



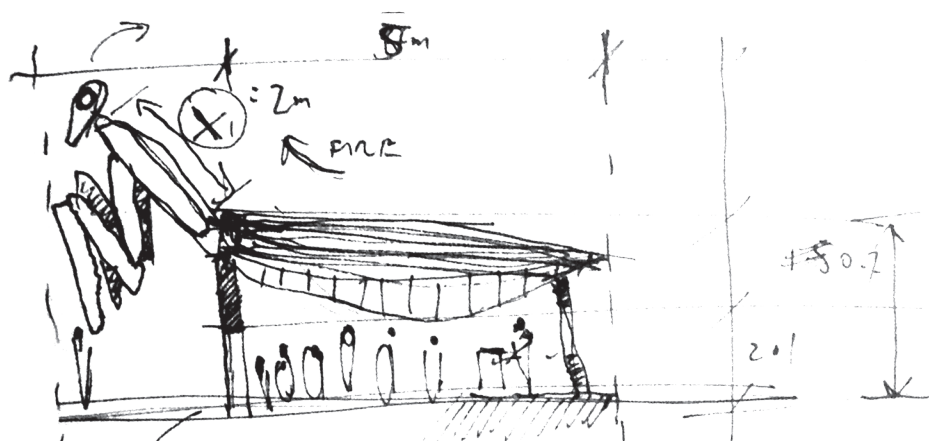
Modifyre 2017  
Once Upon a Time

# AFTERBURN REPORT

A Queensland regional Burning Man event

July 5 - 10  
Yelarbon State Forest Queensland, Australia

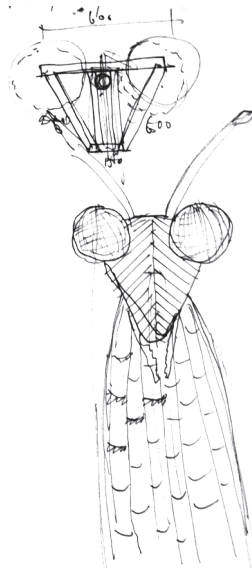
BURN Arts, Inc and the Modifyre Community wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Country upon which Modifyre takes place, the Bigumbul People, and the Country upon which we work, the Jagera and Turrbal Peoples. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Indigenous people within our community. Sovereignty was never ceded.



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# INTRODUCTION

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*"Welcome home".*

These are the first words heard by each participant upon arriving at Modifyre 2017. After a somewhat adventurous journey through an unnamed dirt forestry road, the emotions felt when laying eyes on what we now finally call Modifyre's new permanent location were that of truly arriving home. After spending a week out there I truly felt I had found family.

In 2017 we entered into our third Modifyre with by far the largest and most determined crew yet. Kicking the event production off in August saw the formation of the not-for-profit collective BURN Arts Inc. and with that, the election of a management committee. From this point, the Event Production Team was collated and the wheels were in motion. The main agenda item for the year was the acquisition of a space that possessed the somewhat unique ability to host a few hundred burners wanting to create a small city. With ears to the ground in all the right places, a couple of genuine options presented themselves and eventually we discovered the beautiful small town of Inglewood. After searching so far and wide, it was an absolute relief to find such a welcoming community who seemed so legitimately excited to host us.

What would follow was a then feverish few months of permits, planning and trips to the Inglewood pub to acquire approval to host our event in the Yelarbon State Forest. With this patch of paradise at our disposal, Bundy and the DIC crew manifested a well functioning and practical event site. With July being traditionally a dry period for Inglewood, dealing with rain the week before the event was an unexpected but not debilitating factor. It did provide for some good old fashioned rescue missions from the mud on the road in, but these were about as dire as the on-site problems got. With everyone safely in and The Wonky Queenslander dropping the funk it was finally time to enjoy the fruits of a long and rewarding process.

The chaos that was the effigy burn performance absolutely personified the overall event, with what was originally to be a small group of performers ending up totalling almost a third of all attendees in the Mantis vs Butterfly war. This level of participation and communal effort echoed across all corners of the paddock with no shortage of people willing to lend a hand when the need arose. It was quite frankly a beautiful thing to be a part of.

This document will provide a better understanding as to how we managed to pull this off and the wonderful people that it wouldn't have been possible without.

Thank you,

Kane Leighton  
Communications Lead

# THE EVENT

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## *Once Upon a Time...*

A small crew of passionate people created actual magic. What can I say? With very little, we achieved so much. Modifyre 2017 was truly a special experience.

A big thanks to the Event Production Team, the volunteers, and you, the participants, for your gargantuan efforts. The drive and community spirit shown on the paddock, before, during and after the event was incredible. For this feeling, I can not thank you all enough. The sumtotal of these efforts was a safe, well-organised, well-planned event, setting a benchmark for future events that is well beyond our years and size.

The Afterburn Report is an effort to understand and improve upon the creation of this thing into which we pour so much energy. It is a chance to pause and take stock once the dust has finally settled on the paddock. As part of this process each of our dedicated Team Leads is asked to reflect on the the following questions:

## WHAT WENT WRONG AND WHAT MIGHT BE IMPROVED?

In truth, nothing went wrong – we had no major incidents. Of course there are always important lessons to learn, but nothing stands out as having been truly wrong and in need of urgent fixing. This is possibly our greatest achievement for 2017.

# THE EVENT (CONT.)

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## AREAS THAT MIGHT NEED SOME THOUGHT IN 2018...

