

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Arts North West
creative opportunities.

Arts North West creative opportunities



Arts North West is New England North West's regional art board. The Board supports the development of arts and culture regionally and is involved in the development of regional projects and initiatives.

- **Our Vision is for a RICH DIVERSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**
- **Our Mission is to EXPAND CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR REGION**

Arts North West is supported by Arts NSW and all thirteen local councils in the New England North West: Armidale-Dumaresq, Glen Innes Severn, Gunnedah, Guyra, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional, Tenterfield, Uralla, and Walcha.

Arts North West is a member of Regional Arts NSW and Regional Arts Australia networks.



**Dr Jane Kreis**

Executive Officer and
Regional Arts Development Officer
Employed: Full-time

**Nicci Parry-Jones**

Arts Project Officer
Employed: Three days/week

**Cherene Spendelove**

Media Officer
Employed: One day/week

**John Hamilton**

Finance Officer
Employed: Half day/week

**Heidi K Ford**

Regional Touring Officer
Employed: Two days/week



Arts North West's skills-oriented Board is comprised of members from participating Local Government areas as well as arts and cultural industries professionals from the region.

President

Mr Rob Hurcum, Chair Arts on Tour NSW,
President Tamworth Arts Council, Member Friends of Tamworth Gallery, Member
Friends Tamworth Regional Conservatorium

Vice-Presidents

Mr Bruce Mercer, Manager, Cultural & Community Services, Tamworth Regional
Council and
Ms Sandy McNaughton, Promotions and Marketing Manager Gwydir Shire Council,
Manager Roxy Theatre

Public Officer Secretary

Mr Chris Newbigin, Inverell Theatre Co, Inverell Cultural And Arts Council

Treasurer

Ms Lotta Jackson Director of Corporate and Community Services at Glen Innes
Severn Council (until April 2012)





Photo: Narelle Nelson and Tania Hartigan, Board members at the launch of Country Arts North West Escapes.

Board Members

Mrs Nerida Gourley, Arts Representative Narrabri

Mr Kent Mayo, McCrossin's Mill Museum, Uralla

Mr Andrew Sharp, The Playhouse Hotel, Barraba

Ms Robin Riley, Manager Library and Cultural Services Tenterfield Shire Council

Ms Susan Wilson, Cultural Development Officer Gunnedah Shire Council Civic Theatre

Cr Herman Beyersdorf, Councillor Armidale Dumaresq Council

Ms Tania Hartigan, Quirindi Arts Council

Mrs Narelle Nelson, Wallaby Art Group

Cr Scott Schmutter, Walcha Council

As 2012 draws to a close I have pleasure in submitting my annual report.

ANW continues to provide advice and assistance to councils, arts organisations and artists across the Region and partnerships have been forged and strengthened with many organisations.

Some of the highlights of the past 12 months have included:

- Country Art Escapes, an Arts North West initiative developed with seed funding from NENW Regional Tourism Office. This is a subscription-based regional art trail that promotes cultural venues and events in the New England North West region of New South Wales. In development since 2009 with the artists and cultural organisations of the NENW it was launched in June 2012 by Kevin Anderson MP at Tamworth Regional Gallery.
- Dhiyaan Unit Change Management Project. ANW developed, managed and oversaw the Change Management Project for Dhiyaan Aboriginal Unit, Moree which was funded as a Strategic Industry project with Arts NSW and operated in the community from January 2011 to March 2012. The Dhiyaan Unit was included in the M&G NSW Keeping Places Summit held in Sydney in 2011.
- Other Aboriginal Arts projects included a review of a report on Aboriginal Arts Activity by RANSW and Arts NSW in the New England North West. Liaison on behalf of Euraba Artists with, Moree Plains Regional Gallery, DAA and RANSW to re-establish Euraba's operational management out of Boggabilla. Submission of funding application with OFTA for Aboriginal Arts Officer for the region.
- Administration and promotion of Country Arts Support Program for 2011-2012
- Arts North West ON TOUR. ANW managed the Regional Touring Coordinator's position - a 2 year funded project to hone and strengthen a micro touring circuit in the New England North West. Established a partnership with Department of Education (Northern Inland) to promote touring product to schools in the region.
- Arts North West Connect. This is an IT and Communications project to develop our sector networks and cultural mapping of the New England North West in order to better develop future programs, projects and advocacy.
- 2012 saw the implementation of our new Constitution and development of an 8 Year Strategic Plan. ANW negotiated with Arts NSW and implemented the necessary planning schedules to develop our application for negotiated triennial funding for operational management until 2015.

