

PO Box 292 Newborough 3825 www.moartz.com

MOARTZ MUSE

Hello everyone!!! welcome to 2025 and a great creative start to the year. The next theatre production is just around the corner in May and it's going to be a ripper.

As usual we will have our visual artists show their talents to accompany the production so if you are a member and have some art, don't be shy let me know and we will get your art noticed. This is part of what Moartz is about, nurturing our artists.

Contact me, Sharon at moartz3825@gmail.com.au

The new Moartz Inc. committee 2025

President - Sharon Anderson
Vice President - Mike Pullar
Secretary/Treasurer - Dot Teague
Membership secretary Laura Davies
Committee member - Jenny Peterson

'Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working'
 Pablo Picasso



Lowanna Secondary College Awards Night

Each year Moartz sponsors students at Lowanna Secondary Collage to encourage youth excellence in the arts. The awards evening in 2025 was a great success. We thank Dot Teague for attending the evening and handing the awards to the following students.

Awards went to:

For dedication, passion and commitment to Creative Writing throughout the year.

Hailey Jackway Year 7



For dedication, passion and commitment to Music throughout the year.

Kayla Lee Xerri Year 10

For dedication, passion and commitment to Visual Art throughout the year.

Emily Kealy Year 12

Emily left with Dot Teague at the presentation night



Kayla above with Dot Teague at the presentation night

25 Year Celebration: One Act Play Gala Weekend

25 YEARS OF MOARTZ

In August 1999 Moartz Inc. sprouted from a group of like-minded artists wanting to "be the catalyst for all manner of arts related activity in and around Moe" in Victoria east.

Fast forward to 2024 and Moartz geared up to celebrate its 25th-year milestone with a bang!

Over the past quarter-century Moartz has morphed into an arts powerhouse, with an enviable reputation of high-quality theatre productions, visual arts excellence, unmatched hospitality, championing of newcomers, a vast team of dedicated volunteers, and its unwavering commitment to community enrichment and entertainment.

In August 2024, all was on show when Moartz celebrated with their 25th Anniversary One-Act Play Gala weekend. Each performance included two one-act plays, local art display, photos, memorabilia, live music with Mike Pullar & Jess Teague, video presentation (congratulations from past and present associated members and friends put together by Annette O'Shea and available to view on the Moartz website) the induction of Lifetime Members (Sharon Anderson, Jeanette Teague and John Teague in recognition of their unprecedented, continuous and community focused contribution over 25 years) and complimentary refreshments.

Production Manager, Julie Strini said "We were so excited to bring a best-of-the-best weekend extravaganza to theatre goers and the general arts community. We've got double the plays, double the cast and double the fun!"

Including **Bombshells** written by Joanna Murry-Smith, that features a number of funny and perceptive monologues about the stress of modern female life. "Four women are about to explode and are dropping truth bombs with every turn!", director Annette O'Shea says. The cast includes the experienced Christine Skicko, Erin Jessep, Jasmine O'Shea and new to the Moartz family the talented Karina Byrne.

Mike Pullar returns to direct **Just Far Enough** by Melinda Chapman, in a mischievous comedy that explores the boundaries observed...and often ignored, between neighbouring friends. Gene Jarvis, Amy Moss and Julie Strini have been cast to play the three neighbours.

Moartz 25th Anniversary One-Act Play Gala weekend came to Monash Hall, Yallourn North on Friday the 23rd of August at 7.30pm, Saturday the 24th of August at 7.30pm and Sunday the 25th of August at 2pm.

It was a huge success with Moartz members past and present coming from far and wide to attend the Gala. There was much catching up between the plays, exhibition, drinks and nibbles.

For more details and to check out Moartz new website go to www.moartz.com



25 Year Celebration: One Act Play Gala Weekend

Production Report

Overall report: Mike spoke about how the general patron conversation was that they were happy with our celebrations, plays and overall event. Buzzy atmosphere each event. Lovely to have author of JFE in attendance, with positive feedback. Directors and actors' point of view, was that the format was easy. Ticket sales were great given that Mary Poppins (LTC) and Foster One-Act Play Festival on the same weekend.