Road access: Work with QPWS to improve some the more 'rugged' parts of the access road.

Traffic: During rain events the site does need to be shut down. A need for more traffic crew on access road to guide vehicles through muddy sections. A dedicated vehicle recovery team - experienced Knights in Shining Armour are encouraged to apply.

Toilet: Such jolly morning banter to be had when the pump truck can't access the muddy field.

Social media: Call me old, but I often dream of a good old fashioned forum like say, the Roman Forum, where mature veteran burners can chew the fat and debate amongst themselves to their heart's content - keeping the Modifyre page for information dissemination.

Pack down: Packing up was a challenge. A Pack Down Boss in future years will be essential. It is so easy to forget about this until the paddock has gone quiet.

And finally, I'd like to propose a new department: The Situationists, a crack crew of highly experienced and unstoppable DIC Ducks who can jump in and fill the gaps wherever and whenever needed.

# FINANCE

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*Team Lead: Kira Went*

We broke even this year! Due to the size of revenue received, we have reached the threshold where we will need to get an independent auditor in to review the books. They will be engaged in September after our end of financial year. The BURN Arts, Inc. AGM will be held in October once our books are settled and audited.

Modifyre ticket sales totalled roughly \$39,000 this year, with 278 tickets were sold. The ticketing system was a breeze for synchronising with our new accounting systems (Xero).

A massive thank you to every single crew – from effigy, temple and DIC crews who built on nothing but shoestrings (actual shoestrings, with fixings biggest expense) – to Gate and Greeters, Kitchen, Medics, and everyone else. We cut an estimated \$20,000 off the forecasted budget for 2017.

Kira is going to ensure that the Xero app is put on the phones of team members, so that the reimbursement process can be streamlined for everyone. It's very easy to use! Kira will introduce procedures and processes and present them to us once finalised.



# EVENT ADMINISTRATION II Event Production

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*Event Producer: Chris "Krishna" Holt*

## *What went well?*

Thank you to everyone who was involved in bringing it all together. We managed to produce a safe, well thought out event that was beyond our years. In summary, nothing major went wrong (ie. there were no injuries or major incidents to report on).

We received no negative feedback whatsoever from QPWS and their rangers – in fact, they noted that the place was actually left cleaner than it was when we got there.

It should also be noted that everyone did an amazing job sticking to or keeping under budgets. We had a total savings upwards of \$20,000 because of this. Roughly 40% of the budget was stripped, and because of this we are in the black.

## *What could be improved?*

Road access – this is something that will need to be worked on in future years. People getting bogged was an issue, although the QPWS rangers were working tirelessly on the roads to make sure they were the best they could be.

We were short on traffic volleys this year. When it gets wet on the roads we do need more people out there to guide people and make sure they are sticking to the speed limits and not getting stuck.

Regarding social media in the lead up to the event: we as a group might feel sometimes that we want to respond to negative comments to nip them in the bud; however, sometimes it is better to leave them be – there's nothing to gain from engaging a discussion with some people that won't budge in their opinions. It might be useful in the future year to make an unofficial Modifyre page for the posts that might be a point of contention.

## *Recommendations for 2018:*

It should be noted that those that stayed on after the burn did an amazing job. It would have helped to have more hands, but a new team can be looked at for future years to ensure that there are enough people onsite post-burn to help with the pack up and odd bits.

There is an opportunity for a new department that would prove beneficial to the organisation of the burn: fluffers, fixers and fillers – a group of people that can fill the gap for odd jobs and things where we just need hands on decks. A new lead for this team will need to be sourced if it goes ahead.

# EVENT ADMINISTRATION II Administration

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*Team Lead: Amy 'Delphi' Richardson*

*Team: Sharon Samuel, Elliott Hunt, Rae Choi*

## *What went well?*

The introduction of document templates such as meeting minutes & agendas, reports, policies, etc. made everyone's lives easier.

Role descriptions were created for Lead Positions outlining their responsibilities and proposed timelines. These will remain available to all Team Leads and updated as appropriate and supplied to new volunteers upon recruitment.

The creation of 'The Bible' and the 'Contact Directory' was invaluable to all members of the EPTeam pre, post and during the event. Admin loves spreadsheets & document filing conventions, naming systems and accurate recordings of proceedings and so forth, and thanks Comms for bringing them to us 24/7 via our new communication platforms, now if only we could get everyone to use them...

## *What could be improved?*

Whilst we introduced these awesome templates and procedures to the wider team, it was challenging to implement and enforce this across the various groups, especially around the introduction of file storage and naming conventions.

Given the fact that the President of Burn Arts was also the Admin lead, despite there being a lot of crossover, there was also a need for there to be a dedicated lead as the role can be quite time consuming.

## *Recommendations for 2018:*

- Growing the admin team.
- Creating and maintaining seamless workflow between comms, admin, crew wrangling & Ranger administration – The Ministry of Propaganda!
- Dedicated admin lead role that doesn't share other major responsibilities within EPTeam.

# EVENT ADMINISTRATION II Communications

.....

*Team Lead: Kane Leighton*

*Mentors: Amy "Delphi" Richardson, Shane "Sugar" Sugrue*

## *What went well?*

In terms of social media, there were more consistent posts throughout the whole year. Most the responses were quite positive (despite the odd 'angry/crusty burner' wanting to focus on the negative). Everyone on the Comms team learnt about structuring key information via posts which assisted with ensuring the content was relevant. The offer for other teams to collaborate or organise posts still stands.

