

# Community Partnerships

## Impact Report 2023





Photography: Adam Johnstone

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# Message from the CEO

South Australians are passionate about collaborating to improve the wellbeing and prosperity of our state.

Since joining SA Power Networks in 2023, I have been getting to know our community, meeting our partners and understanding the impact of our contribution. Making these connections has been a highlight of my first year.

The continuation of our Community Grants program has strengthened the fabric of our regional communities particularly, and in unique ways.

Rainwater tanks and firefighting equipment were installed at the Tulka community

hub; Adelaide University students raced with renewable energy in the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge; Riverland Youth Theatre hosted their Alternative Prom; and One Culture Football organised the Women's Community World Cup. These are just a few examples of different and unique funded activities from various community groups across the state.

I am also proud of SA Power Networks' Employee Foundation, for achieving \$5 million in cumulative donations to South Australian charities since its inception in 2006. All the money raised and donated from our Employee Foundation directly comes from our staff, their family, and friends,

through either payroll donations or workplace fundraisers – what a huge achievement this new milestone is. It is this generosity and shared values within our business that makes me honoured and excited to lead our next chapter.

There are boundless more opportunities to build inclusiveness, culture and health in our state over the next few years. Thank you to our community partners for bringing that potential to life – it is work which we are proud to contribute to.

**Andrew Bills**  
Chief Executive Officer



Andrew Bills, Chief Executive Officer

# 2023 Summary

## 70 partnerships, sponsorships and grants supporting programs across South Australia



**40** community partners



**30** community grant recipients



**29** programs involving regional South Australia



**33** programs focusing on young people



**18** programs supporting disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals and communities



**8** programs protecting the environment



**6** programs supporting First Nations communities



**8** programs with development pathways for women

SA Power Networks is proud to support the South Australian community through partnerships, sponsorships and grants that contribute to:

- *Supporting our customers and community*
- *Growing a sustainable SA*
- *Supporting innovation for future growth*
- *Keeping our community safe*

We're excited to share the highlights from 2023; so read on to explore the different ways we have empowered the community.



# Community Grants

In 2023, SA Power Networks continued the Community Grants program, building on the success of its first year in 2022. These grants were created to empower communities, enabling them to make tangible improvements in their local areas.

With an overwhelming response, over 200 community groups applied for grants, aligning their proposals with our four key focus areas:

- 1. Supporting our customers and community*
- 2. Growing a sustainable SA*
- 3. Supporting innovation for future growth*
- 4. Keeping our community safe*

After a competitive evaluation process, we awarded grants of up to \$5,000 to 30 deserving local groups across South Australia. The impact of these grants extended across the state, with over half of the funding supporting regional and remote communities such as the Riverland, Port Lincoln, Mount Remarkable, and Warooka.

The funded activities were inclusive and diverse, encompassing various projects that contributed to community wellbeing, such as upgrades to parks, gardens, playgrounds, and other essential facilities. Additionally, the grants provided crucial support for mental health initiatives, inclusion programs, and essential equipment and training for emergency response agencies.



Grant recipients have up to 12 months to complete activities. We are pleased to share some project highlights delivered in 2023, which include some recipients from 2022 funding.

**2023 Community Grant Recipient Locations**

- Adelaide Hills
- Adelaide Metro
- Barossa, Light and Lower North
- Eyre and Western
- Far North
- Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island
- Limestone Coast
- Murray Mallee
- Yorke and Mid North

# Port Adelaide Diversity & Inclusion Film Festival

## 2023 RECIPIENT

### CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, EMPOWERING CHANGE.

The Port Adelaide Diversity and Inclusion Film Festival (PADIFF), stands as a beacon of social change and inclusivity in our community. This annual, one-night-only event not only spotlights culturally diverse, under-represented, and minority groups but also supports the vibrant Australian filmmaking scene.

The driving force behind PADIFF is Yogi Devgan, an Indian-born Australian filmmaker and director. Yogi's inspiration to launch this festival stemmed from his observation of a lack of diverse content in the Australian film industry.

*"Australia is a very diverse country with a mix of cultures and communities but, in my opinion, this doesn't reflect on the screen,"* says Yogi.

*"The more that we see diverse content and stories, the more we can get inspired to start thinking outside the box and exploring wider audiences. PADIFF*