261 Patrons over the 3 shows.



*Bombshells cast, Left to right;
Annette O'Shea, Erin Jessup,
Christine Skicko, Jasmine O'Shea
and Karina Byrne*

*Just Far Enough cast, Left to
right;
Gene Jarvis, Julie Strini
and Amy Moss*





Life Members. Note from John and Jeanette Teague. “Thanks for most humbly nominating John and I for Life Members, we feel greatly honoured and we are most grateful. We love Moartz and love you all”. Great to see Sharon Anderson reaction. Well received.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Moartz was incredibly honoured to have been nominated for Community Service of the Year at the Latrobe City Council’s 2025 Australia Day Awards.

We could not be more grateful to our artists and actors for the quality of work they continue to produce and the biggest thanks goes to all of our volunteers and supporters who made it possible.

2025 AWARD NOMINEE – COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR

MOARTZ INC.

Moartz Inc. proudly marks 25 years of enriching the Latrobe City community through exceptional theatre and visual arts. Over the years, it has grown into a cultural powerhouse, known for its high-quality productions and commitment to local talent. Recently, Moartz celebrated its milestone with a 25th Anniversary One-Act Play Gala at Monash Hall, featuring sold-out performances, an art exhibition, and live music from local musicians.

Moartz continues to nurture the arts by encouraging diverse activities, such as Open Studios Latrobe, which partners with community groups like ARC Yinnar to showcase local artists in their own studios across the region. By supporting local businesses and volunteer groups, including CFA and Fulham Prison crews, Moartz generates financial benefits for the area.

As a leader in local arts and entertainment, Moartz has hosted 35 theatre productions and nine Open Studios events, engaging around 200 artists and providing valuable opportunities for more than 160 actors and countless volunteers. The organisation’s contributions have earned numerous accolades, including multiple Gippsland Theatre Awards and Victorian Drama League Awards. Moartz remains dedicated to fostering creativity and bringing the community together through its ongoing projects and initiatives.

2025 Australia Day Awards | Latrobe City Council | Page 13

25 Year Celebration



1999 - 2024

The **Moartz 25th Anniversary book** is a compilation of photos, media and newsletter articles, history and memories from the many members of Moartz.

Moartz is proud to present this piece of arts history. This book only shows a small snapshot of the time and effort it takes to run a volunteer arts organisation. Moartz is a not for profit organisation whose many members over the past 25 years have willingly dedicated their time, energy and resources to make Moartz the success it is today.

Moartz is still evolving and the future is full of hope for more exceptional arts and theatre productions. The arts is alive and strong in the Latrobe Valley and Moartz is liaising with other like minded organisations to ensure there are always places for creatives to meet and continue their art.

This book is still available at only \$15 - contact our committee or come to the next Moartz production in May



Here's what Moartz has done in 25 years!

see all about it and more in the book!

