

# ANNUAL REPORT

June 19 –  
July 20

**The  
Social  
Studio**



# THE SOCIAL STUDIO

We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners and Elders – past, present and emerging – of the lands and waters on which The Social Studio meets and creates, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

Operating from a small shop and studio on Smith Street in Collingwood since 2019, The Social Studio provides a safe, welcoming community space for young people from refugee and new migrant backgrounds.

Our mission is to create pathways into long-term, rewarding employment, and a community that celebrates artistic talent, skills and sustainable business.

We use the vehicle of fashion to create meaningful social change, we honour the contribution of refugees and migrants, and we strive to change public perceptions for people who have experienced being a refugee.

Part school.  
Part production studio.  
Part retail store.  
All good.



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

This was a year of intense challenge and hard-won achievements for The Social Studio and the students who are always at the heart of our social enterprise.

Accustomed to being adaptive, the pandemic required us to be even more resilient and retool our organisation for the times, including shifting from face-to-face learning to offering remote support for our students. COVID-19's disproportionate effect on the livelihoods and prospects of young people only reinforced TSS's core mission to support and empower young people from refugee and new migrant backgrounds to take up opportunities in work and education.

We could hardly have imagined the road ahead at our 10-year anniversary Gala event at Arts Centre Melbourne, a joyous milestone for our students, staff and supporters, attended by hundreds of guests in December 2019. Some three months later, Melbourne went into lockdown and 'social distancing' and 'iso' entered our vocabulary.

Our formal Certificate III program with RMIT was suspended temporarily and, faced with one of the most testing moments in the Studio's history, we pivoted to produce personal protective equipment at cost price.

The TSS Medical Scrubs project has been a point of pride for our staff, enabling them to give back to the community as well as bringing in valuable revenue for the organisation to continue employing makers from refugee and new migrant communities.

The welfare of our students and their families has always been front of mind. Early into Melbourne's lockdown we sent fabric, machines and sewing kits to their homes to keep them engaged with their studies. We also maintained regular contact over phone and email, undertaking welfare checks and providing information around public health advice and other practical supports.

The adaptability of students and their desire to keep learning alongside the commitment of our staff, board and steadfast supporters through the pandemic's hurdles has been a source of strength. In the final days of this financial year we managed another feat: sorting, packing and moving 10 years of history from our original Smith St, Collingwood, premises to new headquarters down the road at the Collingwood Yards arts precinct. Here, we are now in close proximity to hundreds of artists and arts-based organisations and have acquired valuable extra space to accommodate our ambitions for the new decade ahead.

We're fortunate to be able to tap into 10 years of talent, ingenuity and goodwill from our community to steer us through a global pandemic. And, in this extended moment of uncertainty at home and abroad, we are truly proud to say that TSS and its talented students have not just survived, we've thrived.

Thank you for believing - and investing - in our work in the community.

**CATE COLEMAN, CEO**  
**FARAH FAROUQUE, BOARD CHAIR**

# STUDENT PROFILE

“The Social Studio has helped me learn all-round technical fashion skills, from fashion sketches to fabric choices, pattern making, and sewing. All these skills that I acquired have helped with my confidence and transition into the Bachelors of fashion design. I am learning about complex bigger ideas relating to fashion which have built on my skills learned at TSS.

I feel dedicated and inspired to continue my focus in fashion with future plans to create my own small luxury high-end fashion label with a sustainable business focus using bright bold colours as my main inspiration.

My teachers have been very supportive, and have well prepared me for post studies, a great social place where I have built good relations with my teachers and love to come to visit during my study breaks.”



- Chudier, TSS class of 2019

# 2019 - 2020 AT A GLANCE



\$747,953

Annual operating Budget

80+

People supported by our education and training programs this year

78%

of TSS staff positions filled by people from refugee or migrant backgrounds

780+

People supported by The Social Studio since its foundation in 2009

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES

\$123,749

Self-generated revenue

7

Ongoing jobs created for staff from refugee/ migrant communities including:

- garment machinists
- design assistant
- youth coordinator
- teachers
- marketing and retail traineeship

# FASHION SCHOOL

The Social Studio's Fashion School provides a variety of fashion and design-based education and training opportunities including a Certificate III in Clothing Production (accredited by RMIT), as well as pre-accredited, social sewing classes.

The aim of the school is to provide an alternative, flexible learning environment for students who may have struggled in more conventional education.

In addition to our Collingwood headquarters, this year we opened a satellite training site in Heidelberg West in partnership with Australia Post, the Banyule City Council, Olympic Adult Education and Himilo Community Connect.