This year Comms branched into new forms of media (ie. 4ZZZ mentions). One option for this year which would prove beneficial would be to look into publications and poster campaigns. This allows us to not rely too heavily on social media which in some ways goes against our ethos.

Special mention to the Angry burners post – they certainly got traction! The content was good but we did get some feedback which could have blown back on the Modifyre reputation. As Krishna mentioned it might be best to create an unofficial page so that the official page (which is watched by relevant authorities) doesn't get affected.

Another thing that was found to be greatly beneficial this time around was the ability to schedule posts on Facebook, so that they are ready to go without any last minute needs to write them up or find photos to go with them. In a perfect world it would be awesome to have the whole year of posts ready to go, and then make any changes or tweaks to them as the need arises. It is understandable that this is a HUGE undertaking but can allow the team to focus on other necessary things as we start getting bigger.

Overall the community engagement with Inglewood was outstanding. We left a lasting impression and received nothing but glowing feedback. They certainly want us back next year! Also, it should be noted that there was no negative discussions or posts about Modifyre on social media before, during and after the burn (not one bad thing!).

# EVENT ADMINISTRATION II Communications (cont.)

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*What could be improved?*

The website really does need to become the main portal of information. This year around, the Comms team should look at integrating the Facebook posts with links to a blog, or redirection to information etc. on the website. There are quite a lot of unnecessary requests for information from people that haven't realised that we have all of the requested information on the website.

Media registrations worked well; however, we haven't had any media come back yet. As always we are looking for photos or anything so that our Media Archivist (person TBC) can catalogue and store in the vault, so that we can use it in future events. If anyone has any photos or videos from this year PLEASE send them through to the Comms team.

IT update – Slack, emails and Dropbox encountered many issues throughout the year. Despite being a point of contention, it still ran better than the year before last (which says a lot for how the second year was!). IT's aspiration for the future is to ensure that we have our own centralised IT, a system where we aren't piggybacking on someone else's server and when issues come up we can fix them on the spot. As Kane is stepping up to the Comms Lead this year around, we are looking for someone to take the lead on all things IT related.

*Recommendations for 2018:*

As we may be losing our graphics and print guru, Comms are looking to upskill everyone with Photoshop etc. this year. The Event Guide was awesome (and looked great in B&W). Something to work towards for next year is to set up earlier deadlines for the relevant sections of the guide so we can potentially issue it to people before the burn (and possibly place it in shops or pubs around the Brisbane area).

# EVENT ADMINISTRATION II Town Planning

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*Team Lead: Daniel Adler*

*What went well?*

Our application to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) for the use of the site at Inglewood was successful, and 2017 marked the first year at our new home, with hopefully many more years to come. We also started nurturing some new relationships with Goondiwindi Regional Council (GRC), the local Inglewood community, and the local Indigenous community. We had informative and productive meetings with QPWS, GRC, and local community groups.

In terms of the site itself, the layout of the event was very well-received. I worked closely with the Theme Camps Lead to place camps in a way that created energetic flow and a sense of community.

*What could be improved?*

- The timing of site approval came too close to the event. We submitted the approval several months in advance; but behind the target set in last year's timeline.
- Site plan dimensions were not accurate. I plan to liaise with DIC team regarding site misinformation and confirm prior to next year's map.
- Additional work was required to write, edit and formalise various reports following submission by team leads. This was a great deal of work for a few individuals.
- Theme camp registrations came in quite late. I'm hopeful this year's successful event will lead to more applications earlier next year.

*Recommendations for 2018:*

Confirm and correct site plan dimensions, and plan for future growth towards 750-1000 burners. Initiate multi-year site agreement conversation with QPWS at the earliest opportunity.

Have debrief with QPWS, GRC, CAN and Indigenous Community to gather their feedback from the event. Engage in conversations about road improvements with QPWS. Liaise with local mill, garages and workshops to ask about salvaging timber and tries to make emergency muddy road bridges for placement at unexpected locations.

Site Selection be accomplished minimum 9 months in advance, preference two years. Pre-lodgement discussions with Council be initiated 9 months prior to the event. Team leads be provided with 3 months to complete their reports to support the applications. Council applications should be lodged at least 6 months prior to the event.

Coordination with DIC / Art / Effigy / Temple / Rangers / Theme Camp teams can begin before application lodgement to begin with enough time to give Comms team time to produce the event guide map.

# PARTICIPATION II Gate & Box Office

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*Team Lead: Rhi Brighthouse*

*Co-Lead: Jana Clark*

## *What went well?*

Thank you to everyone for their support and time doing shifts and generally being awesome!

We sold a total of 278 tickets, and 252 burners came through the gate. There was roughly 50 community members that attended on the Saturday night as well.

Having Gate and Greeters together worked really well; it was useful to have the support and a beautiful shared space. As the two groups are so closely linked it would be good to do it again next year.

Quicket, our new ticketing system, was very easy to use and the company was very responsive and thorough in providing support.

## *What could be improved?*

Pre-registration was a bit of a sticking point for some people. This is strange, as for most burns you need to pre-register to purchase a ticket. In future, we may need to promote it a little bit better.

At the gate, the Quicket phone app that is used to check people in wasn't syncing properly at the time. This could have been a network service issue.

## *Recommendations for 2018:*

For this year coming, it would be good to recruit people earlier. There were a few people that dropped out or didn't show up for their shifts. Next year there should be an email to go out to volunteers with necessary information, so people are more prepared and committed.