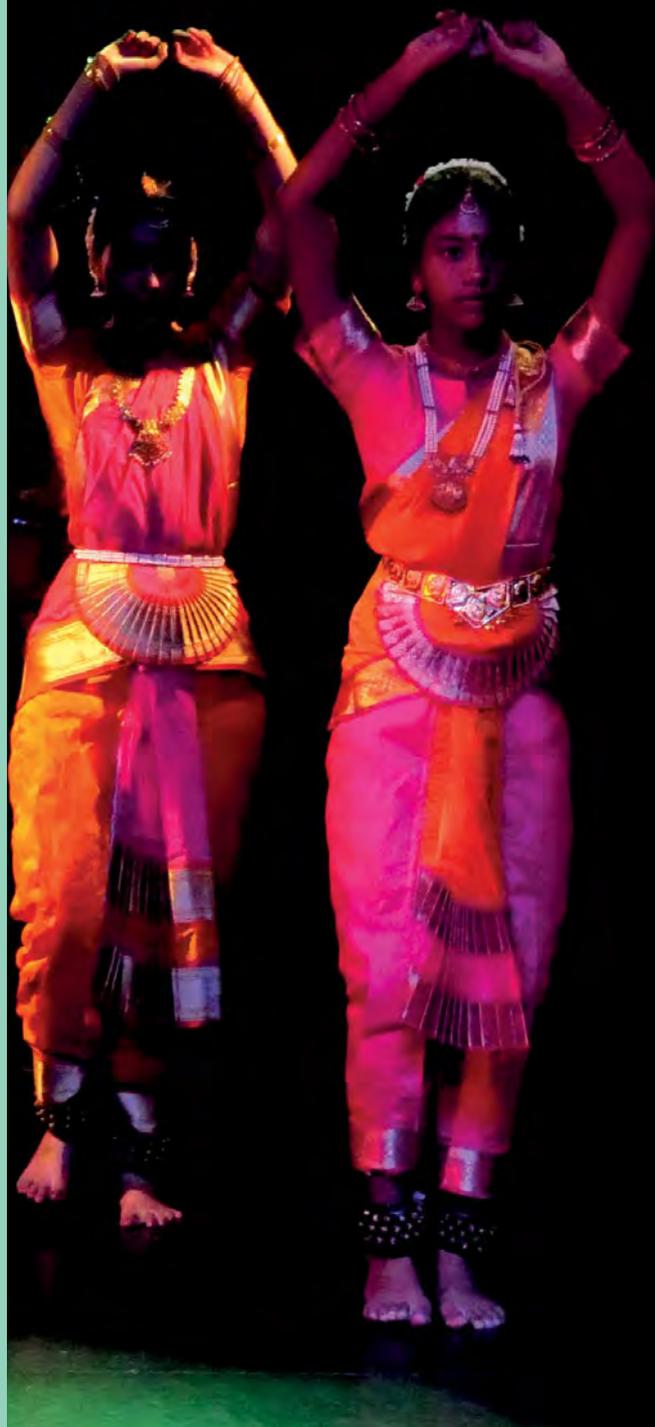


*is a platform for providing opportunity and showcasing diverse content, and to inspire filmmakers to do so as well.”*

This visionary perspective led to the birth of PADIFF; a platform where voices often unheard and stories rarely told are given the spotlight they deserve.

Yogi expressed immense gratitude for the support from SA Power Networks. The funding was instrumental in covering essential expenses such as venue rental, equipment, marketing, and staffing. This financial support elevated the Festival’s scale and quality, ensuring a more impactful experience for all attendees.

The Festival invited filmmakers to submit their own original short films, with those shortlisted based on the diversity, representation, and inclusion across the film’s content and crew members. Nine awards were handed out at the event, with winners representing a wide range of cultural backgrounds, disabilities and diverse life experiences.



# Riverland Youth Theatre

2023 RECIPIENT



## ALTERNATIVE PROM PROVIDES VISIBILITY, SAFETY AND ACCEPTANCE FOR QUEER YOUTH.

Riverland Youth Theatre (RYT), a recipient of the SA Power Networks Community Grant, held a celebration for queer and marginalised youth in the Riverland community. The Alternative Prom, held in Renmark, wasn't just a safe space; it was a party and victory lap for kids who have faced adversity.

This inclusive event addressed the exclusion felt by youth who couldn't bring their loved ones, faced accessibility challenges, encountered discrimination or bullying, defied conventional beauty standards, or lacked the means to attend a traditional school prom.

The night featured the Ally

Awards presentation, corsages crafted in workshops, a DJ, photobooths, and a red-carpet entry. Attendees engaged in activities such as writing about queer joy, envisioning the future, defining a good ally, and expressing pride.

*"The Alternative Prom was my prom. As a young person who doesn't always feel safe at school, it meant a lot to me that a team was willing to put together this big event just for people like me."* - Rowen, 16 years old.

Fleur Kilpatrick, Artistic Director at RYT, expressed gratitude, stating, *"The SA Power Networks Community Grant enabled us to create a special night for some resilient, vulnerable, and valuable young people. We were able to celebrate the teachers and*

*allies who had helped them through the year and remind our queer youth how many people were here to support and celebrate them."*

With approximately 30 attendees from ages nine to adulthood, the Alternative Prom left a lasting impact. It provided visibility, safety, love, and acceptance for queer youth, showcasing RYT's commitment to hosting such events in the future. Participants danced freely without fear of judgment, marking a transformative experience for some. As one attendee expressed, *"This was the first time I've danced in public!"* The event facilitated connections between queer teens and confident, happy queer adults, reinforcing a sense of community and support.

# Tulka Progress Association

2023 RECIPIENT



## SMALL TOWN BOLSTERS ITS FIREFIGHTING AND PROTECTION CAPABILITIES WITH A NEW 30,000-LITRE RAINWATER TANK.

Situated along the coast near Port Lincoln, Tulka, with its approximately 500 residents, lacks a mains water supply. With the latest addition, there are now three water tanks bolstering capacity for firefighting but also establishing a sustainable water source for the playground area and water catchment.

A local resident expressed gratitude, stating, *“This grant will help us provide resources to the fire trucks and also to irrigate the struggling green space we have at the playground.”* Another resident added, *“Any increase in water supply will help contribute to keep us safe in times of threat from fires. I wish we had done it ages ago.”*

The entire community will benefit from this increased water harvesting resource, which will be used for vegetation watering, drinking, and firefighting. Additionally, this area serves as an evacuation point for both locals

and visitors from Lincoln National Park during bushfires. In February 2023, numerous tourists and campers sought refuge at the Tulka playground area when they couldn’t proceed into Port Lincoln due to the bushfires.

*“This resource significantly boosts our water capture capacity, making a substantial contribution to the community hub area we’ve been developing since 2020,”* Robyn Pedler, Secretary of the Tulka Progress Association shared.

# One Culture Football

## 2023 RECIPIENT



### EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH FOOTBALL: ONE CULTURE'S WOMEN'S COMMUNITY WORLD CUP.

One Culture Football, with the support from SA Power Networks, delivered the Women's Community World Cup in July 2023. This event coincided with the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand and raised awareness of the challenges hindering female participation in sports.

The Women's Community World Cup, a six A-Side tournament exclusively for women aged 13 and above, took place at Adelaide High School. With 80 participants divided into eight teams, each representing a different country, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Italy, Poland, and South Sudan, the event showcased the diverse talents of women in sports.

