

Annual Report

2025 -
2026



Principal
Partner

Sutherland Pavilion acknowledges the Dharawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land within the Sutherland Shire. We pay respect to the Elders and their families, past and present, and through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



The Bogong's Song, January 2026. Photography by Jordan K. Munns.

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About Us

Mission and Values

OUR VISION

Sutherland Pavilion is a dynamic cultural hub and premier destination for live performance that connects our Shire with Greater Sydney.

OUR PURPOSE

To deliver exceptional artistic experiences that entertain, inspire and enrich our community.





OUR VALUES



Authentic

True to our place, our purpose,
and our people



Creative

Bold, original and full of imagination



Relatable

Stories and experiences that
speak to our community



Engaging

Creating meaningful connections
through the arts



Welcome

From the Chair & Executive Director

The past year has been one of **confidence, ambition and transformation** for Sutherland Pavilion. As we continue to grow as one of the region's leading cultural destinations, FY2026 demonstrated what is possible when creativity is matched with purpose, partnerships and a community that believes in the value of the arts.

This year, we celebrated a remarkable milestone - 50 years of this venue serving as a place where people gather to create, connect and be inspired. Our anniversary gala in June was far more than a celebration of our history; it was a tribute to the generations of artists, audiences, volunteers, staff and community members who have made this building an enduring cultural home. Their legacy provides the foundation from which we continue to evolve. While honouring our past, we also took significant steps towards shaping our future. For the first time, Sutherland Pavilion became a producing organisation, presenting Michael Gow's *Toy Symphony* under Michael's direction, with a cast that proudly included local performers. It was a defining moment that reflected our growing artistic confidence and our commitment to investing in creative opportunities that celebrate both excellence and local talent.

Our vision extends beyond the walls of the theatre. Throughout the year we continued to explore how arts experiences can animate public spaces and invite new audiences to participate. *Eton Mess*, our vibrant dance party in Peace Park, exemplified this spirit—transforming an everyday place into a shared

celebration of music, movement and community. We are excited to continue evolving this initiative, with its next chapter arriving in October 2026.

This year also marked an important leadership milestone, with Justin appointed Executive Director after successfully serving in the role in an acting capacity throughout 2025. His appointment reflects the organisation's continued momentum and an ambitious vision for the years ahead. These achievements are only possible because of the people who make Sutherland Pavilion what it is. We thank our Board for its strategic leadership, our dedicated staff for their professionalism, creativity and care, and Sutherland Shire Council for its enduring partnership and investment in arts and culture across our region.

We are equally grateful to the artists who inspire us with their talent and to every audience member who chooses to share these experiences with us. Your support continues to shape Sutherland Pavilion into a place of belonging, creativity and connection.

As we look ahead, our focus is not simply on presenting outstanding performances, but on strengthening Sutherland Pavilion's role as a creative leader within our community. We will continue to champion bold artistic ideas, nurture local talent and create experiences that bring people together in new and meaningful ways.

The first 50 years have built an extraordinary legacy. We are excited for what comes next.



**Councillor
Carmelo Pesce**

Chair,
Sutherland Pavilion
Board



**Justin
Boschetti**

Executive Director,
Sutherland Pavilion



50th Anniversary Gala, June 2026. Photography by Vitor Duarte.

2025-2026 at a glance*

103,146

total audiences

97,598

across ticketed events

5,548

across non-ticketed events

334

events (total inc. Pavilion Presents)