It was surprising how many people arrived onsite having no idea that Modifyre is 100% driven by volunteer power. Getting this info in front of people at the point of purchase seems like the most efficient way to capture as many people as possible – perhaps it could be incorporated into the pre-registration next year.

# PARTICIPATION II Greeters

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*Team Lead: Jana Clark*

*Co-Lead: Rhi Brighthouse*

## *What went well?*

Greeters mostly ran pretty smoothly this year. The structure & decor was set up in time for the start of the event, paperwork and supplies were ready & available (ie. rosters, high-vis vests, etc), and the Greeters welcoming ceremony had been planned out which was shown/taught to all volunteers. I was stoked to see all members of the team really take on board what I had envisioned for the Greeters ceremony, and totally run with it – adding their own amazing personalities and touches on their delivery. The majority of all arriving participants enjoyed their experience being welcomed to the event and coming through Greeter's Station. We could see that many were tired (& cold!) from their long drives, so we made sure that lots of warm welcomes and hugs (with consent) were given with smiles and lots of positive energy.

## *What could be improved?*

The only issue I found, and which just comes down to more pre-planning, was a slight lack of volunteers to fill all shifts. We did manage to fill all shifts once we were on site, although we did need to scramble to fill a few of them. A big shout-out goes to our amazing & hard-working Monkey Wrangler, Sharon, for her efforts to fill shifts on site.

We can address this issue in future by calling out for volunteers much earlier in our pre-event planning. There were also several people who volunteered this year, who are keen to get involved again next year. This should make the process of filling the Greeter's roster easier, since we already have more people on the team.

## *Recommendations for 2018:*

Like just about anything, the more preparation you do for something, the smoother it should go. The main area of improvement for me is better time management when it comes to making purchases on time for the event. I left it too late this year to purchase (bio) garbage bags to gift to people on arrival (1 bag for recycling and 1 bag for waste), and a small amount of schwag items for my team members. This can be addressed next year by simply organising my purchases much earlier.

The other issue regarding time management, is organising Greeters Info Sessions much more efficiently. Utilising the Gate/Greeters, Modifyre and Brisbane Burning Man Facebook pages much more and interacting more with the team and public, should help gain activity and momentum within the community and generate more interest for Info Sessions.

# PARTICIPATION II Monkey Wranglers (Volunteer Coordinator)

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*Team Lead: Sharon Samuel*

*What went well?*

I was impressed with how people generally wanted to help out with volunteering. I was also really happy with the number of volunteer applications we received online prior to the event.

*What could be improved?*

Traffic – we definitely need more traffic volunteers onsite next year! This is a safety issue. We also need a bump-in and pack-down crew.

The volunteer coordination/sign-up spot onsite needs more signage and better rostering. Having better descriptions of volunteer roles available before the event would also be really helpful for attendees onsite who'd like to help but are unsure what's involved.

Ranger shifts were 6 hours this year. The general consensus was that this was too long.

*Recommendations for 2018:*

It would be great to have a monkey wrangling structure – a tent or desk with more signage and info on how people can get involved, that doesn't need to be manned 24/7.

We also need to have more people on the monkey wrangling crew – I kinda got burnt out this year. Having more people onsite at Modifyre to help recruit and wrangle volunteers would take a lot of stress off the team lead.



# PARTICIPATION II Earth Guardians

.....

*Team Lead: Carol "CC" McHugh*

*What went well?*

A huge leap forward for the LEG this year in leading up to and during Modifyre 2017.

- Guardian Campers: 5
- Guardians on site: About 15 adults and 5 children stepped up to do shifts for which we are very grateful.
- Workshops: 7

This is a huge increase in interest over last year with only 1 lead, 2 campers and about 6 people helping out with shifts.

4 workshops occurred pre-event to make bags, wings and parts for the gate. Great at generating interest, and meant that both the LEG camp and every volunteer taking a shift were easily identifiable.

The green tag system worked really well and is definitely worth repeating. Very little MOOP was left, and participants were excellent at auditing their own camps prior to asking Guardians for a blessing of a Green Tag. We are definitely installing a culture of everyone looking after any MOOP they find.

Acknowledgment needs to be given to packdown crew who look after the MOOP sweeps post-Exodus and the QPWS who cleaned up the 7km of road into site prior to the event.

*What could be improved?*

- The biggest improvement needs to be arranging volunteers to do MOOP sweeps in the week after the event.
- More, shorter and earlier newsletters on how to be as sustainable as possible with better posting of these on social media. 2017 newsletters could be archived on the website as well as Dropbox so they do not have to be rewritten each year.
- LEG camp to demonstrate waste sorting and grey waste handling in a visible way.
- Promotion of carpooling.
- New idea for Green Tag gift - current one is a bit MOOPy.

*Recommendations for 2018:*

Hosting the nest meant we drew in at least two hardworking members into the guardian team who wanted to be included in a camp. The extra sleeping bags and tents helped others who had waterproofing issues and would be cold otherwise - recommend this happens again next year.

The Nest (particularly the shade/kitchen) gave a focal point for LEG, increasing our visibility. Definitely recommend a similar approach for next year.

# BUILD II DIC (Department of Infrastructure & Construction)

.....

*Team Lead: Tom “Bundy” Hamlyn*  
*Asset Archivist: Andrew “Fridge” Irvine*  
*Signology Lead: Kira Went*

## *What went well?*

Power – we had quite a bit of power available onsite for DIC, common areas (eg. the Heart) and some theme camps, though distribution was difficult. We overestimated how much toilet paper we would need.

