

## Preamble

Before unveiling the new vision for Montsalvat — a dramatic plan for the future of one of Australia's most remarkable cultural institutions let us remember its past.

In 1934 Justus Jorgensen bought the land on a hilltop overlooking Eltham. He built a small cottage and studio, a place to paint at weekends. This charismatic man inspired students and friends to work together to create an artists' community and Montsalvat's heritage buildings.

Before his death in 1975 Jorgensen willed that Montsalvat would become a charitable trust. He wanted Montsalvat to remain a home for arts and artists — a centre for creativity in all its forms.

It has filled that role ever since, providing a space for an ever-changing group of around twenty artists and craft workers — and a beautiful setting for exhibitions and performances. To provide financial support for these activities, Montsalvat welcomed receptions, conferences and cultural and general tourism. An important location for the "new wave" of Australian filmmakers, it is one of the most photographed places in Australia and has been an inspiration to generations of Australian architects, a setting for jazz and classical concerts, for poetry readings, drama productions and artistic controversy.

Among the residents who've gained national and international recognition are two legendary sculptors, Helen Lempriere and Matcham Skipper. Australia's richest sculptural prize honours the name of Lempriere while Skipper, a Churchill Fellow, would lead a renaissance in silver smithing. The founder's son, Sebastian Jorgensen became a renowned guitarist working with John Williams, Paco Pena, and Jimi Hendrix. More recently he has worked with many of this country's most gifted indigenous musicians.

His brother, Sigmund, has devoted his life to Justus Jorgensen's vision, trying to maintain the delicate balance between the artistic and the commercial.

Now, 73 years after Justus Jorgensen's arrival in the wilds of Eltham, Montsalvat prepares for a future that honours its past and its traditions. The following document reveals our future plans and the necessary changes in governance. The Montsalvat story is just beginning...