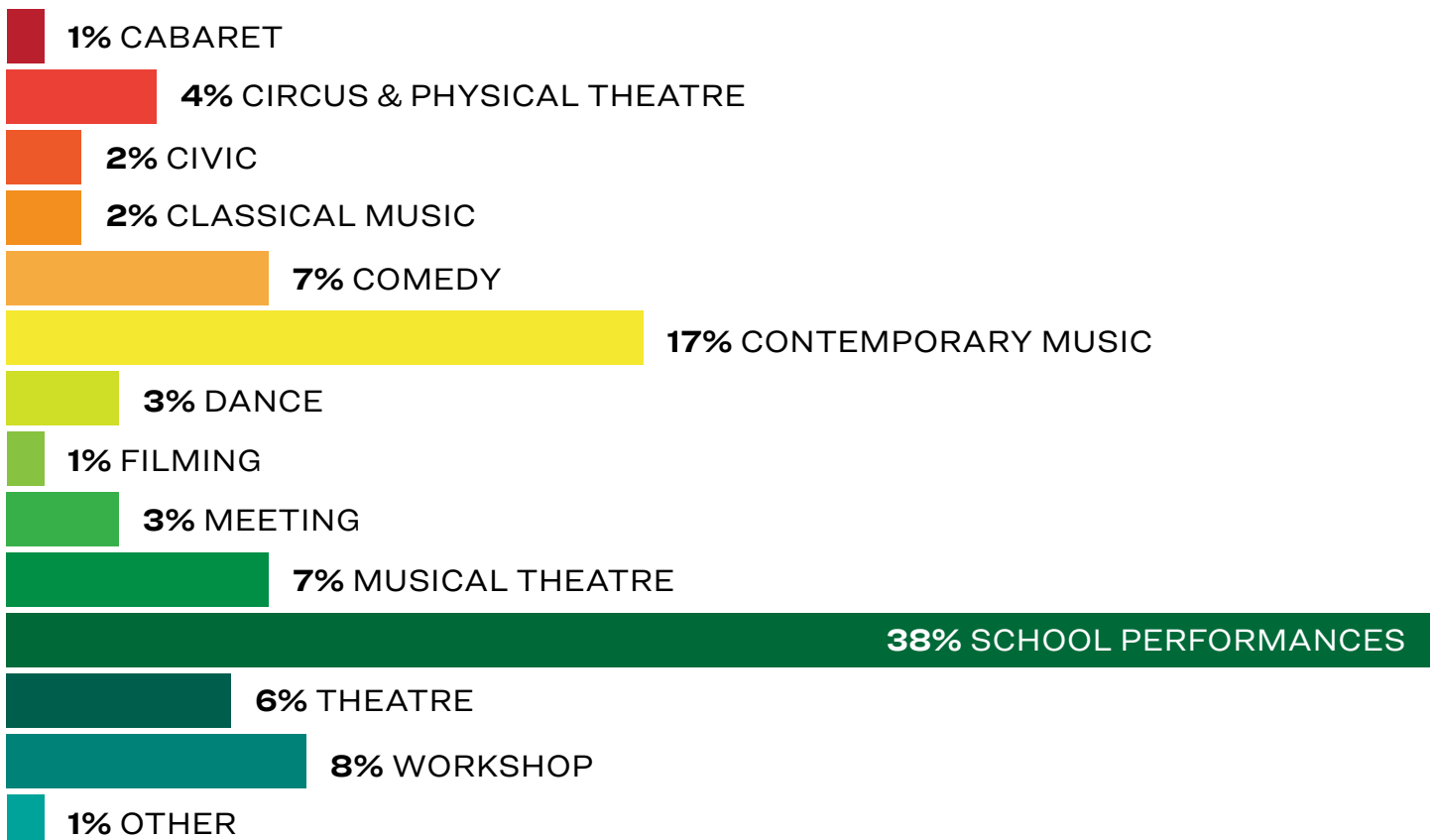
75

Pavilion Presents
performances

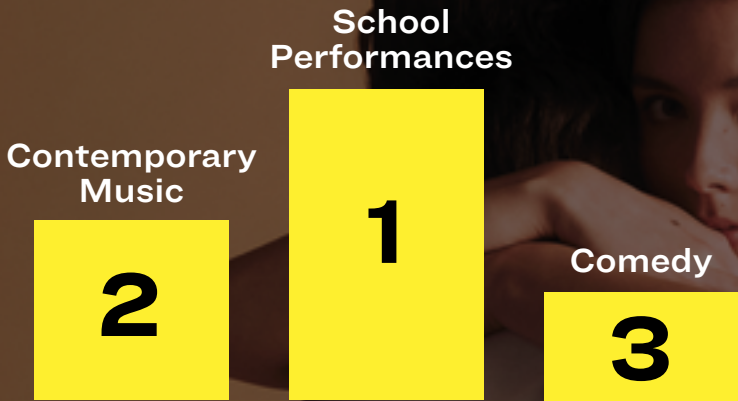
261

Hirer events/performance

Genre Breakdown



Top Performing Genres



*Increase based on previous financial year statistics (2024-25)

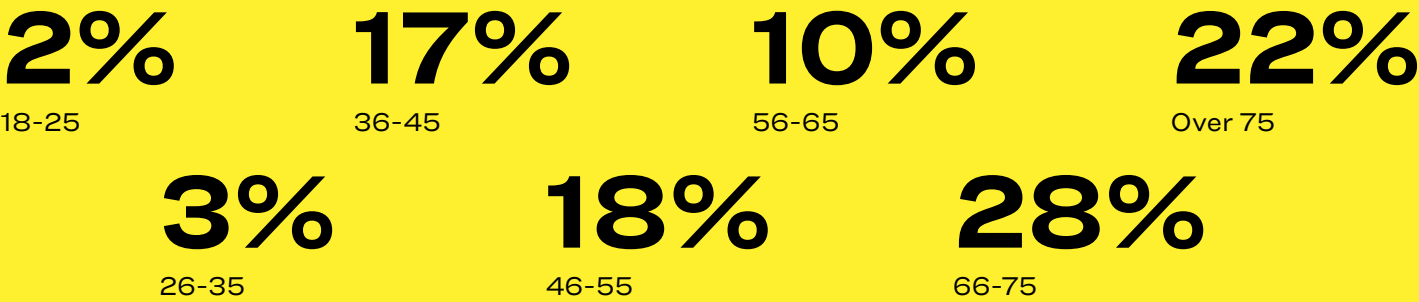
Website & Digital Channels



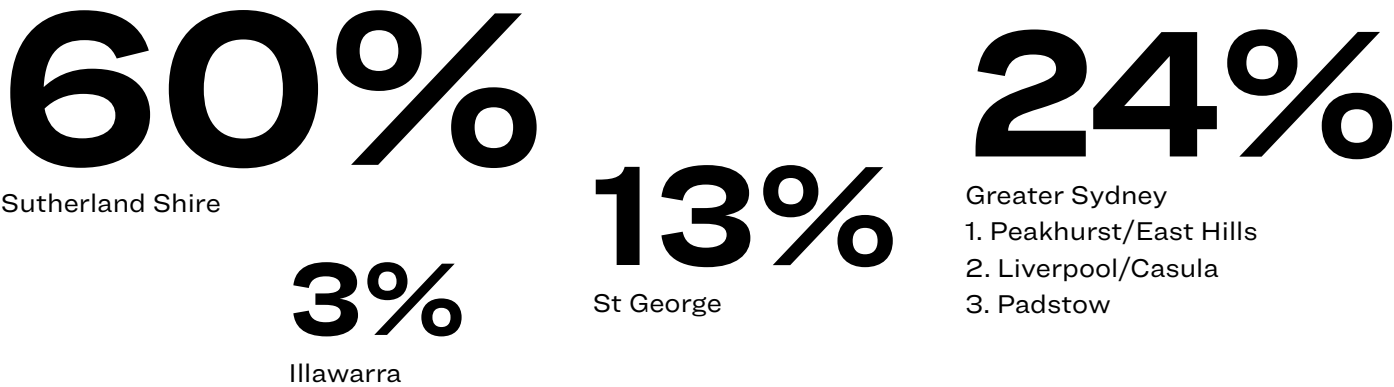
Audience

Based on Ticket Purchaser Only

AGE BREAKDOWN



POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



- 1. Peakhurst/East Hills
- 2. Liverpool/Casula
- 3. Padstow

Our Goals





Imagine Live! at Play! Kids Festival, 2025. Photography by Grant Leslie.

Goal 1: Program

a broad range of performances that reflect and expand our audience.



Josephine Wants to Dance, 2025.