## *What could be improved?*

A number of issues cropped up this year. As has been mentioned by multiple parties, the road into site needs work. The DIC roster also needs work – build crews and DIC were quite stretched this year. An event roster was needed.

We need to get onto bamboo harvesting earlier, as well as figuring out a way to store it out on site. A storage container onsite would be a great asset.

Showers for crew would be amazing!

## *Recommendations for 2018:*

We need a DIC 2IC, a Transport/Logistics Lead, and a pack-down crew. We also need reliable radios onsite next year.

A power plan needs to be organised, with a stocktake prior to arriving on site eg. length of leads, number of junction boxes. Sustainable power needs to be looked at.

The container at Hackerspace needs to be reorganised and catalogued. A full inventory of signs also needs to be done. We should start stockpiling corflute for future Signology requirements.

# BUILD II Effigy

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*Team Lead: Stirling "Stirlo" Blackett*

## *What went well?*

The weather for the onsite build was an issue, with a number of rainy days in the week prior to the event, but we got through it. It burned! The bar under the effigy was a hit.

We spent somewhere between \$300-400. A lot of the materials were donated or found – we even used some fence palings from the derelict building onsite.

## *What could be improved?*

Participation was a bit lacklustre due to workshops and events happening at busy times. More notice should be given.

## *Recommendations for 2018:*

Try to increase engagement with the local community next year.

# BUILD II Temple

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*Team Lead: Andrew "Andy" Price*

## *What went well?*

So the temple was awesome. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the build. The lighting was a beautiful touch, and we were really happy with the size of the structure – the new site offers lots of potential for larger burns.

We spent \$148 on materials this year which was amazing given the budget constraints. It was good to be able to recycle and reuse materials as that forms a core part of our ethics.

The curated music and performance on burn night was beautiful, and the weather was perfect for the burn.

## *What could be improved?*

In hindsight, there could have been more time, energy and planning for the temple burn itself. Due to everyone having multiple roles/commitments at Modifyre and by the time Sunday comes around, everyone gets pretty tired. There could have been more time committed to setting up the lighting, hobble the structure and fuel the fire however, like true burner style, it all got done at the end of the day!

## *Recommendations for 2018:*

Continue with our "quality over quantity" approach to growing the event – it served the team well this year.

# BUILD || Kitchen

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*Team Lead: Sarah Reutas*

*What went well?*

We managed to feed the entire crew three meals a day for everyone both before and after the event. The kitchen provided a fully-fledged vegan offering for all meals for the weeks leading up to, and days after the event, and was set up to ensure everything was there. From the simplest things to cooking utensils, right up to the fridge that stored perishables, the effort really paid off!

There was a good push for minimising waste throughout the build and pack down periods as well, with no food going to waste and materials for storage and transport being very little.

*What could be improved?*

Pre-event workshop to be had with kitchen to teach people about food waste in camps. There was an issue around water and leftover noodles in pots.

*Recommendations for 2018:*

The size of our burn allows us to try different things on a scale that you wouldn't be able to implement at the larger events. The community would benefit from the kitchen team passing on their knowledge to other theme camps around the minimisation of food waste. This could be conducted alongside an Earth Guardian workshop on waste management for theme camps.

# BURNER SAFETY & HEALTH II Medics

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*Team Lead: Anna Morgan*  
*2IC: Stef Traupmann*  
*Workshop Coordinator: Amelia Rastas*

The team was very well supported this year with an amazing trio of gals leading the charge. Subjectively, Medics had a bloody good year.

## *What went well?*

All medical expenses were minimal, with only small outlays for first aid supplies.

We managed to also create an exciting space giving the tent some warmth and tying into the overall theme of the burn. The space was visible and accessible to all and functioned effectively. Setting up as a theme camp and providing workshops was fun and created an engaging space for both volunteers and participants requiring first aid.

We also managed to hold our very own first aid course prior to the burn in Brisbane, which had a great turnout. Special thanks to Cam and Shane Bunney, who really enjoyed hosting the session and getting everyone involved.

This translated into there being enough people to fill most of the rosters onsite, and their use of skills proved effective in treating any injuries that were presented. All first aid incidents were well documents, with mostly minor injuries such and blisters and bites.

## *What could be improved?*

There were a few rostering issues but all were able to be covered. One notable mention would be the fact that two medics were required on duty during the burn night however, we only had enough resources to rostered on one. This was however rectified by giving the medics TL a radio who then acted as a second on call for the remainder of Saturday night. This proved effective with no hiccups coming to light.

At one stage during the festival there was an issue with there being access to continual running water to treat burns. This was quickly rectified due to the support of all burners providing sufficient amounts of water to help any treatments.

# BURNER SAFETY & HEALTH II Medics (cont.)

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## *Recommendations for 2018:*

We would love to keep seeing new faces stepping up into roles for the Medics, particularly those with additional experience in the medical field

We would also like to work more closely with Rangers in the lead up to the festival, with ongoing development of shared emergency management protocols, based on experience from this year's event.

We are particularly keen to continue to promote first aid knowledge and practical skills within the wider community via first aid events such as first aid courses and workshops, and propose a new medics role in the form of a Community Engagement Officer.

Finally, special thanks to Rangers for making our job easy on the ground, and DIC for sorting things out for us quickly when we needed it.