Tournament participants received free sanitary items from Taboo Period Products to highlight and address period poverty and menstrual cycle issues as barriers



to female participation in sports. Adding to the support, players from the Adelaide United Women's Team attended the event to cheer on the participants.

The tournament embraced the 'football3' methodology, an inclusive game that can be played without a referee. This approach emphasises values such as gender equality, fair play, and peaceful conflict resolution. With its 'three halves' structure — a pre-match discussion, football game, and post-match discussion — football3 ensures equitable participation opportunities for all players.

Leading up to the tournament, One Culture Football conducted weekly in-school football3 sessions within the CBD and a women's two-hour social play football3

session in the Adelaide Parklands. These sessions, totaling 30 weeks during Terms 2, 3, and 4, aimed to promote inclusivity and the joy of playing football among local and international students, city residents, and the public.

The Women's Community World Cup contributed to breaking down gender barriers in sports, fostering inclusivity, and empowering women through football. This initiative not only celebrates diversity on the field but also aimed to create a lasting impact by promoting gender equality, fair play, and overall wellbeing.



# Adelaide University Solar Racing Team

## 2022 RECIPIENT

### RACING WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE BRIDGESTONE WORLD SOLAR CHALLENGE.

In a testament to innovation and sustainable engineering, students from the University of Adelaide undertook the ultimate solar-powered adventure across the Australian outback in October 2023.

With the support of our Community Grants program, the Adelaide University Solar Racing Team (AUSRT) embarked on the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge, a 3,000-kilometre journey from Darwin to Adelaide, showcasing their custom-designed solar vehicle, Lumen II.

AUSRT, led by Ruby Allen, is comprised of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering students, many of whom are in their final year of study.

The team meticulously designed, engineered, and crafted the Lumen II, which presented a challenging design cycle – having to modify a previously built car to meet tough new regulations.

Expressing gratitude for the grant, Ruby shared, *“Without the help of our generous sponsors such as SA Power Networks, the Lumen II solar car and AUSRT would not*





have been able to participate in the 2023 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge after coming out of a difficult pandemic and complete rebuilding of the team.”

Ruby Allen reflected on the team’s journey, stating, “The Lumen II traversed a gruelling 1,300-kilometres across the Australian outback, overcoming challenges such as bushfires, strong headwinds, and smoggy skies.”

“The challenging conditions made it difficult for the Lumen II to generate adequate solar power, which led to the car running out of battery in Ti Tree, Northern Territory. The AUSRT decided to load the car onto the trailer and take the Lumen II back to Adelaide safely.”

Despite these challenges, the team finished 17th out of 28 competing teams worldwide. This accomplishment has fuelled their ambition, and they are now setting their sights on the 2025 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge, where they plan to design and build a brand-new solar-powered car.

# St Mary's College

## 2022 RECIPIENT

### NATIVE BUTTERFLY GARDEN AND MURAL PROJECT WITH FIRST NATIONS FOCUS.

St Mary's College utilised their Community Grant to build a native butterfly garden in 2023, complemented by an art piece collaboratively designed with First Nations artist David Booth.

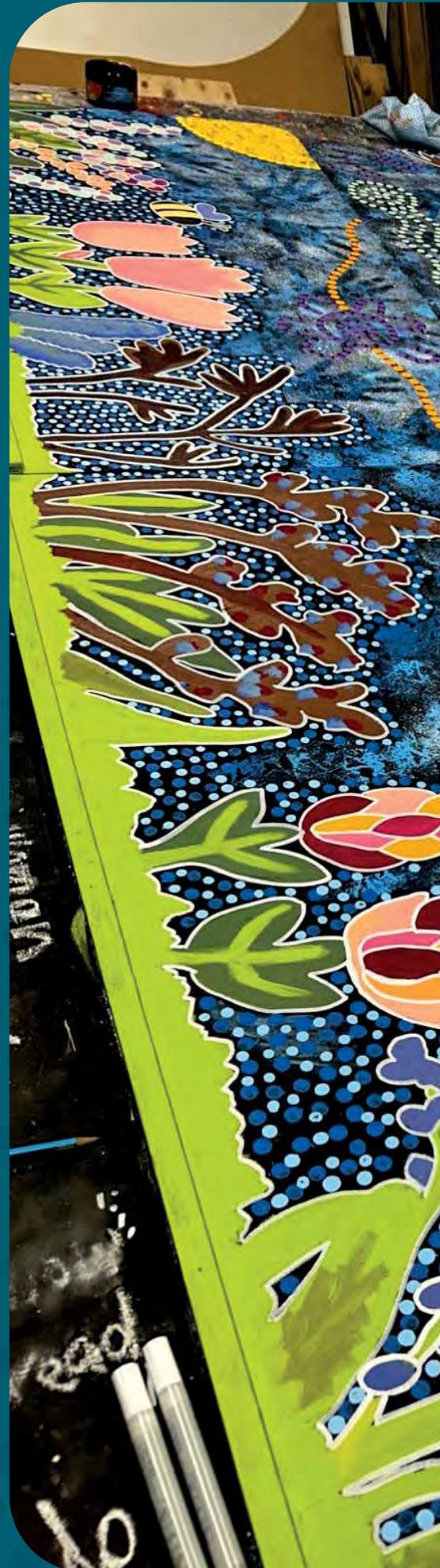
The project involved research on plants to attract native butterflies for the garden. Collaborating with the school's Reconciliation and Environmental Focus Groups, students from Years 5-11 dedicated numerous lunch hours to plant the garden, and paint six boards which made up the art piece, putting in care and intricate details.

David further enhanced the project by conducting a cultural awareness workshop, providing students with valuable context and knowledge. This artwork reflects the College's core values of justice, community, and truth while intertwining First Nations connection to culture, land, and community—an ongoing gesture of reciprocity toward reconciliation.

