



**Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Bouddi Society Inc. by the
Foundation Chairman, John Bell AO OBE
5 April 2016**

It is with pleasure that I report on the activities of the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts for the 2015 financial year.

Following a disappointing financial outcome in the second “Bouddi at Bells” event held in 2014, in 2015 the Foundation reassessed its situation. Lee Casey had retired from the Foundation because of ill-health and the Bouddi Society was asked to appoint three new members, Joy Park, Philip Walker and Phil Donnelly to strengthen the committee.

Our aim has always been to accumulate sufficient funds so that income from investing those funds would be sufficient to fund our grants program. To achieve this the Foundation has made strategic changes to its fundraising approach centred around two new fundraising activities. The first was a concerted campaign to appeal to large institutional and individual donors, an initiative which netted \$96,500 in 2015. We were assisted in this by the support of our patrons, whom we thank, and we are extremely grateful for the generosity of our many donors.

The second initiative taken by the Foundation Committee was to organise 'Bouddi Self Portraits on Paper', an Art Auction of works by prominent Australian artists. Peter Godwin was the driving force behind this initiative, and he was able to bring to the project not only his own valuable expertise but also that of the art curators Gavin Wilson and Maggy Todd, who had recently moved into the area. Again, the Bouddi Society was happy to appoint them to the Foundation committee.

The organisational complexity of this project required the Foundation committee to meet during most weeks in the latter part of the year and prior to the auction on 17 March 2016. Although the conclusion of this event falls outside the reference of this report it appears that the event will net over \$30,000 to the Foundation. We are greatly indebted to all those involved, particularly the artists who donated their works to the Foundation. We are fortunate to have such wonderful support from the Arts community.

As a result of these efforts the Foundation now finds itself in a healthy financial position.

For the fourth consecutive year the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts offered grants to support young artists on the Central Coast. This is now an integral and important part of the support structure to foster and encourage the wealth of talent that exists in our community. We have now made over 30 grants totalling \$72,000 to young artists under 25 and the quality and range of artistic endeavour is impressive.

In 2015 we received 26 applications and these resulted in grants totalling \$17,000 being offered to the following ten young artists:

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| Nadia Martich | Dance |
| Dane Howell | Filmaking |
| Gabrielle Paananen | Puppetry |
| Madison Relf | Photography |
| Sara Gebicki | Visual Arts |
| Kyle Brown | Photography |
| Sam Kelly | Percussion |
| Eva Li | Violin |
| Tiana Young | Vocalist |
| Joseph Arrua | Songwriter |

I would like to thank the following people who lent us their expertise in the assessment and auditioning of such a wide range of talent and disciplines: Ian Provest, Philip Mortlock, Veronica Crowe, and Graeme Blundell assisted myself, Joy Park, Philip Walker, Peter Godwin and Gavin Wilson in the taxing assessment process.

The grants were presented at a ceremony at Wagstaffe Hall in November at which several of the grantees performed for an impressed audience.

Following the awards ceremony, over 200 people were entertained by Greg Pickhaver and John Doyle, a.k.a. "Roy & HG" who generously and freely gave their talents in order to raise funds for the Foundation. We are grateful to them.

The promotion of all our events and the advertising of our grants program have been greatly assisted by the Foundation's impressive and informative web page www.bouddiarts.org.au and facebook page [facebook.com/bouddiarts](https://www.facebook.com/bouddiarts) organised and managed by Philip Walker.

Throughout this report I have expressed the thanks and gratitude of the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts to the many people from the arts, our local community and the wider community who have given their support, enthusiasm and time to back our efforts to encourage and nurture artistic talent on the Central Coast. I will conclude therefore in also extending the Foundation's thanks to the Bouddi Society, its Committee and members, for the assistance and support they have provided to us in 2015.

John Bell
Chairman
Bouddi Foundation for the Arts

5 April 2016