# BURNER SAFETY & HEALTH II Rangers

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*Team Co-Lead: Ash "Girlface" Dodd*

*Team Co-Lead: Kirsty "Koi" Reyes*

*2IC: Thom "Magic" Bedlam*

This year the Rangers were a force to be reckoned with (from the final hours leading up to the burn and onsite!). With there being two co-leads throughout the year that weren't based in Brisbane, the ongoing preparation was left to championing in the last couple of weeks leading up to the burn.

Despite pre-event challenges, the Ranger Leadership team managed to pull together a skilled and resourceful crew of dedicated Rangers for our event. The Modifyre Crew Wranglers were instrumental in the dissemination of information to Rangers in the absence of our interstate Ranger Leads.

## *What went well?*

Team Leads delivered training to new rangers and continued the working collaboration between Medics, Rangers and the theme camp 'Caffeina's' to coordinate and successfully implement a psychological response pathway and public Sanctuary Space.

There was a great level of communication, response and collaborative effort between the Medics, Caffeina's, Rangers and Security alongside successful response.

There was great integration of junior rangers into our ModSquad Team as well. While we still require a Junior Rangers Lead to implement a dedicated program, those who attended ranger training went on to complete dirt shifts accompanied by their legal guardian.

## *What went wrong?*

Due to personal complications within the Ranger Leadership Team, pre-event needs were not adequately relayed to the necessary departments, meaning that transportation of certain equipment for set up was not prioritised.

Radio communications were a big issue on site as well, resulting in additional strain and diverted resources during the burn.

## *Recommendations for 2018:*

Ensuring a Ranger Lead that is active and presently based in Brisbane throughout the year and consistently present in the months leading up to the event. The team would also benefit from creating processes for recruiting rangers and ranger leads as well as an engagement program that runs throughout the year.

The Green Dot Ranger Lead position should be a separate person from the Ranger Lead. Suggested training through the Black Rock City Green Dot Program as well as building relationships with other local NFP's and organisation on mental health awareness, drug education and awareness, etc. would prove beneficial here as well.



# BURNER SAFETY & HEALTH II F.L.A.M.E.

.....

*Team Lead: Andrew "Andy" Price*

*What went well?*

The inner and outer perimeters worked really well this year. It was a well-behaved crowd with no fire safety issues. The topography and placement of the burn were great, and the weather conditions were perfect for the Effigy and Temple burns.

*What could be improved?*

We need a consistent fuelling and fuel bomb mix strategy. This would maximise safety, and minimise unexpected ignition issues.

Currently all the ashes from burn barrels and big burns go into landfill. Research into a more sustainable option would be worth pursuing.

Given the cold temperatures throughout the burn, there is always a need for more firewood. You can never have enough! We could utilise wood from refuse station for builds which would also be a great idea for temple and effigy crews to consider.

*Recommendations for 2018:*

A formulated safety check list for registered theme camps with fires for both parties.

# BURNER SAFETY & HEALTH II Traffic

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*Team Lead: Lisa & Steve*

*What went well?*

We had no incidents involving cars or other motor vehicles onsite. Everyone seemed to respect the rules that were put in place, with minimal traffic movement during the event.

*What could be improved?*

The rostering of the traffic conductors around the site could have been hampered by a lack of available volunteers, which meant there were quite a few people doubling up on shifts.

It would also be worth spending some more time on the traffic management plan and training volunteers before attending the site. This of course can't be helped as sometimes you don't know who will be volunteering until you get there.

*Recommendations for 2018:*

- Implement an official traffic management plan
- Signage on certain corners on the way into site, especially in wet conditions
- Work with Council to discuss improvement of access road and look at solutions to fix problem areas.

# ART & CULTURE II     Lanterns & Performance

.....

*Team Lead: Marisa Georgiou*

We pulled off something great this year, definitely one for the Modifyre history books.

*What went well?*

- The homemade lanterns were clearly a great addition to the welcoming vibe of the site.
- The Effigy Reveal performance (i.e. the legendary battle between the Mantis Militia and the Social Butterflies) had over 100 participants, which is incredible! Everyone seems to have their own story from the event. However, on reflection, the best part was watching everyone wait for the battle to start. Groups started to form, leaders started to emerge, and new people met. I am blown away by the work and enthusiasm of the EPT and their participants in helping this event happen.
- The creation of simple but accessible performance props such as the Space Blanket Flags enhanced each spectacle, allowed participants into the event, and allowed for the creation of simple actions throughout the event (such as the procession for Temple Burn and the post-Town Hall meeting flag dance).

*What could be improved?*

- Lanterns could have been better designed with longevity, transport and power in mind. The creation of a new team to take this on is recommended.
- The fact that participants function on burner time means that we need a better communication system, perhaps a gong or bell to let participants know that it's time to get ready.
- Many facets of the plan did not happen, through no fault of any individual. This included the integration of vehicles into the opening performance, due to mud, and the Welcome to Country due to illness of our indigenous representatives. However, I believe that anyone doing this role needs cannot afford to be a perfectionist; the performances are naturally a volunteer-run, outdoor, participatory spectacle with constantly changing circumstances.
- No matter how clearly you brief the mob, and how simple the instructions are, you need to have clearly indicated leads that the participants can follow.

