



Kang-o-Meerteek Nov 2016 Update

Regional Arts Victoria has collated some testimonials and case studies from the first Small Town Transformation Projects in 2012. Hopefully they will help us to imagine what kind of process we are about to undergo as a town as well as what can be achieved in the Kang-o-Meerteek project.

In the words of one of the collators from Regional Arts Victoria "Enjoy!"

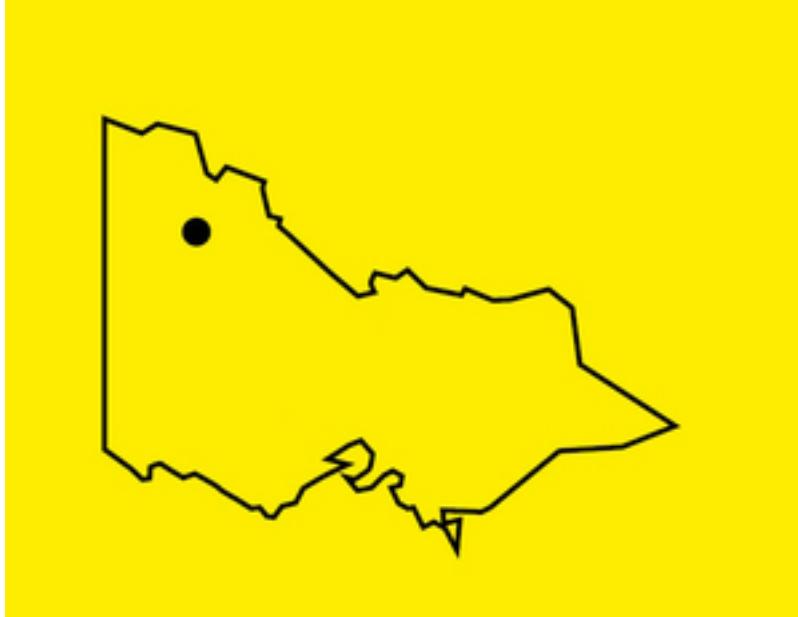
[Testimonials & Case Studies](#)



A few weeks ago the Kang-o-Meerteek Project team were at Mt Clay working with [Photographer Damian Goodman](#) to prepare some images for the website. Here we can see lead artist Wal Saunders and his Grandson Will Nicholson checking out the site at Mt Clay.

For anyone who missed the 360 degree view of Narrawong click [here](#). We have a surprise in store for the 360 degree view of Mt Clay. Stay tuned.....

Below is an excerpt from the Regional Arts Victoria Small Town Transformation's Testimonials



SMALL TOWN TRANSFORMATIONS CASE STUDY 2012-2014

Community member Tracey Lawson helps create a new positive focus for Ouyen

“I have lived in Ouyen the majority of my life and I came on board the project as a volunteer and committee member from the Roxy Theatre itself. I work in hospitality and accommodation at the local hotel. Other committee members included a retired teacher, a lady who runs the material shop. We aren’t recognised as an arts community, we’re more a sporting type of community and a farming community. The biggest thing that happens here is football on a Saturday afternoon.

This is a community that is struggling, so we needed to actually show that we could take the grant money and not only provide something beautiful but also something functional and practical for the town as well.

We transformed part of our old theatre, especially the forecourt and made it into more of a town square. But more than just the physical transformation we also transformed people’s perceptions, especially the younger people about what we could do. As a result of their involvement in the project, we’ve now got kids who are taking on leadership roles within the community because they held positions on the Small Town Transformations project.

We have this physical legacy of preserving part of our history and showcasing it, but we’ve also created a small hub and turned the Roxy into an area that local groups are making their home. We’re going forward with more projects and things that a country town like ours has never considered before.

I would love for Regional Arts Victoria to run this program again. I would especially love to see them choose more towns like ours that aren’t recognised as an arts location [and] that possibly struggle. One of the things I would like to suggest is to allow more time for the project itself. We were lucky we had the community on board quite

quickly.... but more time would help us deal with government departments and different tradespeople like visiting architects, surveyors....who either only visit once a month or only when they've got enough to actually bring them down here. If it had run over two years it would have allowed for that sort of thing.

Straight after the launch, as a community we were absolutely exhausted. Four months down the track and I think we're really seeing what we've been able to achieve. There is still a feeling of goodwill revolving around the launch. We're starting to regroup and possibly look at our next lot of projects, and how much time it will take to run them.

Because none of us are particularly arty, it was a huge learning curve on a whole range of personal aspects. But as a small town, one of the biggest things we learned is that we can achieve anything.

I'm excited about Ouyen's future. One of the things this project helped us do is to keep the excitement and belief that we can keep Ouyen as a small community alive and flourishing. We're now looking at different ways to actually do that.

Before the project came along we were suffering volunteer burnout. We were losing money. If the Small Town Transformations project hadn't come along when it did I have no doubt the theatre wouldn't be here anymore. We would have needed to shut because we were on completely burnout.

[For a great Video about Ouyen Small Town Transformation](#)



The Narrawong Kang-o-Meerteek Small Town Transformation acknowledges the Kart Gunditj and Gilgar Gunditj who are the original custodians of the land on which this project takes place, and pays its respect to all past and present members of the Dhauwurrd Wurrung Language Group and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

*Kang-o-Meerteek logo was designed by Kellie Frankland Kilcarer and Gilgar Gunditj Copyright © 2016.
Additional graphics support by Robyn Carter - creator of <http://www.theadventuresofherbertandvalerie.com/>
and the Volunteer Communications Team. Copyright © 2016 Narrawong Kang-o-Meerteek Small Town Transformation, All rights reserved.*

“Small Town Transformations is a Victorian Government Initiative delivered by Regional Arts Victoria”



Our mailing address is:

Kang-o-Meerteek 29 Windham Street Narrawong Vic 3285

or

kangomeerteek@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Kang-o-Meerteek · 29 · Princes Hwy · NARRAWONG, Vic 3285 · Australia

MailChimp.