Monique Green, leader of St Mary's College Reconciliation Focus Group, shared insights into the artistic process, stating:

*"Artistically, there were core elements we wanted to include as a reflection of our story. The sky is filled with the handprints of every student and staff involved in the project; commemorating our individual mark we leave on this world. Each symbol is woven together through the golden thread, illustrating our Dominican spirituality."*

Monique also highlighted the students' discussions about reconciliation with Country and shared, *"It was evident that our students felt a calling to honor the land in which we meet, live, work, study and play on; an ode to those who walked long before us whilst also acknowledging our rich Dominican story. A mural felt fitting, and with that, our vision began."*





# Community Partners

# Adelaide Festival



SA Power Networks proudly partners with the Adelaide Festival as the Youth & Education Program sponsor, ensuring access to the arts for young people. The Festival's world-class shows offer students opportunities to engage with theatre and gain new and insightful perspectives. Through our partnership, we support two access programs: Festival Connect and Adelaide Festival in Schools.

Festival Connect, an inclusive equity program, covers transport costs for students from Category 1-4 schools to attend and experience Adelaide Festival shows. The program also subsidises accommodation for remote or regional schools. This year, over 80 students from Le Fevre High School, Wandana Primary School, and Elizabeth Vale Primary School enjoyed the unique show 'Airplay' at the Festival Theatre.

Adelaide Festival in Schools, a program led by us, brings Festival acts directly to students in their school environment. This year, 120 students from three schools experienced performances of 'The River that Ran Uphill', as well as an interactive workshop with Slingsby's Theatre Company at Roma Mitchell Secondary College, engaging around 30 Year 7 female students in planning, scripting, and performing their own theatre creations using shadow puppetry.

Caley Watt, a performing arts teacher at Roma Mitchell Secondary College, emphasised the importance of exposing kids to the arts and providing them with the opportunity to see thriving professionals in that space. She shared, *"Without this program, these kids might not have had the chance to see Adelaide Festival performers, let alone have them come to our school. I know it's an experience they will never forget."*

**200+**  
students  
experienced  
performances  
both at school  
and the Festival  
Theatre

**30**  
students  
participated in  
an interactive  
workshop

# Adelaide Film Festival



## 53

submissions  
received for  
the Statewide  
Schools  
Filmmaking  
Competition

As sponsors of the Adelaide Film Festival (AFF), we are proud to directly support AFF Youth - the state's premier program to directly engage South Australian students with the creative industries as learners, makers, creators, and as engaged viewers. AFF Youth's Statewide Schools Filmmaking Competition provides students the opportunity to create and then showcase their films on the big screen as part of the Festival.

## 15

finalists

The diverse films evoked laughter, tears and inspiration. The films were also judged by a youth jury panel, made up of six high school students, providing them a unique experience of what it takes to be a film critic, as well as connect with like-minded peers and industry professionals. The jury handed out many awards during the gala screening, including the SA Power Networks People's Choice Award.

## 6

high school  
students formed  
the Youth Jury  
Panel

Hugo de Guzman from Glenunga International High School shared, *"Not only have I made new friends who all enjoy being immersed in this industry, but I have also witnessed the product of some of Adelaide's best future filmmakers. As someone who wants to start making their own films, it has been a highly inspiring experience and one that I will forever be grateful for."*

Interstate guest jury member Charlotte Stent echoed Hugo's gratitude, stating that the AFF Youth program provided *"teenagers the confidence to believe in themselves"* and helped create a *"support network that is definitely needed in our industry."* We can't wait to witness their continued growth and creativity on the big screen.

# Adelaide Giants



For over 25 years, we've backed the Adelaide Giants in their mission to grow baseball in South Australia. This year, the Adelaide Giants broke an Australian Baseball League record for most consecutive regular season wins and then went on to bring the Claxton Shield back to South Australia for the first time since 1980.

We are also a partner of the Junior Giants program, which continues to provide young baseballers the opportunity to learn from current and former MLB professional players, as well as the Adelaide Giants high performance Next Gen Giants Academy, which provides pathways to emerging baseballers to transition into professional athletes.

## 500+

**young baseballers/  
softballers  
joined their  
heroes out on  
the field as part  
of Junior Giants**

## 27

**young athletes  
participated in  
Next Gen Giants  
Academy**



# Australia Day Council SA



Photography: ASB Creative Professional Photography

For the past five years, SA Power Networks has proudly supported the Open Circle Discussion Group who work with the Australia Day Council of SA to ensure First Nations people have a strong presence, voice and engagement in relation to Australia Day.

This year's Australia Day was guided by two overarching themes, 'Belonging to Country', and 'Connecting to Nature', with a huge line up of events and activities held over two days, 25 and 26 January.

We supported two of the program's main events, the 'Tindo Utpurndee – Sunset Ceremony' and 'Mourning in the Morning – Smoking Ceremony'.

The introduction of 'Tindo Utpurndee – Sunset Ceremony', held on the evening of 25 January, was a welcomed edition to the program this year. For the tens of thousands of people at Tarntanya Wama (Elder Park), the ceremony was a unique experience to watch Karl Winda

Telfer, Senior Man, lead a series of ancient stories, dance and sharing of culture with the audience.

On the morning of 26 January, thousands of people attended the 'Mourning in the Morning - Smoking Ceremony' at Tarntanya Wama (Elder Park) for a genuine and meaningful opportunity for reconciliation, and to listen to First Nations leaders' truth-telling of Australian history.