Over the past year, Sutherland Pavilion hosted **more than 230 multi-genre performances across its two venues**. In partnership with local, national and international presenters, we delivered a diverse program of engaging, inspiring and thought-provoking experiences for our community. We also continued to grow our Pavilion Presents season, **self-presenting 75 outstanding performances** from acclaimed and emerging artists, alongside much-loved festivals and new works, strengthening our commitment to bringing exceptional arts experiences to the Sutherland Shire.

Key Strategic Goals Achieved

✓ **Annual performance program launched**

✓ **3+**
national companies engaged in co-productions

✓ **3+**
first time event formats trialled

✓ **Peace Park programmed**

✓ **4+**
high quality productions transferred from other venues

✓ **2**
signature festivals established



All Sutherland Pavilion Hire Events

Creedance Clearwater Collective, 2026.

IN DATE ORDER

SSC Staff Engagements - Various
Carousel in Concert
Ev & Bow - Contemporary Dance Competition
Plastic Free Workshop
Ross Wilson & The Peaceniks - 50 Years of Hits Tour
Queen: Bohemian Rhapsody
Bosco College Performing Arts
The Chinese Hypnotist Show
Dolly - I Will Always Love You
SSC Staff Engagements - Various
Sutherland Shire Schools Music Festival
Team Competition Calisthenics NSW
Ettingshausens 30th Anniversary
Johnny Cash & June Carter Show
Ross Noble
Oh What a Night!
Jackson Aces
Twinkle Dance Concert
Shamrock Tenors
Dance Olympics
The Grandparents Club
Mary Poppins
Taylor Swift Tribute Show
Cirque Nouvelle Show
Vicky O'Keefe
SSC Staff Engagements - Various
2025 Shire Mental Health Forum & Expo
Flying Forties
From Diamond to a King
Robertson Brothers 2025
Back to the 80s the Musical
Edith Parsons School of Physical Annual Comp
Yowie Bay Primary School Performing Arts Concert

Pink Floyd Tribute Band
KRS - Dance Concert
Planet Dance - Concert
Scots College Performing Arts Evening
EP Physie State Finals
All Starz Concert
Ev & Bow Grad Rehearsal & Youth Performance
SSC Citizenship Ceremony
Complete Dance Training
DNE PT Concert - UNITE
Ignite Dance School - EVOLVE
UOW Early Admissions Congratulation Event
Ev & Bow - Fragments of Now
The UK Rod Stewart Show
Chapman Dance - Defying Gravity
Select Dance Concert - Moonwalk Magic
Demi Jean Dance Concert - The Little Mermaid
SSC Staff Engagements - Various
SSC Seniors Concert 2025
ABBA: Thank you for the Music
Jazz It up - Concert
All Starz - Future/Nostalgia Troupe Concerts
Enigma Dance School
Connells Point Primary School
Compeat Dance School
Dance Works Concert - Back to the 90s
DNE Rec Dance Concert
Pose PA
Studio 23 - End of Year Concert
Heathcote Primary School
Oyster Bay Primary School
GY Dance Concert
K&V Dance Concert

Planet Dance - Troupe Concert
 Ettingshausens - Competition Concert
 Mark Vincent Christmas
 WAM Dancers End of Year Concert
 Rogerson Dance Concert
 Elite Dance Concert
 LD Dance Concert
 KRS - Rec Concert
 SSC Citizenship Ceremony
 Jad & Rabi: A World Music Experience
 The Big Chillout
 The Golden Age of Musical Theatre and Beyond
 Rockaria The ELO Experience
 Strata Plan First Annual General Meeting
 Retired Laughing
 The Man in Black Returns
 Concert for Nicole & Julie Fitzsimons
 Luke Kidgell - Good Intentions
 SSC Citizenship Ceremony
 Ireland the Voyage
 SSC Seniors Festival Concert 2026
 The Black Sorrows
 Electrifying 80s

Sabrina Live
 The Next Step
 Creedence Clearwater Collective
 Ballet Blanc 2026
 SSC Staff Engagements - Various
 Sydney Comedy Festival Annual Gala Event
 ANZAC Day Dawn Service
 The Traveling Wilburys Collection
 Eagles Greatest Hits
 Grease vs Rocky Horror
 Music of the Night
 SSC Citizenship Ceremony
 The Beatles Anthology
 Echoes of Pink Floyd
 National Reconciliation Week Event
 SPACE Dance Comp
 Sutherland Dance Festival
 Do More Dance Centre - Full Circle
 Tom Burlinson "Still Swingin with Big Band"
 The Scots College - Dance Showcase 2026
 CREATE 2026
 St John Bosco College - Dare to Dream
 Michael Jackson HIStory Show