I sincerely thank our Executive Officer/Regional Arts Development Officer, Jane Kreis and our part-time staff Nicci Parry-Jones, John Hamilton, Cherene Spendelove and Heidi Ford for the professional and cheerful manner with which they delivered our program throughout the year.

Arts North West recognises the support and assistance from Arts NSW, Regional Arts NSW, participating Councils, regional government and non-government organisations, arts and cultural organisations.

I look forward to another productive and successful year in 2013.

Rob Hurcum Chair



Arts North West 2012

2011-2012 saw the implementation of our final year of Negotiated 2009-2011 Triennial Funding with Arts NSW and the associated strategic plan for that period. As part of the negotiations for the next round of funding, Arts North West spent considerable effort on developing planning that could incorporate both short-term flexibility and significant long term outcomes. The 2012-2020 Strategic Business Plan and related Annual Actions Plans were based not only on Arts North West's own data but also a thorough review of the community consultation and planning of LGAs, State Government including Arts NSW, Federal Government, Regional Development Australia (Northern Inland), and Regional Arts NSW. It was important that we develop a long term strategic plan that supported the needs, aims and desires of the myriad of arts practitioners of the New England North West but also of the broader community and the governments and organisations that serve them. In planning for the future however, Arts North West was made more aware of the limitations of its current IT infrastructure. Hence, the organisation undertook a complete review of its data and IT systems and 2012-2013 will see the implementation of ANW Connections: an IT system that will store, streamline and communicate across all of Arts North West's programming.

Sounds pretty dry for an arts and cultural organisation doesn't it? But arts management does rely heavily on current information, creativity, strong organisation, and communications tools and our regional arts board cannot ignore significant changes in these fields. In fact, given the geography of our region, being able to communicate across space and time is becoming a necessity for regional development of any kind but particularly the arts and creative industries.

Of course our achievements for the 2011-2012 financial year are not limited to governance and IT systems. In addition to specialised projects including Country Arts Support Program, Art Start, Arts North West ON TOUR, Country Art Escapes, Dhiyaan Change Management Consultancy and the development of funding for an Aboriginal Arts Officer for our region; Arts North West took thousands of calls, emails and personal meetings from artists and arts organisations with the sole purpose of developing them into creative opportunities and outcomes. We wish we could share all of those journeys with you but I'm sure that if you stay tuned to our e-bulletin, website and other communications you will get a glimpse into the vast, intricate and inspiring world of arts and culture in the New England North West.

Dr Jane Kreis

Executive Officer and Regional Arts Development Officer

Management & Organisation

- Deliver effective financial planning and control (systems, reserves, delegations/authorities)
- Sustain governance and board effectiveness (composition, skills base, key roles, linkage with EO, processes)
- Enhance core funding, fundraising and resources to meet organisation and regional potential
- Ensure Arts North West has the staff and capacity to meet regional needs and opportunities
- Review Business Plan, Strategic Plan, Work Plans (Strategic initiatives)
- Ensure effective and appropriate office facility, resources and technology
- Undertake regular risk management and analysis
- Project Staff Increase (expansion of resources to be able to keep pace with regional demand)

Programs and Projects

- Provide advice and assistance to key stakeholder groups and individuals
- Provide project development
- Enhance the skills base across the region
- Provide information exchange
- Provide industry development support
- Develop and sustain art and cultural network groups
- Develop and sustain programs responsive to indigenous and cultural diversity

Marketing, Communication & Advocacy

- Increase access to relevant, timely information for arts and creative activity
- Clearly brand ANW as an advocate for art and creative development
- Positively influence decision-makers on the value of arts and Arts North West

Board MEETINGS

- 11 July 2011, Inverell Art Gallery, Inverell
- Annual General Meeting, 26 November 2011, The Playhouse Hotel, Barraba
- 13 February 2012, Tamworth Regional Gallery, Tamworth
- 18 June 2012, Walcha Shire Council Chambers, Walcha

STAFF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Arts North West staff underwent Microsoft training (CRM, Office365)
- APO & Media Officer completed transmedia training



Photo: RANSW grant writing workshop, Glen Innes

RADO network MEETINGS

Regional arts development in NSW is decentralised through a network of regional organisations known as the Regional Arts Boards (RABs). Each RAB services an area of the state made up of a group of local government areas. The local councils in each area, together with the State Government, contribute financially to each Board to employ a Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO) and other support staff. This structure enables people who live in the regions to manage their own arts and cultural priorities for their own region.

