ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY

IMPACT REPORT

2026

136 Years of
Performance, People & Community



The Ballarat Eisteddfod

ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY

IMPACT

For 136 years, Royal South Street Society (RSSS) has been a trusted cornerstone of Victoria's performing arts community and one of the state's largest youth performing arts pathways.

Based in regional Victoria, RSSS connects thousands of young people, families, schools, volunteers, educators and creative practitioners through high-quality performance, adjudication and professional development.

RSSS matters because it builds confidence, creativity and transferable skills while creating equitable access to cultural opportunities beyond metropolitan centres, strengthening local communities, supporting the regional economy and developing the next generation of artists, educators and arts leaders.



25,000+ performers and audience members

5,088 entries across 9 performance disciplines

75% of participants travelled from outside Ballarat

Over $2 Million spent on accommodation alone

ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY

PEOPLE

In 2026 our new strategic plan was launched, focusing on
Creative Futures and Community Foundations.

This exciting new focus helps support young performers from their very first stage experience through to future creative careers by connecting them with industry experiences, workshops and extension opportunities.

Our new regional access and equity program reduces barriers to participation and expands our reach across regional Victoria and interstate.

Over $50,000 of scholarship and extension prizes &
Over $113,000 of cash prizes to assist with development



Poppy Robertson
2026 Junior Accompanist

In 2025, **Poppy Robertson** won the RSSS Pianoforte Accompanist of the Future section which led to her being offered paid work as the 2026 Junior Accompanist for the RSSS Vocal Eisteddfod.

Dance for Life is just one example of a huge range of scholarships and extension opportunities offered to our young performers to assist them in their creative journeys.



Isabelle Orr
Winner of 2026
Dance For Life



2026
Calacare Award
Accessibility and
Inclusion

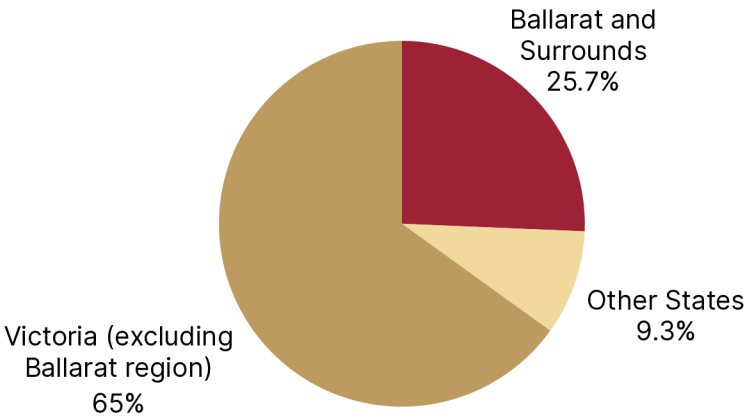


Jack Shilvock
First Nations
Scholarship
award

ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY

REGION

WHERE OUR PARTICIPANTS CALL HOME



Approx **75%** of our participants live outside of the Ballarat area.
80% of our participants eat, shop and explore Ballarat.
52% stayed overnight in Ballarat and **38%** stayed two nights or more.

Estimated Stay and Spend $2 Million+ on accom alone*

**based on avg night stay of $240*

90 days of performance supporting venues across Ballarat.

Her Majesty's Theatre
Ballaarat Mechanics Institute
Connors Hall - ACU
Founders Theatre - Federation University

100+ Local industry suppliers









RSSS has been a cornerstone of the city's heritage, culture, community, and economy for 87% of the City of Ballarat's 154 formal years.

25,000+ people are involved in the Ballarat Eisteddfod every year and visitors and locals alike are actively encouraged to stay and explore our amazing town.

ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY

COMMUNITY

The Heart of Royal South Street – Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heart of Royal South Street Society, contributing more than 10,000 hours annually to bring the Ballarat Eisteddfod to life.

From backstage to front of house, their dedication, skills and generosity are essential to every aspect of our Eisteddfod, representing an estimated annual contribution of over $400,000.

But their true impact extends far beyond dollars and hours.

Our volunteers build connections, inspire confidence and help create opportunities for generations of performers to shine.



123
Active volunteers

$400K+
Estimated annual value*

10,000+
Volunteer hours

**Indicative value based on 10,000+ Volunteer Hours at $40 per hour*







ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY

FUTURE

Investing in Creative Futures

For 136 years, Royal South Street Society has provided a stage for generations of performers to discover their potential.

Today, our impact extends well beyond the stage — supporting regional economies, creating pathways into creative careers, building community connections and ensuring performing arts opportunities remain accessible to all.

With the continued support of our sponsors, funding partners and community, we can inspire the next generation of performers and ensure this extraordinary legacy continues.

29,000 PAIRS OF FEET ON STAGE