Event Snapshot

69,552

total audiences

173

total performances

385

average audience
attendance per
auditorium event

24

sell outs

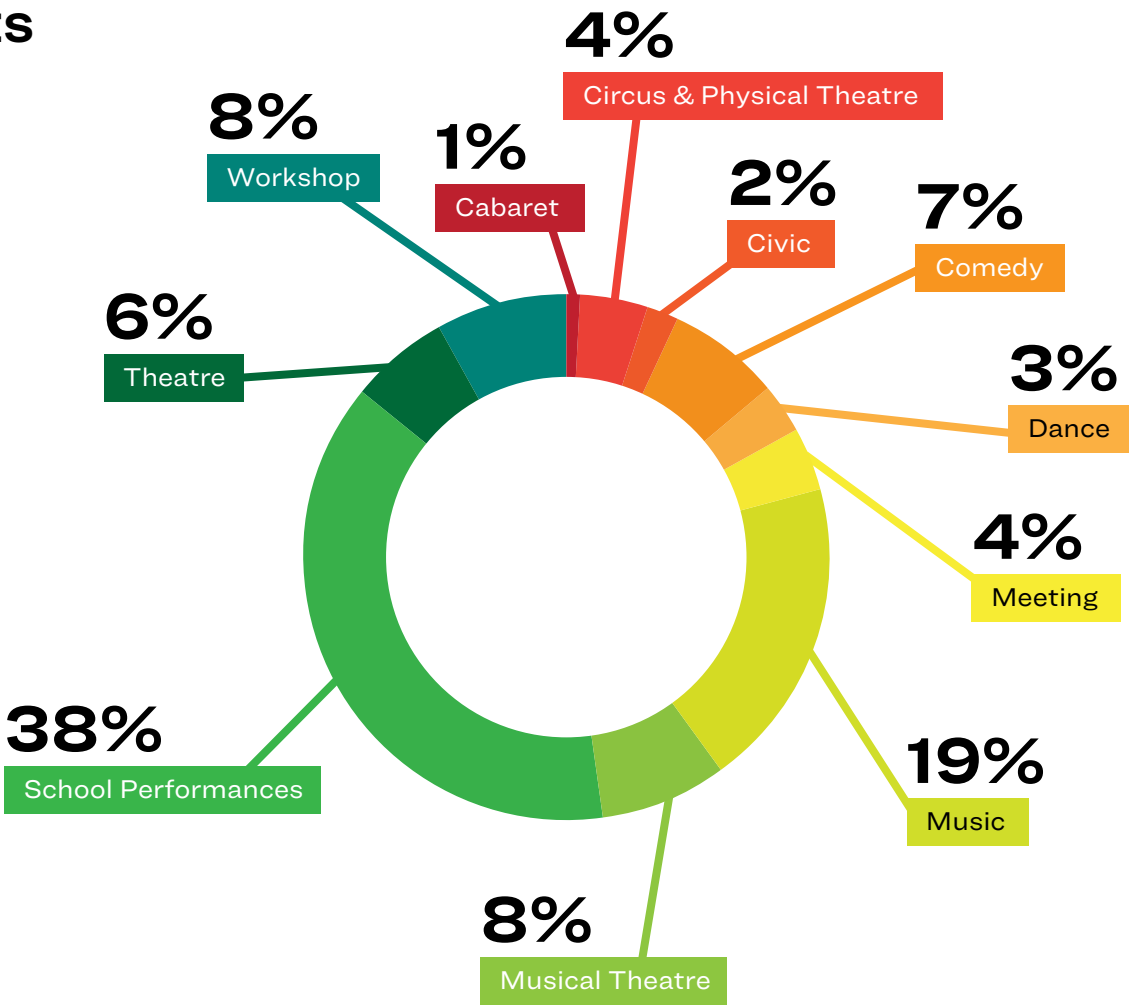
51

subsidised community
performances



Mary Poppins, 2025.

GENRES



Jad & Rabi: A World Musical Experience, 2026.



Cafe of the Gate of Salvation, 2025.

All Sutherland Arts Theatre Hire Events

Ettingshausens - SENSE
 EYTIC Mid-year Forum
 Youth Music Awards - Finals Concert
 Art Umbrella - Mid-Year Showcase
 Fire and Rain
 Holly Jolly Christmas in July
 SSC Sister Cities Mayoral Reception
 SLCA Aquadot Town Hall Meeting
 Cafe of the Gate of Salvation
 Stellar Experiences
 Once Upon a Time
 I Still Call Australia Home
 Ivan Aristeguieta
 The Estivo Trio
 Music with Katie Piano Recital
 Kirrawee Piano Club
 It's DeLovely
 Homeschool Creative Arts Drama Performances
 Kids Playhouse
 DIY Burlesque – Do It Yourself Burlesque Comp
 Dana Alison & Friends
 Homeschool Creative Arts Drama Performances
 The Assentation of the Virgin St Mary

Christmas Carols
 Art Umbrella - End of Year Showcase
 John Franklin Christmas Lunch
 The Legends of Swing
 Private wedding
 SSC International Women's Day Event
 Into The Woods Junior
 Piano Man: The Music of Elton John and Billy Joel
 SSC Battle of the Beats 2026
 Le Basque Trio
 The Art Umbrella - Snow White Pantomime
 There's No Place Like Home: The Music of Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli
 Natalie Claire - Celebrating the Classics
 Endemol Shine Australia Filming
 SMC Youth Music Awards Rehearsals
 Sutherland Shire Children's Choir
 Come Fly with Me: The Music of Frank Sinatra and Michael Bublé
 Ettingshausens Pro Adv Diploma Grad Show
 Youth Music Awards Finals
 Art Umbrella - Mid Year Showcase

Event Snapshot

9,073

total audiences

88

total performances

21

subsidised community performances

25

sell outs

104

average audience attendance per event



Estivo Trio, 2025.



Oneira, 2026.

GENRES

35%

School Performances

21%

Cabaret

4%

Civic

3%

Comedy

6%

Private Event

10%

Musical Theatre

19%

Music

Pavilion Presents Season

Across the year, Sutherland Pavilion self-presented 36 individual programs as part of its curated annual season: **Pavilion Presents.**

Through a broad range of genres, the season aimed to increase audience diversity and attendance. In total, 75 unique events were hosted.

Beauty & The Beast

Dance

12 July 2025

A full-length ballet retelling of the beloved fairy tale, featuring the Victorian State Ballet's Principal Artists, exquisite choreography: a captivating performance for audiences of all ages.

Circus Workshops

Circus

15 July 2025

A movement workshop to build motor skills through gymnastics and parachute play, plus two junior circus sessions introducing gymnastics, aerial acrobatics, juggling, spinning plates, poi and hula-hoops.

The Gospel According to Paul

Theatre

16-17 July 2025

Australia's master of political satire, Jonathan Biggins is Paul Keating — visionary, reformer and rabble-rouser.



The Gruffalo's Child

Children

25-26 July 2025

Based on the best-selling children's book of the delightful tale of a little Gruffalo who ignores her father's warnings and tiptoes out into the snow in search of the Big Bad Mouse.

Rob Mills Performs the Songs of Bon Jovi

Contemporary Music

1 August 2025

Rob Mills led a band of top Australian musicians in a high-energy celebration of Bon Jovi's 40-year career, performing iconic hits from the 80s to today in a powerful live concert.

Luke McGregor (Sell-out)

Comedy

9 August 2025

Luke McGregor delivered a new comedy show inspired by life changes, performing fresh material honed in front of his family, after appearances on Rosehaven, Thank God You're Here and The Amazing Race Australia.

