered early bird tickets for performances and hear first about grant applications and awards.

### BECOME A BEQUEST FRIEND

Consider putting the work of BAF into your will. Discuss with us the various options of naming an award or a scholarship.

### EMERGING ARTISTS

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