These RADOs and their staff meet on average four times a year at the Regional Arts NSW office for professional development, joint meetings with key stakeholders, and to reinforce co-operative approaches to regional arts development. The National RADO Network, organised by Regional Arts Australia meets biennially at the Regional Arts Australia conference and every other year at a nominated location. Over 2011-12 period the NSW RADO network met in Sydney:

- 18 & 19 July, 2011
- 14 & 15 November, 2011
- 20 & 21 February 2012



Photo: The Red and Yellow Suitcase Tour

The Red and Yellow SUITCASE TOUR

Arts North West oversaw a distinctive travelling exhibition from the National Gallery of Australia to the region in April and May 2012. The Red Case and The Yellow Case are part of the National Gallery of Australia's Elaine and Jim Wolfensohn Gift - an exhibition made up of three suitcases (Red, Yellow and Blue) filled with art and the 1888 Melbourne Cup. Since its development in 1990 it has travelled to schools, libraries, community centres, regional galleries and nursing homes. It provided audiences with a rare opportunity to get up close and personal with artwork from the National Gallery - particularly valuable for regional and remote audiences or for people living with disability.

The Red and Yellow Suitcases visited Tenterfield, Glen Innes and Inverell and had a strong educational function supported by a comprehensive education kit which helps venues to introduce the suitcases and the treasures inside to their audiences. The suitcases are filled with artworks that are intriguing but resilient so that they might be handled and enjoyed and great chance to really experience history and art.

Country arts support program CASP 2012

Country Arts Support Program (CASP) is an annual, devolved small grants program through Regional Arts NSW and each regional arts Board, including Arts North West. In 2012 there were 12 regional applications funded totalling \$17,390. CASP funding allows for the Regional Arts Board on the ground to work with Councils, individuals and organisations to maximise their potential in securing this much needed funding and to bring much needed arts training and experiences to regional communities.

2012 CASP Projects from across the New England North West were:

Instrumental Sculpture - Flood Piano	Community project designed to forge an ongoing sculpture program for Tenterfield. To produce an outdoor interactive sculpture from a recycled piano. The park installation involves a musical launch followed by community forum.	Tenterfield
The Last Supper re-enactment	Saturday Magic Theatre Troupe is theatre for people with disabilities and their friends. To stage a dramatic re-enactment of the Last Supper based on Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the subject. The presentation will use movement, mime, song, visual art projections and readings from the Gospels to create a tableau vivant in the Uniting Church for Easter 2013.	Armidale
The Face of Country Art Escapes	Professional artist/mentor and a creative young person travelled through the NENW working with the region's galleries, museums, artist studios, public art spaces and other cultural highlights to create images that showcase Country Art Escapes Regional Art Trail to encourage visitors to plan a cultural tour.	Glen Innes





2012 CASP Projects continued ...

Back Track Artist in Residence

Back Track Youth Works Program works with a local artist running workshops in assemblage art and sculpture to inspire and engage the participants indigenous and non-indigenous youth who will create works of art and exhibit their art works to the local community by a establishing a gallery.

Armidale

**James Kortum
Woodwind
Workshop**

Project consists of a weekend of woodwind workshops/ensembles and a performance delivered by J. Kortum, a flautist with exceptional experience, a long history of education in prestigious conservatoriums and an impressive performance record. These workshops offered one on one or in small ensemble, held at the NECOM Inverell campus.

Inverell

**Manuscript
Assessment
Program**

Manuscript Assessment Program will be taken by an editor or agent, who will read a synopsis and a chapter before coming to Armidale to run a workshop where each person will have individual feedback from the tutor, everyone will benefit from each person's session, in terms of advice and in offering feedback too. And there will be a public talk at the library for members and community.