## 2019-2020 IMPACT

**20** Students enrolled in Certificate III in Clothing + and Textile production

**40** Students enrolled in social sewing classes

**96** Percent retention and completion rate



Congratulations to our graduates Paw, Keom, Asal and Chudier, who were among those graduating this year from the Certificate III in Clothing Production.

# COLLINGWOOD YARDS



While the departure from our historic home at 128 Smith Street is bittersweet, the potential Collingwood Yards presents for our organisation and students is incredibly exciting.

Not only does our school, manufacturing studio and office now occupy the same large workshop, but we are also housed within a broader ecosystem of artists, galleries and not-for-profits. The opportunity for collaboration here is unparalleled, as is the exposure for our students and community to some of Melbourne's most talented creative workers.

# SOCIAL ENTERPRISES



Accredited by Ethical Clothing Australia, we provide a production service for socially conscious designers who are interested in developing sustainable and ethical fashion products locally, with a strong focus on reducing their environmental impact.

This year saw our social enterprise activities make the biggest impact in the history of TSS.

## Highlights included:



- Partnership with online retailer, Well Made Clothes.
- Designed and produced 2019 staff uniforms for MPavilion.
- Collaboration with Ken Done and local label Kuwaii to design, produce and retail a limited edition jumpsuit (pictured left).
- Art Scarf project in collaboration with 10 established and emerging artists, including Ken Done, Romance Was Born, Olana Janfa and Atong Atem.



# SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

“When we started producing our own clothing, it was imperative to us that the people who were making our clothing were being treated fairly, and that our clothing was being made to the highest quality standards, too. The fact that The Social Studio guarantees all of this, and also provides training for young people from new migrant and refugee communities, made them the obvious choice for us. We value this relationship and hope it continues for a long time!”

– Courtney Sanders, Founder of Well Made Clothes.

“When the Social Studio gave me the opportunity to buy an original piece of art, I jumped at it. I can safely say it’s one of the best purchases I’ve made. Not only is the quality of the piece superb, the fact that I was able to contribute to the growth of local artists, and provide support to The Social Studio cause was the cherry on top. Having a limited piece of art, with a backstory, is something I’m very proud of :)”

– Milan Stephens, video producer & art collector.

# EVENTS



We love bringing our community of students, makers and other creatives together for events and industry showcases, and this year was particularly special as we celebrated our 10th year anniversary with a spectacular gala at Arts Centre Melbourne in December. Events like these are an important way for us to highlight the incredible work of our school and give students the opportunity to have their skills and talents recognised publicly.

In March 2020, as the world was coming to terms with what the COVID-19 pandemic might mean, we staged what would be our last event of the year: 'Powerful Bodies;' took place at the State Library of Victoria, weaving together fashion with history in garments designed by students and staff from The Social Studio and our extended community.



Clockwise from top: Student showcase at 10th anniversary gala; Design by TSS student, Muhubo Suleiman, for Powerful Bodies runway at VAMFF; looks from the Powerful Bodies event

# FINANCIAL REPORT

**THE SOCIAL STUDIO INC**  
**ABN: 98 376 502 818**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue	2	747,953	476,323
Changes in inventories		(18,008)	(5,991)
Employee benefits expense		(458,641)	(286,404)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(24,423)	(16,803)
Finance costs		(1,344)	(227)
Other expenses		<u>(216,471)</u>	<u>(170,090)</u>
<b>Profit (loss) before income tax</b>		29,065	(3,191)
Income tax expense		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Profit (loss) for the year</b>		<u>29,065</u>	<u>(3,191)</u>
Profit (loss) attributable to members of the entity		<u>29,065</u>	<u>(3,191)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

**THE SOCIAL STUDIO INC**  
**ABN: 98 376 502 818**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**AS AT 30 JUNE 2020**

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash on hand	4	303,601	82,534
Accounts receivable and other debtors	5	14,166	73,407
Inventories on hand	6	9,346	27,354
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>327,113</u>	<u>183,295</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	191,093	33,196
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>191,093</u>	<u>33,196</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><u>518,206</u></u>	<u><u>216,491</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable and other payables	8	78,669	31,663
Borrowings	9	39,131	-
Provisions	10	40,525	17,013
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>158,324</u>	<u>48,676</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Borrowings	9	163,001	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>163,001</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u><u>321,325</u></u>	<u><u>48,676</u></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>196,880</u></u>	<u><u>167,815</u></u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		<u>196,880</u>	<u>167,815</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u><u>196,880</u></u>	<u><u>167,815</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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# FINANCIAL REPORT

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL STUDIO INC.  
ABN 98 376 502 818**

**Auditor's Opinion**

In my opinion:

The financial report of The Social Studio Inc. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporations Act.

