

THE RED HOUSE GROUP INC

The Red House Group Inc is an artist managed non-profit organisation that acts as a focus for art and cultural activities for all individuals and groups in the City of Marion council area and its surrounding region. In 2019 the group celebrated its 25th anniversary.



The Group was formed in 1994 after a small group of local artists had been working with the City of Marion to identify the needs of artists in the local community. Several very successful exhibitions were held in the Marion Council Chambers, and a venue was sought to showcase artworks in a true City of Marion venue. The old 'Red House' adjacent to the City of Marion admin building was derelict at the time, but was resurrected with assistance from those local artists and financial support from the City of Marion. The building was named the Red House Gallery, and the artists formed an incorporated group known as the Red House Group Inc. Of those 35 'foundation' members, about twelve have maintained an active involvement with the group over the past twenty five years.



The old Red House Gallery, 1995

The Red House Group operated the old Red House Gallery on behalf of the City of Marion until 2001, when the Marion Cultural Centre officially launched in November of that year. A premier visual arts venue was a key element of the new Cultural Centre, and the Council approached the Red House Group to provide management services for the new gallery, which was named Gallery M.

Since then, the Red House Group, working with the City of Marion, has facilitated approximately 370 individual exhibitions in this very modern, versatile space (end 2019). The advantage of a not-for-profit, artist managed organisation operating Gallery M for the City of Marion is the goodwill and voluntary support that comes from the membership of such an organisation.

Council funding provides financial support for the operation of Gallery M, which is open seven days a week. A small team of dedicated staff and a wonderful group of volunteers, all associated with the Red House Group, ensure that this premium council venue is operated in a highly professional manner; with the end result being seen as a flagship for arts and culture in the City of Marion and surrounding region.

Exhibitions have included the Annual City of Marion Community exhibitions; open for any resident of the City of Marion to participate in. The Red House Group has also brought major shows to Gallery M, including a Pro Hart retrospective, which was the first of a national tour, and the internationally renowned Blake Prize for religious art, the first time it had been to a suburban gallery on its national touring program.

Gallery M has provided many exhibition opportunities for wide a range of artists, from emerging artists to those highly regarded in their fields. One of the benefits of having an organisation such as the Red House Group operating the gallery on behalf of the City of Marion is the experience and advice available from members of the group, many of whom have been involved since those early years. It is this community spirit and dedication that is one of the strengths of the Red House Group. In any year there are approximately 300-350 financial members, with new artists becoming involved all the time.

The main objectives of the Red House Group are to:

- promote and encourage quality and innovative exhibitions by artists and community groups.
- assist the professional development of artists living in the community.
- enhance and promote the profile of artists in the community.
- develop increased audience participation in the Red House.
- identify and promote economic development opportunities for artists in the community.
- provide access to groups and individuals of all ages and cultural backgrounds.
- promote community awareness of art, craft and culture.
- provide opportunities for professional artworkers to work with and in the community.
- provide a tourist information service to the community.