# ART & CULTURE II Lanterns & Performance (cont.)

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## *Recommendations for 2018:*

- 1) The most important is that Lanterns and Performance are made into two separate roles. This has been advocated before but this year we did not have the capacity. A new lantern designer for 2018 needs the skills to design and make stackable lanterns and collapsible lantern poles.
- 2) It would be amazing to get double the amount of bamboo, as it came in useful for unanticipated things such as projection screens, flags, etc.
- 3) Following the success of the Mantis Militia drive-by, a new team should be formed called the Rapid Art Deployment (RAD) crew, to work closely with monkey wranglers, responsible for creating performances and spectacles (in the style of the militia drive-by) with a short lead time during the event – Immediacy! This will also help us realise the vision of having the lanterns paraded out each evening by a small crew.
- 4) We officially implement procedures to safely use vehicles in performance, that are in a different class than art cars.
- 5) We continue building up the Modifyre “costumes, props & decor” library, and find a space that team members can access at any time.
- 6) The Arts Committee to start meeting on a regular basis, to collaborate on thematics, producing a more unified “ambience”.

## *To Sum Up:*

Thankyou to everyone who got involved in this wild spectacle. I believe these performance events are part of what makes our Burn particularly special, and I am grateful for the members who brought their magic energy to making it happen and believed in the vision.

Shine bright Modifyre bugs!

Marisa

# ART & CULTURE II Visual Art

.....

*Team Lead: Nelson "Nonsky" Donsky*

The Modifyre team created a space full of potential, for participants to play, create and experiment. Now, we just have to get the word out!

*What went well?*

Our grant review team funded all of the artworks that applied to our grant fund at the combined total grant amount of \$1,175.

One particular artwork, Twelve Tone, doubled as street lighting for our main boulevard. It made for a brilliant sight. There's definitely room as an emerging Burn for the artists to collaborate closely with the site planners to integrate with the event in this way in the future.

We worked with our Town Planner to place each work with consideration to each piece.

*What could be improved?*

We loved the work registered this year, we just need more!

*Recommendations for 2018:*

We'd love to have a bigger grants program, but we all have to start somewhere!

With the above noted, we also came under the grants budget, and so we need to better communicate grant availability, perhaps by splitting it into separate sections (e.g. \$500, 2 x \$200, mini-grants).

The grants process can be made more transparent.

*To sum up:*

Remember - the paddock is your canvas!

# ART & CULTURE II The Heart

.....

*Team Lead: Jeff Chau*

*What went well?*

This year we hired a large, red stretch tent for the Heart space, and was one of the major costs of our event. Though it was a challenge to activate, we are invested in creating a civic hub at our event, that is facilitated by the Event Production Team.

The space that the tent created was amazing. It was good to see participants come in and relax together. The PA system was good as well, which allowed others to plug in and play whenever they felt inspired. There were many great workshops held in the space which shows that The Heart an effective centre for activities.

*What could be improved?*

The projector system was installed but didn't get utilised enough. This could be promoted more throughout the burn.

The space could have been better filled with furniture, rugs, artworks, a stage and other pieces of infrastructure to make the space feel more intimate.

*Recommendations for 2018:*

More cushions, gas heaters or fire pit.

Greater collaboration with monkey wranglers, to assist the Heart Guardians to make participants feel welcome.

More signage to let participants know the schedule of the day.

In regards to programming the Heart- the sky is the limit. Let's have gigs, talks, workshops, and everything in-between!

# ART & CULTURE II Theme Camps

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*Team Lead: Kate "Hoopla" Pattison*

Our Theme Camps make our Burn the creative space that it is.

*What went well?*

- Thank you to the Wonkies who brought the night to life!
- Theme camps did really well overall. Lighting was great, and many created a nice warm feeling. With our Burn occurring in winter, warm spaces make for an intimate and social experience that we should encourage.
- Everyone was self sufficient and the safety checklists were a breeze.
- Tagging electrical was an issue at first but we had someone qualified who conducted this on site.

*What could be improved?*

Theme camps found the application form daunting and therefore avoided filling it out. We suggest a smaller form to register online then perhaps we email out a full one for them once they register. This might help to avoid theme camps registering after closing of registration date, which then also flows on to effect the Town Planning and Event guide.

We were not aware that it was our job to do the Event Guide, but we were happy to step up and do it at short notice. Due to this some parts were not as thorough as they could be. Some clarity on communication processes would be an improvement here.

We overlooked sharing the theme camps on social media. They were shared to the Theme Camp hub facebook page, but this was a private group which meant that the general public could not see them. They were shared onto the Modifire event Facebook page one week before the event began.

*Recommendations for 2018:*

Sadly we had no interstate theme camps this year. I would like to see that change in the future by undergoing more contact with these camps through out the year, and doing better community outreach.

# FUTURE VISION

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Whenever I'm at a burn I constantly find myself taking a step back and appreciating the experiences that I wouldn't be a part of anywhere else. The sheer unpredictability of everything going on around you by the most interesting humans you'll ever meet is a guaranteed recipe for a good time. Watching as a hundred people dressed as mantis militia and social butterflies scatter around as we marched for the effigy on burn night, megaphones blaring bug propaganda from a ute screeching past blaring death metal music. This beautiful wooden art piece complete with bar, nightclub and prison cell all in a heartbeat is turned to a giant fireball right before our eyes. As the flames recede and the perimeter slowly decreased, what seems like an endless stream of naked bodies emerges from the dark and begins to bound around the smouldering rubble. This truly is a world away from reality yet I've never felt more at home.

