



## **A Historical Note**

In 1976 the Burnie Civic Centre was officially opened and was the first purpose-built fully professional regional arts centre in Tasmania. The Centre incorporated a performing arts and functions venue and an art gallery. It is the only venue in the north west of the state, which is able to host large-scale indoor functions.

Over the last 33 years the Centre has provided a cultural focus for Burnie, as a venue for professional and community performances, meetings, conferences, expos and private functions.

In 1978, the Burnie Regional Art Gallery was completed and today has a full and varied program of exhibitions and community projects. The Gallery has a national reputation for its permanent collection, focusing on works on paper.

In August 2008, a community forum identified a new vision for the Centre, rating excellence in the arts and entertainment for a diverse audience and community involvement and usage as top priorities.

As a direct response the Burnie City Council created a new organisational structure and a new name to symbolise the beginning of the revitalisation of this major cultural icon in the community.

In May 2009, a new management position was announced. A Director was appointed with responsibility for both performing and visual arts programming as well as audience development. The new structure also includes the involvement of Burnie Sports & Events, which has been contracted to manage functions and catering.

On 1 September, the first day of spring 2009, Tasmanian Member for Braddon Bryan Green MP launched the Burnie Arts & Function Centre - the new identity for the Burnie Civic Centre. At the same time increased subsidies for community events was announced.

On 1 December the new Burnie Arts & Function Centre website started offering online ticketing and at the website launch the 2010 first ever season subscription of performing arts events was introduced.