Are You Pulling My Leg

Comedy

16 August 2025

A comedy showcase featuring Australian comedians with disability, delivering sharp, uncensored humour about life and identity with razor-sharp wit and undeniable charm. This show allowed us to enhance access for both performers and audiences.

Mel Buttle (Sell Out)

Comedy

23 August 2025

Mel Buttle blended her busy life, TV appearances and online character 'Lyn', aiming to capture the nostalgic joy of receiving a school Bookclub brochure.

Punchline! An Evening of Comedy

Comedy

30 August 2025

Punchline! returned as a bigger, bolder mini festival at Sutherland Pavilion, featuring Lloyd Langford, Claire Hooper and Jordan Barr for a night of stand-up.

Josephine Wants to Dance

Children

2 September 2025

An innovative new kids musical about Josephine, a kangaroo who dreams of becoming a ballerina, celebrating perseverance, self-belief and following your dreams through music, humour and dance.



Air Mass

Classical Music

6 September 2025

A dynamic solo saxophone performance blending live looping, sampling, body percussion and audience-generated soundscapes, where digital technology, virtuosity and performance art create an immersive musical experience.

Romeo & Juliet (Sell Out)

Theatre

30 September 2025

Bell Shakespeare's intimate new production of *Romeo and Juliet* directed by Peter Evans, bringing Shakespeare's timeless tale of forbidden love and family conflict to life.



Play! Kids Festival – (Emma Memma Sell Out)

Children

1-5 October 2025

Play! returned for the third year across five days featuring *Imagine Live*, *The Box Show*, *Erth's Shark Dive* and Emma Memma's hugely popular *Dance Island Party*. Each day included art and dance workshops, along with free activities for the local community.

Baroque and Beyond

Classical Music

25 October 2025

The Marais Project presented a musical journey through Europe and Australia, featuring Baroque masterpieces alongside lyrical works by Australian composers in an engaging cross-cultural concert experience.

Songbirds

Classical Music

15 November 2025

Ensemble Offspring celebrated Australia's remarkable birdlife through original chamber works inspired by birdsong, blending virtuosic performance, nature and Indigenous perspectives in an immersive musical experience.



Eton Mess

Contemporary Music

29 November 2025

In a new project, Sutherland Pavilion took over Peace Park for a one-day outdoor music festival featuring Young Franco and Australia's hottest DJs, bringing live beats, summer vibes and an unforgettable open-air party to Sutherland.

Garden of Sound

Children

16-17 January 2026

Part of Sydney Festival, *Garden of Sound* was an interactive family performance where children help two gardeners restore a magical musical garden through movement, technology and imaginative play.



The Bogong's Song

Children

20 January 2026

Also part of Sydney Festival, *The Bogong's Song* blends storytelling, shadow puppetry, dance and song in a magical family performance exploring imagination, connection to Country and the wisdom of ancestors.

Rhinestone Rodeo (Sell Out)

Social

31 January 2026 (Returning 24 March and 11 April 2026)

In a new partnership, *Rhinestone Rodeo* brings the spirit of modern country to Sutherland Arts Theatre with live music, high-energy performances and feel-good hits that has audiences involved and dancing along.

Morning Series

Music

3 February (sell-out), 3 March, 5 May 2026

The first three performances of our new Morning Series starting with *Hello Broadway!* a musical theatre medley by Community Arts Partner Miranda Musical Theatre Company, followed by folk concert *Domesticity*, and *Ancient Letters* - a piano recital by renowned Australian pianist Tamara-Anna Cislowska.

No Scrubs (Sell Out)

Social

7 February 2026 (Returning 30 May 2026)

The second of our new social events at Sutherland Arts Theatre, a women's-only, high-energy, nostalgia-filled dance party celebrating the biggest R&B and pop hits of the '90s and 2000s.

Howl

Classical Music

6 May 2026

Omega Ensemble's first performance in Sutherland Shire was a bold contemporary classical performance uniting five leading voices, featuring works from Danny Elfman, Pierre Jalbert, Missy Mazzoli and Anna Meredith, culminating in a world premiere by Daniel Wohl blending acoustic and electronic sound.



Sydney Comedy Festival Hub (Sell Out)

Comedy

15-16 May 2026

The Hub was a new project in partnership with Sydney Comedy Festival that brought together nine top stand-up talents for a weekend of sharp, fast-paced comedy, showcasing a diverse lineup of festival favourites and emerging voices.



In Their Own Words

Cabaret

22 May 2026

A powerful one-woman performance starring Rachael Beck, weaving together verbatim stories and songs celebrating trailblazing Australian women, highlighting resilience, achievement and rarely heard voices across music, politics, science and the arts.



50th Anniversary Gala

Variety

12 June 2026

A one-night gala celebrating Sutherland Pavilion's 50th anniversary, hosted by Emma Pask and Alex Baum, featuring Shire talent, community performers, a historical exhibition, plus post-show music, canapés and drinks.

Toy Symphony

Theatre

18-20 June 2026

Michael Gow's *Toy Symphony*, directed by the acclaimed Shire-born playwright, was Pavilion Presents' inaugural self-produced play, celebrating creativity, memory and homegrown talent through a moving production featuring three local performers.

Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow (Sell Out)

Comedy

19 June 2026

The MICF Roadshow's return showcased 2026 festival favourites and emerging talent, hosted by Mike Goldstein, and featuring Alex Hudson, Frankie Rowsthorn, Harry Jun, and Jack Knight.



