



The Substation
1 Market Street, Newport VIC 3015

www.thesubstation.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

THE SUBSTATION: COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT PRESIDENT STEPS DOWN

Darren Williams, longstanding President of The Substation's Committee of Management has announced that he is stepping down from the position and from the committee. The news comes fourteen years after Darren first acted on a vision to develop and restore what was then a derelict and neglected property in Newport into the high profile community arts space it is today. Darren feels that having led the redevelopment to this point, the time is right to move on and allow others to carry on with the finishing touches and operation of The Substation into the future.

"The redevelopment of The Newport Substation has been a labour of love for my whole family for many years," he stated today. "To lead the project has been very satisfying, not just in restoring a beautiful building, but also in the way the project has enriched so many people's lives. I would like to thank all of the people that have supported the project over many years, we can all be proud of what has been achieved. I'm confident that The Substation will continue in its important role of nurturing and promoting artistic talent and cultural expression within our community."

Vice President Lothar Ploss will take on the role of President of The Substation until the Annual General Meeting which is scheduled on 9th October.

Says Lothar "The contribution that Darren Williams has made to Newport, Hobsons Bay, the western region and the arts and community sector in the development of The Substation cannot be overestimated. He has worked tirelessly over more than a decade to deliver a community arts space loved and used by the local community. He has devoted his time and provided exceptional leadership in every aspect of the development, including physical work, planning, lobbying, securing funding, speaking at public events. It's just a staggering achievement. The Committee of Management, members, users and other partners of The Substation will be working together to find an appropriate way to formally thank Darren, to help celebrate the legacy he has created. In the meantime, we thank Darren, his wife Jodie, and extended family and wish them all the best in this next stage of their lives."

The Substation was officially opened in November 2008 and with the appointment in January 2010 of its first full time position, that of Director Jeremy Gaden, is ready to deliver on its next stage of development.

Adds Jeremy "Darren's dedication and commitment to The Substation has been the driving force behind the establishment of this important new cultural asset. His contribution to the project and the local community has been extraordinary and its impact will continue to grow as The Substation cements itself as Melbourne's newest community-based arts centre. I feel very privileged to be following in his footsteps and am incredibly excited about the future of the organisation. Key cultural events such as the Koorie Night Market, SUB12 and The Substation's Artist Market not only allow the local community to experience contemporary art in many ways, but bring new audiences to the area and enhance Hobsons Bay's reputation as a thriving and vibrant place to be. None of this would have been possible without Darren's vision and drive and his ability to galvanise the local community."

For enquiries please phone Jeremy Gaden on 9391 2736 or email director@thesubstation.org.au

For more information about The Substation 1 Market Street Newport Victoria 3015 visit www.thesubstation.org.au

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