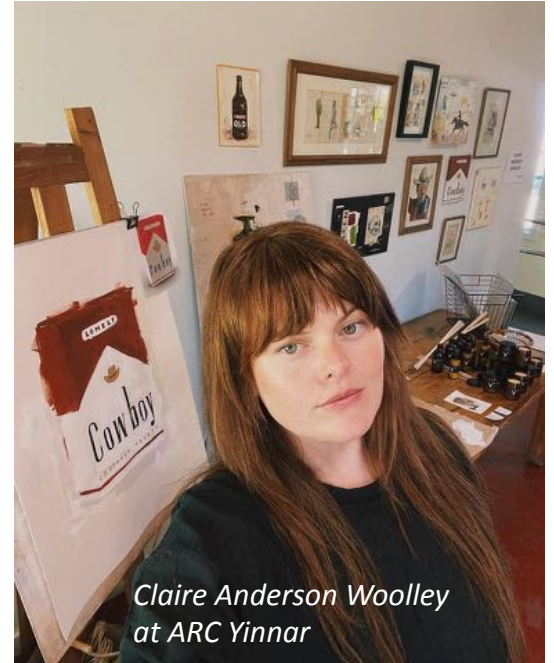
- The first meeting & first Office Bearers 1999
- 'FOTO' The Millenium Project 1999
- Moartz 'Muse' newsletters
- Lowanna annual VCE Awards
- Yallourn North - Welcome to the community!
- Moartz 'Take a Bow' Radio Broadcasts 2010
- Exhibitions at Zest Cafe in George St 2011-12
- Motown Place partnership with Moe LifeSkills
- Elizabeth Street Hub
- Monash Hall Yallourn North
- The Depot Yallourn North
- 10th Anniversary Book 2010
- 25th Anniversary Book 2024
- Moartz Theatre Productions & Art Exhibitions**
- 'Habeas Corpus' 2000
- 'Out of Order' 2001
- 'Arsenic and Old Lace' 2001
- 'Secret Bridesmaids Business' 2002
- 'Family Planning' 2003
- 'Cosi' 2003
- 'Fools Paradise' 2004
- 'It's My Party (and I'll Die if I Want To)' 2004
- 'The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production Of Macbeth' 2005
- 'No Chocolates by Request 2005 Gippsland Theatre Festival
- 'Caught In The Net' 2006
- 'Boxing Day 2007 Gippsland Theatre Festival
- 'Dimboola' 2008
- An Evening of One Act Plays 2009 Too Close for Comfort & Avatar 2009
- A night of Mayhem & Scandal 2010 Not my Cup of Tea & Nellies Fishy Fate
- A Bad Year for Tomatoes 2011
- Ebenezer - A Rock Musical 2011 Steel Magnolias 2012
- God of Carnage 2013
- Into the Woods Jr 2013
- Stepping Out 2014
- A Cut in the Rates 2015 FAMDA Theatre Festival
- Kindly Keep it Covered 2015
- Secret Bridesmaids Business 2016
- Caravan 2017
- The Cat and the Monkey & Cat Fish Jumping 2017 Yallourn North Christmas Festival
- Rumors 2018
- Anti-Biotic 2019
- One Act Plays: A Civil Marriage, Dumb Waiter, A Pair of Lunatics 2019
- Yes Prime Minister 2021
- Mr Bailey's Minder 2023
- One Act Gala Weekend: Bombshells & Just Far Enough
- **Open Studios Latrobe** 2015 - 2024 and beyond
- **Supported:**
- MoTown Carnival 2002 - 2003 - 2004
- Show Me Some Art Festival Moe 2020 - 2024

Open Studios Latrobe 2024



PollyannaR in her new Morwell studio

Moartz' **Open Studios Latrobe** Event was a great success in October 2024. The weather was excellent over the weekend which encouraged the visitors to attend. Open Studios Latrobe included approximately seventeen artists, all residing within Latrobe City. Artists who were involved in the event have studios throughout Latrobe Valley; from Moe, Tanjil South, Morwell, Traralgon, Yinnar and Boolarra. The event also included an exhibition at Arc Yinnar which featured OSL artists in a wide range of art mediums, techniques and finished works that were on display and/or for sale. ARC Yinnar had approximately 200 visitors over the weekend and we estimate the other artists had close to 180 in total. These are visitors who had paid their \$5 fee and travelled between the artists' studios of their choice.



Claire Anderson Woolley at ARC Yinnar

OPEN STUDIOS LATROBE
Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October
10am - 4pm

For \$5 you can visit more than 20 artists all weekend in the Latrobe Valley
Just pay at the first studio!

For more information visit Facebook: Open Studios Latrobe
 Or Instagram: openstudioslatrobe
 or contact Sharon Anderson Ph: 0409436268

MOARTZ **Latrobe City**
 www.moartz.com a new energy

WHAT'S ON

Artist Jenny Peterson busy working away in her studio.

Let your imagination soar

OPEN Studios Latrobe is a great opportunity for visitors to spend a relaxing weekend wandering through the studios of Latrobe Valley artists and Galleries while they show and demonstrate their artistic talents.