But it wasn't until the Sunday night of the event that the true value of being a part of such a wonderful community became apparent. After having spent the better part of the last year talking about, planning and working on all things Modifyre it was finally time to burn the temple. A hallowed space, the temple burn provides a time in which the whole community comes as one to silently bask in the collective peace that is watching this beacon of memories turn to ash. I had a profound moment looking around at the faces of people that I have come to love and trust, who had put their heart and soul into creating an outlet for indescribable positivity to emerge. The true soul of a burn, of what the Ten Principles stand for were on true display that night and I'll not soon forget it. This was the point at which it all seemed worth it.

And here we are, just like that Modifyre 2017 is but another memory in my head. Sitting down and trying to make sense of the whole experience, watching the highest of highs blend in with the unfortunate lows paints a mural from countless burner brushes. Relationships were created, strengthened and strained. But in the end the event was an overwhelmingly successful endeavour that has set the foundations for prosperity and growth. Professional relationships with the people of Inglewood & Goondiwindi Shire are formed and strong. Having these already in place for 2018 allows us to hit the ground running with planning and marketing for the event in a way that hasn't been possible until now. So what does the future look like for Modifyre?

*~ Kane Leighton  
Team Lead - Comms*



# APPENDIX 1 II Balance Sheet

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## BURN Arts Inc As at 30 September 2017

|                                      | 30 Sep 2017   | 30 Sep 2016  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                        |               |              |
| <b>Bank</b>                          |               |              |
| Every Day Account                    | 8,001         | -            |
| Ticketing Account                    | 29,483        | -            |
| <b>Total Bank</b>                    | <b>37,484</b> | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                |               |              |
| Bendigo Bank - old account           | -             | 7,850        |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>          | <b>-</b>      | <b>7,850</b> |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                  | <b>37,484</b> | <b>7,850</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                   |               |              |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>           |               |              |
| Rounding                             | -             | -            |
| <b>Ticketing Fees Owed</b>           |               |              |
| Ticketing Fees Collected             | 1,019         | -            |
| Ticketing Fees Withheld              | (821)         | -            |
| <b>Total Ticketing Fees Owed</b>     | <b>197</b>    | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>     | <b>197</b>    | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>       |               |              |
| Accruals                             | 6,236         | -            |
| <b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b> | <b>6,236</b>  | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>             | <b>6,433</b>  | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                    | <b>31,051</b> | <b>7,850</b> |
| <b>Equity</b>                        |               |              |
| Current Year Earnings                | 23,195        | -            |
| Retained Earnings                    | 7,850         | 7,850        |
| Share Capital                        | 6             | -            |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                  | <b>31,051</b> | <b>7,850</b> |

# APPENDIX 2 II Profit + Loss

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## BURN Arts Inc For the 12 months ended 30 September 2017

|                                     | Sep-17        | Sep-16 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| <b>Income</b>                       |               |        |
| Ticket Sales                        | 39,290        | -      |
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | <b>39,290</b> | -      |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                 | <b>39,290</b> | -      |
| <b>Plus Other Income</b>            |               |        |
| Grant Monies                        | 16,294        | -      |
| Interest Income                     | 1             | -      |
| Other Revenue                       | 1,045         | -      |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>           | <b>17,340</b> | -      |
| <b>Less Operating Expenses</b>      |               |        |
| Audit Costs                         | 110           | -      |
| Bank Fees - Foreign Exchange Losses | 13            | -      |
| Building Materials                  | 348           | -      |
| Building Materials & Consumables    | 2,218         | -      |
| Camp Fees                           | 6,156         | -      |
| Fees & Permits (gov't)              | 387           | -      |
| Freight & Courier                   | 1,202         | -      |
| Fuel, Gas etc.                      | 1,631         | -      |
| Grant Monies Paid                   | 1,175         | -      |
| Groceries & Consumables             | 1,186         | -      |
| Hire of Equipment                   | 3,645         | -      |
| Insurance                           | 2,347         | -      |
| Light & Heating                     | 227           | -      |
| Low Cost Assets                     | 159           | -      |
| Motor Vehicle Expenses              | 1,479         | -      |
| Postage, Printing & Stationery      | 1,205         | -      |
| Safety                              | 1,258         | -      |
| Security                            | 4,400         | -      |
| Subscriptions                       | 562           | -      |
| Ticketing / Entry Costs             | 94            | -      |
| Waste Disposal & Cleaning           | 3,563         | -      |
| Water                               | 70            | -      |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>     | <b>33,435</b> | -      |
| <b>Net Profit</b>                   | <b>23,195</b> | -      |

# APPENDIX 3    ||    Verification Statement

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**BURN Arts Inc.**

## **VERIFICATION STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF BURN ARTS INC.**

I have sighted the Profit and Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet of BURN Arts Inc. (the association) for the year ended 30 September 2017.

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet. My review has been limited to reviewing the association's bookkeeping processes to ensure that these processes adequately record the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities. No audit has been performed and accordingly no assurance has been given.

The reports have been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

I have sighted the association's financial records and the association's financial records show that the association has bookkeeping processes in place to adequately record the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.



Marietta Phillips

Certified Practising Accountant (CPA)

Member number: 9167039

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> Day of December 2017

## A Message from The Bug

I would like to thank our hardworking committee members, support staff and volunteer crew. All of these individuals volunteer their time, skills, and energy to make Modifyre an amazing experience for everyone.

I would also like to thank:

The community and residents of Inglewood for welcoming the burn and being a part of the adventure.

And every participant helping me to pollinate with beauty and creativity.