**Name of Firm:** Joseph Boyar  
Chartered Accountant

**Name of Principal:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Address:** 3/967 Glen Huntly Rd Caulfield South Vic

**Dated this 27th day of October 2020**

# OUR PEOPLE

## BOARD

Farah Farouque (Chair)  
Dr Alberto Furlan (Vice-Chair)  
Ruth Owens (Treasurer)  
Lew Hess (stepped down)  
Dr Grace McQuilten (Public Officer and Founder)  
Vinisha Mulani  
Alek Nyok  
Dewi Cooke

## STAFF

Cate Coleman, Chief Executive Officer  
Aleksandra Nedeljkovic, Chief Operating Officer  
Mariam Mousslimani, Teacher and Training  
Coordinator  
Reineke Ryan, Youth Coordinator  
Fiona Hussain, Teacher  
Nancy Oziya, Teacher  
Kwabla Klogo, Sewing machinist and Teacher  
Luka Rey, Production Manager  
Anh Truong, Sewing machinist  
Thi Nguyen, Sewing machinist  
Bonnie Mooney, Creative Director

# VALE CHRISTOPHER BAKER

## 11/04/1957-12/06/2020

Sadly, we lost a long-time friend of TSS', Christopher Baker, this year.

Christopher, your humility, generosity, good humour and wisdom were a gift to the community. The Social Studio will miss you greatly.

Thank you for your generosity over many years for our programs empowering talented young people from refugee backgrounds.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you so much to our wonderful community of supporters, including:

Alison Julian  
Alberto Furlan  
Amy Truong  
Andrea Carson  
Arch Staver  
Ash Munas  
Asia Hassan (Asiyam)  
Atong Atem  
Atong Omoli  
Australia Post  
Australian Communities Foundation  
Baker Foundation  
Banyule City Council  
Barlow Foundation  
Beci Orpin  
Benjamin Thomson  
Business Victoria  
Brasher Family Foundation  
Breathe Architecture  
Bul  
Cathy Scalzo  
Christopher Baker  
City of Yarra  
CliffRoy Community Bank  
Contemporary Arts Precinct  
Cory Porter (Mr Congo)  
Country Women's Association, Umina Branch  
Creative Victoria  
David Goss  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
Donnita McDonnell  
Ecstra Foundation  
Ernest Studios  
Equal Access Fund  
Evi O  
The Fabric Store Melbourne  
Fouress Foundation  
Gandel Philanthropy  
Gian Manik  
Grace and Emilio Foundation  
Hamish Graham  
Holding Redlich (Charles Power, Ashleigh Warren)  
The Ian Potter Foundation  
Inner North Community Foundation  
Irma Bilgrami  
Jack Brockhoff Foundation

James Nguyen  
Jan Fran  
Jane Gorman  
Jennifer Coleman and Michael Psaltis  
Jeremie Renard and Jameela Farouque  
John Lesser  
Josh Gardiner and Saskia  
Joe Boyar  
Kate Kennedy  
Kathleen Townsend  
Kaye Elias  
Ken Done and Camilla Done  
KUWALL  
Dr Layilla Osman  
Liberty Sanger  
Literacy Matters Sub-fund  
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation  
Mariam Tokhi  
Mary Hayward  
Marybeth Alexander  
Michael Mitsas  
Mimosa and Suk Workwear  
Minter Ellison  
Stanislava Pinchuk (Miso)  
The Muslim Collective  
Mutual Trust  
Nathalia Suizu  
Nelson Alexander Fitzroy  
Nyadol Nyuon  
Olana Janfa & Leanne Clancey  
Perpetual Philanthropy  
Richard Wynne  
Rikki Andrews  
RMIT  
Romance Was Born  
Ros Sultan  
Ross Gittins  
Ruth Owens and Kevin Lynch  
Sally-Anne Dower-Owens  
Dr Sandro Demaio  
Sidney Myer Fund / Myer Foundation  
Tucker Family Foundation (Caitlin and Darren)  
Victorian Planning & Environmental Law Association  
The William Buckland Foundation  
Zoe McQuilten



# CONTACT US

Unit 101 - 30 Perry Street,  
Collingwood. VIC 3066

thesocialstudio.org  
info@thesocialstudio.org  
ph: (03) 9417 2143

**The  
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