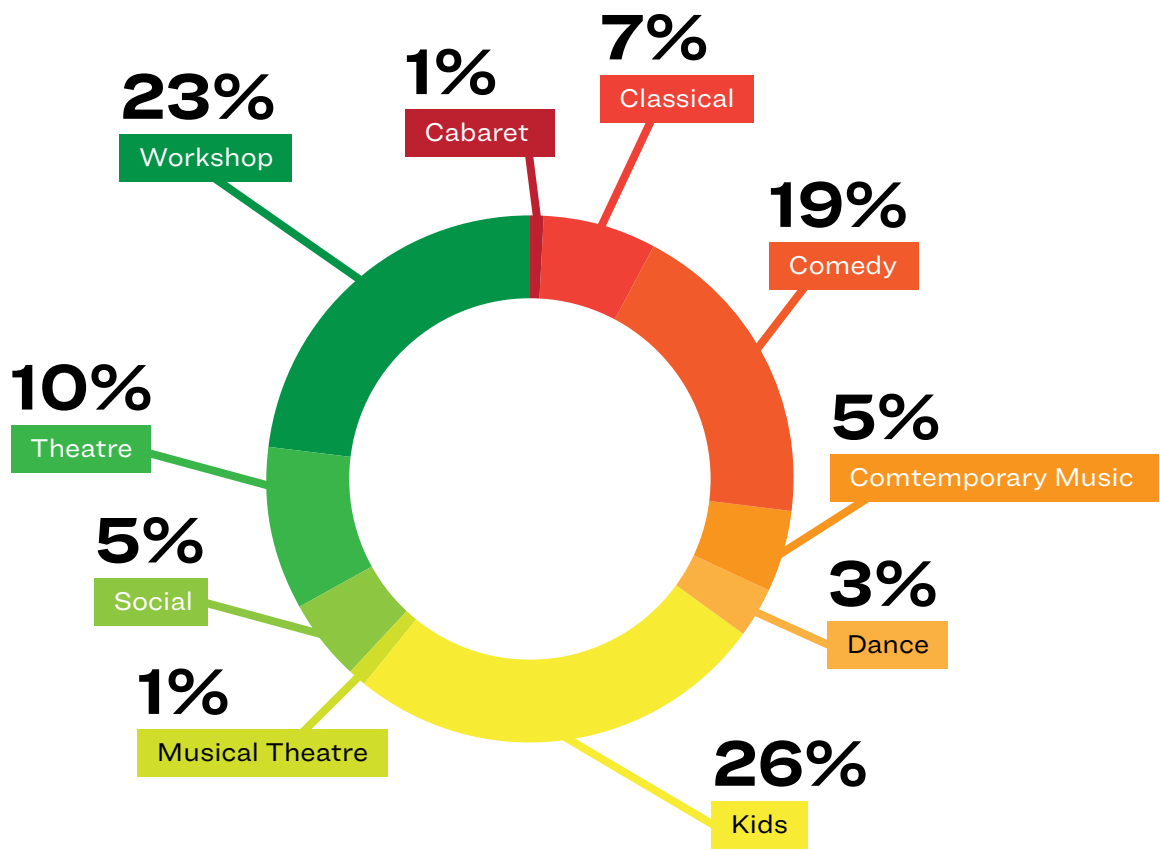
Event Snapshot

7 **18,973**
sell outs total audiences

75 **337**
total performances average audience attendance per event



GENRES



No Scrubs, 2026. Photography by Saz Watson.



SPOTLIGHT

Eton Mess



In November 2026, Sutherland Pavilion expanded beyond its traditional stages to present *Eton Mess* - the venue's first outdoor music festival. Created to broaden Sutherland Pavilion's artistic offering and connect with younger audiences, the festival transformed Peace Park into a vibrant live music precinct featuring some of Australia's leading DJs.

With the name paying homage to the venue's home on Eton Street, acclaimed artists MAD.DAY, Harry Hayes, Lucy Smith, Hellcat Speedracer and headliner Young Franco, delivered a high-energy celebration of contemporary music in the heart of the Sutherland Shire. In just 24 hours, the Sutherland Pavilion team transformed Peace Park into a purpose-built festival site complete with a main DJ stage, professional sound and lighting, food trucks, licensed bars and immersive event infrastructure.

The event attracted a significant number of people outside Sutherland Pavilion's traditional audience base and demonstrating the appetite for contemporary outdoor programming within the local community. Partnerships with Young Henrys and Sunday Road Brewing Co. further enhanced the festival experience, creating a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere from start to finish.

Eton Mess showcased Sutherland Pavilion's commitment to evolving its program, activating public spaces and creating exceptional live experiences that reflect the diverse interests of its community.



426

attendees

\$10,899

bar revenue



1

local ambassador
onboarded

“That was incredible. The fact that you managed to secure huge DJs like Young Franco is so impressive. We need more events like this in the Shire.”

Connor, Eton Mess Attendee



Eton Mess, 2025. Photography by Saz Watson.



Goal 2: **Connect**

with our community through memorable experiences to build lasting relationships

Rhinestone Rodeo, 2026.



Key Strategic Goals Achieved

✓ **2**

community ambassador groups established

✓ **14**

workshops delivered

✓ **2**

artist talks / Q&As delivered

ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY

In late 2025, Sutherland Pavilion integrated a new ticketing system and Box Office support team to better facilitate its accessible ticket buying audience. Additionally, throughout the year, Pavilion Presents performances continued to prioritise inclusive engagement through Auslan-interpreted and open-captioned performances, alongside artist talks and Q&A opportunities.



8

AUSLAN-interpreted performances

1

open captioned performance



17

workshops held

3

artforms delivered

1

open schools
rehearsal

WORKSHOPS

As part of Play! Kids Festival 2026, 14 workshops were held for children in the local community, offering dance and art training to children aged 2-12 years. These workshops were run in partnership with local art businesses and dance schools. Up to 8 additional circus workshops were also provided for local students and adults as part of Sutherland Pavilion's July School Holiday program.

STAFF TRAINING

Following the transition to a fully casualised Front of House, Bar, Box Office and Technical workforce, Sutherland Pavilion delivered a comprehensive training program for its casual team. The program strengthened staff capability and reinforced Sutherland Pavilion's commitment to delivering high-quality service and operational standards.

40+

staff trained

4

departments
upskilled

32

team members
cross-trained

SCHOOL TEACHERS FORUM

Following the launch of Sutherland Pavilion's Schools Program, the School Teachers Forum brought together arts educators from across the Sutherland Shire and St George regions to discuss industry trends, challenges and performance opportunities, strengthening connections between local schools and the performing arts sector.

3

meetings held

14

educators

10

local schools
represented



SPOTLIGHT

Creative Crew

As demand for work experience opportunities at Sutherland Pavilion continued to grow, 2025 saw the launch of the Creative Crew - a new initiative designed to provide immersive, hands-on learning experiences for local students while nurturing the next generation of creative professionals.