Photography: ASB Creative Professional Photography



Photography: ASB Creative Professional Photography

# Australian Dance Theatre



## 1,470

participants engaged in programs throughout the year

## 320

people participated in the 'Tracker' tour, including 151 First Nations people

## 208

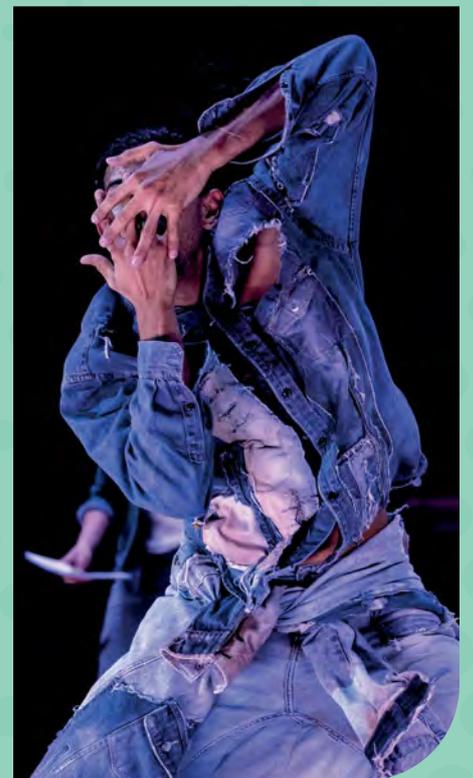
sponsored tickets provided

Since the appointment of Wiradjuri man Daniel Riley as new artistic director, Australian Dance Theatre (ADT) has had a renewed focus on supporting First Nations people and regional communities in South Australia.

Our sponsorship contributed to a program of free in-school and community workshops for ADT shows, including 'Tracker', during its regional tour of South Australia. 'Tracker', inspired by the true story of Wiradjuri Elder Alec, a police tracker, toured various locations, including Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Waikerie, Mount Gambier, and the Raukkan community. The workshop program prioritised engagement with First Nations communities, facilitating the sharing of 'Tracker' with young people (ELC – Year 11) across the region.

Throughout 2023, ADT also actively engaged with First Nations elders, such as Uncle Michael Kumatpi Marrutya O'Brien and Uncle

Moogy Sumner, through cultural awareness training, Welcome to Country ceremonies, and other vital initiatives, all supported by SA Power Networks through the ADT First Nations Engagement Program.



# Adelaide Symphony Orchestra



## 168

students were able to attend ASO Learning Programs through subsidised tickets

Performances across

## 24

regional schools

SA Power Networks has been a longstanding partner of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's (ASO) Learning Program, aiming to provide students with the numerous benefits that a music education can offer. This is especially significant for schools that may not have music as a central component of their curriculum or lack the resources to afford excursions.

In 2023, the ASO extended its Learning Program, travelling to destinations right across South Australia. This initiative brought the magic of music to children who, for various reasons, couldn't attend performances in person. Students from Tanunda, Strathalbyn, Lameroo, Kongorong, and other locations in SA travelled to regional centres to experience the ASO live. Most of these schools had never attended an ASO performance, and the students were delighted to witness the orchestra in an engaging and approachable format.

Expressing their appreciation for the program, teachers shared their sentiments:

*"I am grateful that my students had the opportunity to experience the beauty of the orchestra at such an early stage in their lives. Thank you for making it so accessible."* - Teacher, Limestone Coast.

*"While chatting with many staff members, I realised that almost none of us had seen an orchestra ourselves. This is likely the same for the kids as well, so just having the opportunity is really positive. The logistical challenges of taking our students to a place like Adelaide for a show like this would be very, very challenging. This way, we're able to take almost the entire school, providing an amazing experience for the kids."* - Teacher, Gordon Education Centre Mt Gambier.

*"The ASO coming into our town (Millicent) and our students having the opportunity to attend is a wonderful experience. We're in quite a low socioeconomic area, and they just would not have the opportunity to see anything like it otherwise."* - Principal, Mt Burr Primary School.

# Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium



In 2023, our partnership with the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium played a crucial role in advancing key initiatives.

As the major partner of the augmented reality project, ‘Seeing the Invisible’, we contributed to providing accessibility and learning opportunities to support the thought-provoking art installation focused on conservation and sustainability. The exhibition showcased 13 contemporary

artworks by internationally recognised artists accessible exclusively through smart devices.

We also supported Therapeutic Horticulture programs, delivered to Novita clients living with a disability in both metropolitan and regional areas. This initiative utilises plants and gardening to improve the physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Additionally, as a recent conservation partner, we funded two electric “gators” at the end of 2023. We are proud to help support the Botanic Gardens’ transition to electric vehicles. The first in their fleet, these eco-friendly vehicles offer a quieter, cleaner way for staff to work, enhancing the visitor experience while reducing environmental impact.

# 150

students funded to partake in curriculum aligned conservation activities

# 40K

visitors experienced ‘Seeing the Invisible’

# 2

electric gators purchased

# Can:Do Group



## 135

clients have access to Noarlunga facilities

## 64

clients attended the Let's Cook and Social Buddies programs

The Can:Do Group support both children and adults who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or have low vision, as well as provide assistance to their families. Since 2020, SA Power Networks have sponsored the Independent Living Skills Kitchen, located at Can:Do Noarlunga, where people with sensory disabilities can develop skills to assist them living independently. Every school holidays Can:Do run group sessions in the kitchen called 'Let's Cook' and 'Social Buddies' which provides an opportunity for clients to connect with other kids like them in a supportive environment, and at the same time build on communication, social, and fine and gross motor skills.



# Central Districts Football Club



We are a Junior Development Partner of the Central Districts Football Club and provide support for the 'Top Dog's' School Life Skills program and the Youth Development program. Our

sponsorship extends to engagement programs aimed at fostering female football players' participation, along with promoting careers for females at SA Power Networks, particularly

in the field of trades. The programs have supported over 270 male and female players each year, and more than 10,000 football participants in the Central Districts development zone.