This year this creative event will be held over the weekend of October 26 and 27, and once again will show the best of our artists with demonstrations and displays throughout the Latrobe Valley, including Art Yinnar, and artists in their own studios.

The towns involved are Moe, Tanjil South, Morwell, Traralgon, Yinnar and Boolarra.

This will be the sixth Open Studios Latrobe event for Moartz and it will be a great weekend with our artists bringing their art to the public.

The artist run Open ARC Yinnar will have finished artists and visiting artists demonstrating different techniques. There will also be two new exhibitors to see at ARC and The Murchison Gallery in Traralgon will have plenty on show as well.

There will be some new artists involved in Open Studios Latrobe and some favorite artists returning after taking a break. The artists work in a wide variety of mediums including printmaking, airbrush, watercolor, acrylics, photography, textiles, drawing, pottery and more.

The visitors can start their self-guided tour at any studio and keep an eye out for the orange bags to easily direct them to the studios. For only \$5 per person (includes free) visitors can go to all the studios over the whole weekend.

Moartz is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year so help celebrate by visiting the artists at Open Studios Latrobe in October.

An initial version of the information poster and map can be found at moartz.com.au.

If you need more information contact Sharon Anderson and Jenny Peterson at openstudioslatrobe@gmail.com. Stay up to date on Instagram: [openstudioslatrobe](https://www.instagram.com/openstudioslatrobe) and Facebook: Open Studios Latrobe.

OPEN STUDIOS LATROBE 2024

Self-guided Tour of Artist Studios in Latrobe Valley
October 26 and 27
10am - 4pm

www.moartz.com/events-news for directions.
openstudiosmoartz@gmail.com



Sharon Anderson in her Moe studio with artist Alvina Bishop Edwards



Rohan Collins in his Moe studio

Moartz Theatre is pleased to announce the following cast members for their upcoming 34th production of “**Stop.Rewind.**” written by award-winning Australian playwright Melissa Bubnic and directed by Mike Pullar.

Nina **Brodie Dorling**

Trevor **Garry (Gaz) Harding**

Heather **Sharryn Marshall**

Lachlan **Damian Andrews**

Tabitha **Karina Byrne**

Rene & Richard **Lawrie Fildes**

Grant **Allan Halliwell**

Chorus **Erin Jessep & Julie Strini**

Dim (Demitrios) **Martin Flack**

This is a dark comedy about the drudgery of daily office life. See how a group of seven work colleagues in a local government department struggle to hold onto their dreams as they desperately attempt to prevent being completely paralysed by their workplace.....and by themselves!

Trevor regularly locks himself in the toilet, crying over past decisions that have brought him to this sad impasse. Heather appears perfectly fine but privately despairs that she hasn't been touched for such a long time. Tabitha's affair with her married colleague Grant means little to her but Grant is passionately in love. Having emigrated from Eastern Europe Nina desperately tries to climb the ladder as her useless husband Rene seems incapable. Dim dreams of being a

successful musician and plans to stay temporarily, only it's already been thirteen months, with no end in sight. And Lachlan moves from Sydney to become General Manager only to have his team dislike him almost as much as he dislikes them.

So, is it ever too late to start living life on your own terms?





'Stop.Rewind' Cast

Show Dates:

Fri 16th May – 7.30pm Sat 17th May – 7.30pm Sun 18th May – 2pm

Thur 22nd May – 7.30pm Fri 23rd May – 7.30pm Sat 24th May – 2pm

Monash Hall, Reserve St, Yallourn North

Doors open at 7pm & 1.30pm for the 2pm shows.

Enjoy complimentary refreshments on arrival and an amazing art exhibition by local artists.

Ticket Details:

\$35 (full) or \$30 (concession)

Tickets available via TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/DADFI>

For more details and if you would like to join our Production Team or Sponsor us, please contact Julie Strini at moartz.tickets@gmail.com.

Hey visual artists! we need you to get involved in being a part of the art exhibition with the theatre production of 'Stop.Rewind'. All you need to do is contact Sharon Anderson on 0409436268 or email Moartz at moartz3825@gmail.com.au