Delivered during the Play! Kids Festival, the week-long program welcomed more than 20 students from primary and high schools across the Sutherland Shire, offering an in-depth exploration of the many careers that bring live performance to life. Rather than traditional one-on-one placements, the Creative Crew enabled students to learn collaboratively through a fully activated venue, with experiences tailored to their individual interests and aspirations.

High school students worked alongside staff and industry professionals across Front of House, Box Office, Technical Services and Production, gaining practical experience in lighting, sound, audiovisual operations, staging, rigging and bump-ins and bump-outs. Throughout the festival they witnessed first-hand how professional productions are delivered, contributing behind the scenes on performances including *The Box Show*, *Imagine Live*, *Shark Dive* and *Emma Memma*.

For younger participants, the program offered a different perspective on the performing arts. Primary school students formed the Review Crew,



Play! Kids Festival 2025.
Photography by Grant Leslie.

becoming the festival's junior media team. They interviewed artists, captured photography, filmed vox pops, wrote theatre reviews and documented their festival experience, developing skills in storytelling, journalism and creative content production. The program culminated in an exclusive interview opportunity with Emma Memma following her performance, while students also saw their reviews and photography published through Sutherland Pavilion's partnership with the Sutherland Shire Leader.

The Creative Crew reflects Sutherland Pavilion's commitment to investing in creative pathways for young people and ensuring the performing arts remain accessible, inspiring and relevant to future generations. By opening the doors to every corner of the venue, the program empowered local students to discover the breadth of careers within the arts and fostered meaningful connections between young people and their local cultural centre.

15

high school student
placements

8

primary school student
placements

4

students offered casual
employment



“The Production Crew program gave me an experience I will never forget. This opportunity allowed me to secure what I want to do with my future.”

Emily, Jannali High



Photography by Sean Moloney.

Goal 3: **Promote**

local artists and creators by supporting and showcasing their talent and stories

Key Strategic Goals Achieved

✓ **10+**
rehearsal blocks provided to local artists

✓ **11**
local acts programmed (57 individual artists in total)

✓ **Annual work experience program established**

Key Initiatives

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Launched in March 2026, an internal grant initiative provided local artists and creative organisations with free access to Sutherland Arts Theatre and Encore Room, supporting the development of new work and artistic practice.

5

creative residencies hosted

5

artforms developed

\$15,550

in rental subsidies offered

COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIPS

Sutherland Pavilion launched its Community Arts Partnership program, providing subsidised venue hire to eligible arts organisations across the Sutherland Shire, reducing financial barriers to performance for certain community groups and schools.

2

Community Arts Partners established

24

subsidised performances

\$37,794

in subsidies provided to our partners



Into the Woods Jr, Miranda Musical Theatre Company, 2026.



The Legends of Swing, Sutherland Music Club, 2026.



Oneira, 2026

PROGRAMMING LOCAL ACTS

Sutherland Pavilion continued to support local artists by providing free and low-cost performance opportunities, enabling new audiences to experience Shire-based talent. Key performances including Oneira and Rayhab, and Rhinestone Rodeo at the Sutherland Arts Theatre.

3,021

audiences across locally programmed acts

29

local acts programmed



SPOTLIGHT

TOY SYMPHONY

From 18–20 June 2026, Sutherland Pavilion proudly presented *Toy Symphony* - the venue's first self-produced play and a centrepiece of its 50th Anniversary celebrations. A landmark production for Sutherland Pavilion, *Toy Symphony* embodied the anniversary theme of creative homecoming, bringing a locally relevant play back to the community that inspired it.

Written by acclaimed Shire-born playwright Michael Gow, this was the first professional production of *Toy Symphony* in nearly 20 years, exploring themes of creativity, writer's block and the impact of childhood memories. In a rare and extraordinary opportunity, Michael Gow accepted an invitation to direct his own work, bringing one of his most autobiographical plays to life in the very place that shaped the story. His involvement elevated the production into a truly unique artistic event for local audiences and the wider Sydney theatre community.

The production also reflected Sutherland Pavilion's commitment to nurturing the next generation of artists. Alongside an experienced creative team, three emerging performers from the Sutherland Shire were cast in the production, providing invaluable professional experience while celebrating the depth of local creative talent. In addition, the rehearsal room was opened to local schools ahead of Opening Night, inviting them to observe a live rehearsal and participate in an exclusive Q&A with Michael Gow, the cast and creative team.

The performance opened to rave reviews from audiences and critics alike, with *Toy Symphony* demonstrating Sutherland Pavilion's ability to create ambitious, artistically significant work that resonates deeply with its community.

“This was such an invaluable experience for my students, and so close to us! It was wonderful for my students to see firsthand how a professional theatre rehearsal works.”

Jaala McDonell - Drama Teacher, St George Christian School

Results

3

local actors employed

14%

had never attended a
theatre production before

756 90

total audiences

students attended open
rehearsal/production



“It’s wonderful to see productions of this calibre outside the inner city.”

The Scoop

Toy Symphony, June 2026. Photography by Saz Watson.

Goal 4: **Sustain**

our people and partnerships

Key Strategic Goals Achieved

✓ In-kind sponsorships secured

✓ Reserves policy established and meeting targets

✓ Donor campaign launched

✓ Ticketing system brought in house

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Through partnerships with local businesses and brands, Sutherland Pavilion strengthened connections across the Sutherland Shire while creating opportunities for mutual promotion, audience growth and economic benefit.

\$228,118

invested into Sutherland Shire businesses

1

Local Media Partner
Established - 2SSR Radio

3

in-kind sponsorships secured -
Sunday Road Brewing
Scylla Distilling
Salts Meats Cheese

NEW TICKETING SYSTEM

In late 2025, Sutherland Pavilion transitioned to its own in-house ticketing system through global ticketing leader Spektrix. The new system has enhanced audience insights, improved marketing capabilities and enabled more efficient Box Office operations to better support our community.