# Contax Netball Club



As one of our longest-standing partnerships, we have supported Contax Netball Club for 28 years. The club has a rich history of fostering the development pathways of young netballers, with 688 young women and girls participating in 2023. Contax

is widely recognised as one of the primary feeder clubs in South Australia for the Adelaide Thunderbirds and the Australian Diamonds.

We also support the First Nations scholarship program, which aims to increase participation among

First Nations community players. In 2023, Contax regained the premier championship title and introduced a men's netball league.

# CFS Foundation



The CFS Foundation exists to provide support and financial assistance to CFS volunteer firefighters and their families who have been impacted while in the line of service. Our partnership has been dedicated to implementing Mental Health First Aid training programs for CFS volunteers throughout the state.

CFS volunteers frequently encounter potentially traumatic situations that can profoundly affect their mental well-being and the wellbeing of their families. The program aims to empower and instil confidence in participants, enabling them to approach fellow CFS volunteers who might be grappling with difficulties and provide structured, well-intentioned assistance.

Ensured comfort  
koalas are available in

# 120

road crash rescue  
vehicles and fire trucks  
to give to children  
who may need comfort  
during a traumatic  
situation

# 22

training courses  
delivered between  
January and July 2023

# 222

members received  
Mental Health First  
Aid training





# Country Arts SA

**407**

**community members across five areas supported with free tickets to shows**

**40**

**disadvantaged mums and babies supported to attend 'Our Corka Bubs'**

We supported Country Arts SA in delivering numerous art and cultural initiatives that have had a positive impact on the residents of regional South Australia.

In 2023, we achieved a significant milestone with the establishment of our first

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). We sought the support of Country Arts SA in the expression of interest and selection process for a new piece of First Nations art. The outcome of this collaboration is the captivating artwork titled 'Empowering South Australia' by Presten Warren, which will serve as the visual centrepiece for our RAP.

Presten is 23 year-old First Nations artist living in Port Lincoln. Born in Port Augusta and raised in Ceduna, he is a proud Wirangu/ Dieri/Kokatha/Mirning/Arabana man.

This year, our partnership extended outreach to deliver 'Our Corka Bubs'. This program, tailored for babies and young children, enabled young mothers and caregivers facing disadvantages to participate. Performances were held in both regional and metropolitan locations, providing an immersive storytelling experience that blended movement and music while drawing inspiration from Ngarrindjeri culture and language. Post-show

discussions delved into themes that profoundly impact and shape the lives of individuals in regional South Australia, addressing issues of identity, belonging, and anti-racism within the regional context

Our support also included providing free tickets to the regional community to a variety of shows including, 'Manta Milmilpa' (Sacred Ground in Pitjantjatjara), featuring Robert Champion, a master guitarist and contemporary storyteller whose narratives and songs provided insight into the nation's truth, as well as 'The Sunshine Club,' set in 1946, which recounted the journey of Aboriginal soldier Frank Doyle returning home to Brisbane after serving in WW2.

These performances took place across Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Mt Gambier, and Renmark, reaching diverse audiences. As a result of attending, many recipients of the free tickets have continued to engage with their local art centre and participate in a range of cultural activities.

# Don Dunstan Foundation



During Reconciliation Week, the Don Dunstan Foundation hosts the Lowitja O'Donoghue Oration, a homage to influential Aboriginal leader, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG. The oration, featuring both Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, aligns with the Foundation's mission of 'inspiring action for a

fairer world', particularly focusing on Australia's First Peoples. The 2023 oration was delivered by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, with SA Power Networks sponsoring the event, and supporting 93 students from disadvantaged and remote schools to attend.

**We'd like to pay respect to Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue who passed away on the 4 February 2024, before this report was published.**

# Playford Trust



Each year the Playford Trust, in partnership with SA Power Networks, provides a scholarship for an undergraduate student in their final year of a degree in Electrical Engineering in the field of power engineering or asset management at one of the three South Australian universities. Applicants must be

intending to spend a significant part of their career in South Australia, or are likely to provide a benefit to the state; a high achiever, with an excellent undergraduate academic record; and of good character, with preference given to students who display leadership potential.

The purpose of the Trust is to

invest in the knowledge, skills and research base for the future growth and development of our state by supporting high-achieving students to make the most of their studies, reach their greatest potential, and retain them in South Australia.

The 2023 awardee was Davide Pedone from Flinders University.



# Feast Festival

Now in its 27th year, Feast is Adelaide's premier LGBTQIA+ Queer Arts and Cultural Festival. Feast celebrates pride and diversity across a range of events during November.

We contribute to Feast by making it as financially accessible as possible, providing 500 free tickets for concession card holders in SA.

# State Library of South Australia



For the past few years, SA Power Networks depot staff have assisted with the installation of SA's largest indoor Christmas tree in the Mortlock Chamber at the State Library of South Australia.

It takes five hours to assemble the 7m-tall tree, which stretches to the height of the first level of the Mortlock. It has more than 400 decorations and 11 sets of lights.

# Football SA



We are a major partner of Football SA, supporting the development of women's football at the grassroots level through the National Premier League and local soccer associations. In 2023, there was a significant surge in women's involvement in the sport, with participants increasing from 6,478 to 8,879. Additionally, we played a crucial role in the redevelopment and powering of the State Football Centre, which is now in its first year of operation and has already welcomed over 800,000 patrons.

Looking ahead, an exciting development is the introduction of the State League Reserves for women, furthering opportunities for female players in South Australia.

A notable  
**37%**  
increase  
in women  
participating  
in the sport

The active  
involvement of  
**30**  
teams in  
women's  
competitions.