97

events managed internally

16

staff trained on new system

\$12,500

saved in annual marketing expenditure

Fundraising

In 2025, Sutherland Pavilion launched its first donor campaign and introduced ticket purchase donation options, inviting patrons to support the growth of local performances and expand access to the arts across the Sutherland Shire.

Income

\$1.8M

support from Sutherland Shire Council

\$2.9M

box office revenue, performance fees and venue hire

\$71K

donations and other income

Expenditure

\$2.85M

employment and contractors

\$1.1M

program and production costs

\$4.7M

total expenditure

\$483K

operations, admin and building expenses

\$287K

marketing and communications costs

\$76K

annual surpluses are re-invested into next year's performance program

SPOTLIGHT

50th Anniversary

On 12 June 2026, 50 years after first opening its doors, Sutherland Pavilion marked this extraordinary milestone with a spectacular 50th Anniversary Gala honouring five decades of community creativity.



Photography by Vitor Duarte.



Centred around the theme of 'Built by a Community and Grown Through Creativity', the Gala welcomed back artists who began their creative journeys on the Sutherland Pavilion stage before forging successful professional careers. They returned to perform alongside some of the Sutherland Shire's most respected community arts organisations, celebrating not only the venue's rich history but the enduring relationships that have shaped its identity over the past five decades.

Hosted by acclaimed vocalist and entertainer Emma Pask alongside Shire actor Alex Baum, the Gala featured performances by Sydney Symphony Orchestra flute fellow Dana Alison, alongside former local dancers including Tyler Carney-

Faleatua, Tegan Jeffrey-Rushton and Luka Rayment. They shared the stage with beloved community organisations including Miranda Musical Theatre Company, Engadine Musical Society, Shire Brass Band and Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra, demonstrating the strength of the creative ecosystem that continues to flourish within the Shire. The evening also celebrated Sutherland Pavilion's anniversary production of *Toy Symphony*, with playwright Michael Gow joining audiences for a special conversation about the work's deep connection to the Sutherland Shire.

The Gala was equally an investment in Sutherland Pavilion's future. Through generous in-kind partnerships with Salts Meats Cheese, Scylla Vodka and Sunday Road Brewing Co., the event showcased the value of strong community and corporate collaboration. It also marked the launch of Sutherland Pavilion's inaugural donor program, with attendees contributing over \$1,000 to support future artistic, educational and community initiatives.

More than a celebration, the 50th Anniversary Gala was a powerful demonstration of Sutherland Pavilion's commitment to sustaining its people and partnerships to ensure long-term growth and cultural longevity. By strengthening relationships with artists, community organisations, sponsors, donors and audiences, the event reinforced the collaborative foundations that will enable Sutherland Pavilion to continue delivering exceptional artistic experiences that entertain, inspire and enrich the Sutherland Shire for generations to come.

53

Gala performers

500

Gala attendees



Governance and Leadership

Sutherland Pavilion is a not-for-profit company. We are governed by a volunteer board of directors who bring a wealth of professional experience.

Board Members

Councillor Carmelo Pesce *Chair*

Cr Pesce served as Mayor to Sutherland Shire from 2015 – August 2024, where he was then re-elected as an independent Councillor for C Ward. A successful local business owner and strategist, he was a key supporter of the redevelopment of Sutherland Pavilion.



Mayor Jack Boyd *Council Nominated Board Member*

Cr Boyd has served as a Sutherland Shire Councillor from 2016 before being elected to Mayor in October 2024. Jack is a Cyber Security Manager, former solicitor, and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Clare Phelan *Council Nominated Board Member*

Clare joined Sutherland Shire Council in 2019 and was appointed CEO in 2024. Clare has extensive experience in executive leadership roles across regional and metropolitan Councils.



Rayna Toman *Accountancy & Risk*

Rayna is a Chartered Accountant (CA ANZ) and is currently the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer at Australian Business Growth Fund. Rayna is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Lisa Cachia *Marketing, Digital Technologies & Communications*

Lisa is a local business owner and marketing strategist, the current Managing Director of Flaunter PR Software, as well as the Chief Marketing Officer for The DisplayWise Group.



Amanda Oscuro *Community Cultural Engagement*

Amanda Oscuro is the President of Engadine Musical Society, a respected community theatre organisation. She is a dedicated advocate for the arts, championing accessible and community focussed art programs.



Belinda Gibson *Cultural Venue Management*

Belinda is a highly experienced venue manager and arts leader. She is currently the Director of Glen Street Theatre and President of the NSW & ACT Performing Arts Centres Association (NAPACA).



Dom Mercer *Live Performance*

Dom is an experienced director, producer and arts programmer, working nationally across contemporary performance, championing new Australian stories. His work spans multiple major companies with a strong focus on emerging artist development.



Rachel Healy *(until Feb 2026)* *Cultural Venue Management*

Rachel is the Chief Executive of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre who worked as the Interim Executive Director of Sutherland Pavilion throughout its construction and opening in 2022-2023.





Sutherland Pavilion Team

ADMINISTRATION

Justin Boschetti Executive Director
Laura Danielsson Operations Manager
Dale Hollingsworth Finance Manager
Lanna Tan Finance Officer

MARKETING AND TICKETING

Emilie Lawson Marketing Manager
Em Edgar Marketing Coordinator
Bart Quizon Ticketing Coordinator
Marie Kellett Box Office Coordinator
(until April 2026)
Bonnie Crofton Graphic Designer

EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

Alana Bishop Event Supervisor
Jack Vogler Event Coordinator
Caroline Leyden Front of House Manager
Helen Munday Hospitality Specialist
(until June 2026)
Saz Watson Creative Producer
Sean Moloney Programming Supervisor
(until December 2025)

PRODUCTION SERVICES

David Grigg Technical Manager
Harry Provins Technical Supervisor
Liam Dijkstra Sound AV Supervisor
Cameron Bartie Lighting Supervisor



Support Us

Sutherland Pavilion is proud to be a fully registered not-for-profit charity with DGR status, meaning that all donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. We welcome any contributions from the local community, which can be processed securely through our online ticketing system as a one-off donation or as an addition to your ticket purchase. Every donation strengthens the future of the arts in the Sutherland Shire.

50 YEARS

The
Pavilion



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