A total of  
**8,879**  
women  
engaged in  
competitive play

# Helpmann Academy



Photography: Naomi Jellicoe



Photography: Naomi Jellicoe

As part of our ongoing partnership with Helpmann Academy, we supported the Stobie Pole Project. Four emerging South Australian artists – Abby Pumpa, Anna Revesz, Ellis Moseley and Alice Hu – worked with lead artist and mentor Seb Humphreys to create a series of public artworks to transform selected Stobie poles around the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

Seb provided mentorship and led a series of design and building workshops, culminating in the installation of these unique artworks on the Stobie poles. Each artist drew inspiration for their designs from the natural beauty of the Beefacres Reserve site, resulting in 12 distinct and captivating designs. The mentorship aspect of this program makes it unique and distinguishes it from other public artworks.

While Stobie poles around the state have long been decorated by enthusiastic locals, this is our sixth major public artwork commissioned with the Helpmann Academy. We're proud of the opportunities this program provides for emerging artists to hone their craft and add vibrancy to our streets.

# Little Athletics SA



We contribute to Little Athletics SA through the SA Power Networks Membership Support Fund. This initiative is designed to aid families facing unexpected hardships that leave them financially strained, making it challenging to cover their child's sports and recreational activities. Parents/caregivers can apply for a free membership for their child to participate in Little Athletics SA through this fund.

Our sponsorship also helps finance the SA Power Networks Regional Support Fund, which aims to increase the sustainability and accessibility of children's

sports in regional South Australia. This fund allows regional clubs to apply for financial aid in areas such as promotion and marketing, development and program services, volunteer management, and IT infrastructure. Port Pirie Little Athletics Club became the latest regional incorporated club for the season.

Additionally, we are long-time supporters of the State Relay Championships, which provides athletes the opportunity to compete against other athletes at their club in a large variety of track and field relays at the SA Athletics Stadium.

## 6

**regional clubs supported with grants**

## 5.5K+

**attended the State Relay Championships**

## 22

**families supported through the Membership Support Fund**



# Mary Potter Foundation

We've maintained a lasting partnership with the Mary Potter Foundation, focusing our efforts on their yearly Loving Tree Christmas celebration. The enchanting Loving Tree Carols Concert was held at the beautiful St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, drawing an audience of 800 attendees. The Loving Tree illuminated the entrance to Mary Potter Hospice, shared through a live stream to the audience at the concert. Remaining lit for 40 nights, decorated with thousands of twinkling lights and hearts bearing the names of those being remembered at Christmas, the Loving Tree is a heartfelt symbol of remembrance and love.

# Zahra Foundation

We have recently partnered with the Zahra Foundation, providing hope and support for those affected by family and domestic violence. Through our partnership, we proudly support the Pathways to Empowerment program, a transformative nine-week journey for women and non-binary individuals who have endured the devastating impact of domestic and family violence.

Zahra Foundation CEO Kelly-Ann Tansley says the Zahra Foundation is proud to partner with SA Power Networks.

*"Together, we are providing our participants with the opportunity to access pathways to education, training, and employment, empowering them to rebuild their lives and escape the cycle of abuse,"* she says.

The Pathways to Empowerment program is designed to be a safe haven, providing participants with the necessary tools to rebuild their lives and forge a path toward education, training, and employment.

# Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS staff at Scotch College

We support the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP), an impactful and hard-hitting road safety presentation delivered by firefighters for both young and experienced drivers across South Australia and interstate. This 90-minute presentation offers participants a confronting and realistic glimpse into road crash trauma, showcasing real crashes and survivors' experiences. With safety being our topmost priority, the program is in line with our mission to educate and ensure the safety of our entire community.

In 2023, the MFS delivered the RAP presentation to 14,899 participants across 194 locations.

## 13,888

participating students  
from 165 schools

## 206

participants from  
seven sporting clubs

## 490

participants from 20  
community groups and  
organisations

## 315

participants from 14  
correctional facilities

# Nature Play SA



We supported the Forest Festival at Kuitpo Wirra Inparri during the April school holidays. This event brought families together in the forest, providing a space for kids to embrace their natural instincts and enjoy unstructured play. It allowed them the freedom to be wild, get dirty, explore, and create lasting memories outdoors with their families and friends.

The festival featured a diverse range of nature play activities, including wild cubby building, First Nations activities and demonstrations, nature potions and tinkering, bell tents for relaxation and reading, nature crafts, geocaching, bushwalking trails, bush stick music sessions, family yoga, a children's secret garden, rock climbing, and plenty of opportunities for free play in the forest surroundings.

# Trees For Life



For many years, we've supported Trees For Life's Grower Workshops and the Grower Handbook. Grower Workshops are free for registered Trees For Life growers and cover the steps critical to successfully growing native seedlings. These sessions are offered in October and November each year in preparation for the commencement of the growing season in late November.

447

volunteer growers

12

workshops

# International Women's Day



SA Power Networks proudly sponsored the 2023 International Women's Day (IWD) Breakfast, in support of UN Women Australia. The event took place at the Adelaide Convention Centre on 10 March, with over 2,700 people in attendance.

The host, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, noted that it was her 21st year of attendance at the event. Mrs Wong spoke primarily about "female trailblazers", declaring "It is not enough to be the first woman, we have to make sure we are not the last, and when we think about how far we've come, we must remember that it's 'because of her, I can'".

The keynote speaker, US Ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy (daughter of former US President John F Kennedy), drew parallels between the suffrage and reconciliation movements. She highlighted the ongoing nature of reconciliation, using examples from both indigenous Australians and Americans. Ambassador Kennedy eloquently stated, "None of us are personally responsible for the past, but we are collectively responsible for the future."

We also sponsored the annual Business SA IWD Luncheon on March 8. The luncheon, attended by 710 people, featured six guest speakers, and centered around the 2023 IWD theme, 'Embrace Equity.'

## \$130K

raised for UN Women Australia

# Operation Flinders Foundation



**358**  
young people in  
the program

**1,052**  
participant days  
in attendance

**90**  
new  
registrations for  
the program

We have supported the Next Step program run by Operation Flinders Foundation for several years. The program offers young people an opportunity to further their self-development after completing the initial Operation Flinders Foundation exercise. Participants can self-nominate to enter the program, which involves an eight-day exercise in the Flinders Ranges. During this exercise, the group learns to be

self-sufficient on a trek across the vast Yakannina Station property. Participants also have the chance to attend regional activity weekends and short courses, as well as obtain accredited certifications.

The program aims to instil resilience, independence, and self-worth in the participants, and has been incredibly successful in guiding young individuals back on the right track.



# Royal Flying Doctor Service



SA Power Networks is proud to be among the many partners who contributed to funding the Royal Flying Doctor Service SA/NT (RFDS) new Riverland Patient Transfer Facility, a vital service for the community.

RFDS SA/NT Chairman Peter de Cure AM emphasised its significance, stating, *“RFDS crews land in the Riverland at least once a day, airlifting locals who need life-saving care or specialist medical treatment. We do this 24/7, through all light and weather conditions.”*

*“Previously, local patients requiring stabilisation were cared for outside, on the tarmac. The new facility enables Flying Doctor, SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) and SAAS MedSTAR crews to treat more than 500 patients each year in a safe and secure setting.”*

Key features include a climate-controlled indoor environment for the clinical handover of patients between RFDS and SAAS crews, a stabilisation bay, a spacious floor plan for multiple patients and crews simultaneously, a secure undercover ambulance patient drop-off area, and a standby light vehicle for transport.



# SANFL

We are sponsors of the South Australian National Football Women’s League (SANFLW) and support the Emerging Leaders Program, which is designed to assist clubs in fast tracking and upskilling emerging leaders. The three-month initiative supports one player from each SANFLW club, providing them with skills and tools to be better equipped both on and off the field. The focus areas include communication, elite habits, and mental mindset.

Additionally, we contribute to the SANFL Schools Program, which aims to provide children with more opportunities to play football. The program also subsidises footy equipment for schools in lower socio-economic areas, ensuring that more students have access to the benefits of the sport.

# Sammy D Foundation



We support the Sammy D Foundation in delivering their Monkey See, Monkey Do education sessions to Football SA clubs across the state. The program’s goal is to tackle the issues of bullying, violence, and inappropriate sideline behaviours both on and off the sporting field. Additionally, it aims to contribute to the development and promotion of positive cultures within football clubs.

We also supported the Violence Prevention Round, in which players from Volleyball SA, NRL SA, Rugby SA, Football SA, and SANFL Juniors participated. The round, held in honour of Sam Davis, saw players wearing blue armbands and pledging to say NO to violence and YES to mateship.

**2,815**  
people educated through our supported programs in 2023

**30K**  
players across 154 clubs participated in the Violence Prevention Round

**22**  
programs delivered to Football SA clubs

# Specialised Assistance School for Youth



In 2023, our continued partnership with the Specialised Assistance School for Youth (SASY) is making a significant impact on the lives of vulnerable young people who face barriers to attending school. SASY is a fee free independent secondary school operating specifically for disengaged students who have complex needs. The school offers a safe place for young people to reignite their learning through holistic practices that help to rebuild health and social emotional wellbeing as the precursor to personal growth and community engagement.

Bruce, a Senior Youth Worker and member of the Outreach Team at SASY, emphasised the positive outcomes of the program, stating that it “improves both wellbeing and

*educational outcomes for our young people.”* Through the Outreach process, young individuals are guided to reconnect with school, leading to benefits such as improved attendance and stronger connections to staff and peers.

School Development Manager, Kelly Chambers added “*Without our partnership with SA Power Networks, SASY’s much-needed holistic supports such as the Outreach Service would cease to exist. This service provides an invaluable connection to some of our most at risk and disengaged young people who would otherwise not attend school at all and allows our staff to meet young people where they’re at, mentally and physically, and bridge the gap to education and engagement.”*

**200+**  
students  
enrolled in 2023

**Average of**  
**22**  
students per  
month accessed  
Outreach Service

**1**  
dedicated  
vehicle for  
Outreach Service

# Zoos SA / Illuminate Adelaide



Photography: Frankie the Creative

Now in its third year, Illuminate Adelaide is a celebration of light, art, music, and technology embraced by local, national, and international audiences. This winter event saw sold-out events and record attendance of 1.3 million during this year's festivities.

Once again, we proudly supported Illuminate Adelaide and Adelaide Zoo's event, Light Creatures. This nocturnal adventure was designed for families, featuring appearances from some of Adelaide Zoo's furry and feathery residents alongside lanterns and interactive installations. Notable artists featured at Light Creatures included A Blanck Canvas, Slingsby Theatre, Elizabeth Close, Jack Buckskin, and Modelbox Design.

Attendees had the opportunity to witness gentle giants awakening at sunset, gaze up at floating jellyfish in the underwater world, and be swept away by the spectacle of the newest Light Creature for 2023 – the majestic golden Falcon. Guests could also explore Evolution, a revolving light projection in the historic rotunda, and the Andu Story, a collaboration with members of the Adnyamathanha community and Leigh Creek area school.

Illuminate Adelaide's co-founders and creative directors, Rachael Azzopardi and Lee Cumberlidge said, "*Light Creatures has been one of Illuminate Adelaide's most popular events and we couldn't wait for young and old to experience this incredible event once again.*"

*"Light Creatures evokes a sense of childlike wonder while also being a celebration of conservation. It's a wonderful opportunity to explore Adelaide Zoo and encounter new up close and immersive experiences."*

Light Creatures was a wonderful blend of creativity and magic, providing a unique platform to shed light on conservation efforts.

# 28,757

**attendees to  
Light Creatures  
across the season**



Photography: Frankie the Creative



Photography: TopBunk