Armidale

**Bach Jazz &
Minimalist
Meditations
Concerts**

Presentation of 2 extension concerts as part of the NE Bach Festival in Armidale. The 2 concerts: Bach Jazz and Minimalist Meditations aim to broaden the scope and appeal of the festival and provide new perspectives on the music of Bach with jazz versions co-ordinated by Warwick Dunham and new minimalist works composed by Steven Thorneycroft and Benjamin Thorn.

Armidale

2012 CASP Projects continued ...

**Goldilocks Grand
Day Out**

Goldilocks Grand Day Out will be held at the New England Regional Art Museum on 17 June 2012. A new event for the art museum, it is an imaginative day of creative activities for children linked to storytelling and book illustration, which will showcase NERAM as an inspiring community art institution and will provide an opportunity for families to make art with local artists.

Armidale

**Creative Art
Escapes in a small
country village 2**

To bring at least 10 Professional Artists to the Liverpool Plains area to run Visual Arts workshops in a variety of medium (Watercolour, Oil, Pastel, Acrylic, pencil etc.) over a 12 month period. 1 workshop per month will be run at a purpose build workshop space at Wallabadah. People in New England North West must travel to Bathurst or in the past Grafton to access the quality of training.

Liverpool
Plains**Sound and Lighting
workshops**

Weekend workshops aimed at encouraging greater participation at an affordable price from all sections of the community in a diverse range of artistic pursuits.

Gunnedah

**Mixed Media and
Drawing Workshops**

The mixed media and drawing workshops are for adult and young adult members of the Glen Innes community who would like to explore the way of creating small artworks with a wide range of material, including recycled material, paint and using basic drawing techniques. 4 workshops at 6-7 hrs each, with a maximum of 8 persons per workshop. To be held at 311 Grey St Glen Innes.

Glen Innes

**Artist in Residence
Program 2012**

The Artist in Residence Program at Ashford will be offered to 1 or more Aboriginal Visual Artists throughout 2012 to showcase their art and provide workshops in the community

Inverell

Arts North West CONNECT

"Connecting the New England North West through cultural exchange and creative practice"

Work has continued on connecting with cultural and art entities in our region to improve information sharing, artistic exchange as well as building artistic support, opportunities and awareness across the region. Arts North West database records are continuously being updated and a more efficient email, mail-out and media campaign has been implemented. In addition we are trying to improve the way that stakeholders can interact with us and provide us with ideas, feedback or requests.

The development of a system of networks that allow better sharing of information, ideas and opportunities are a key way that Arts North West can assist individual artists and organisations across such a large and diverse geographical area. This system has been developed through a series of interrelated projects including some of those already mentioned such as Art Escapes, an art trail for the New England North West; the Artseed website which provides exhibition space and other development spaces for the region's young and emerging artists; and (En) Able Arts network for artists with disabilities and networks; our Screen NENW partnerships; and the ongoing mapping of Indigenous Art and Cultural activities.

A more integrated system that is better suited to the organisation's growing work load and growing project staff has been researched and will be developed as part of Arts North West Connect in 2012-2013.

Country Art ESCAPES

Launched in June 2012 Country Art Escapes is the regional art trail in the New England North West region of NSW. As the coordinating organisation Arts North West maintains the Country Art Escapes website

www.countryartescapes.com.au

and advocates on behalf of members and promotes Country Art Escapes across the region through brochures, maps and the website. The art trail subscribers include, but are not limited to: artists, art venues, historical buildings, tourism outlets, galleries, studios, workshops, festivals, art residencies, vineyards, council shop fronts, libraries, community centres, museums, restaurants and cafes that incorporate art and public art within the New England North West region of NSW.





Arts North West ON TOUR

Arts North West ON TOUR continues to work to present a strong network of performing arts venues in the region, coordinated by regional touring coordinator, Heidi Ford. Participating venues contribute financially to this position. The Touring Coordinator role enhances the ability of the region's performing arts venues to undertake collective bargaining for touring productions and take a regional approach to promotion and cost sharing.

New England North West presenting venues are of a diverse size and specifications (80-400 plus seating arrangements). These venues are often volunteer-run and multi-faceted. They present both film and live performing arts productions.



Photo: Arts North West ON TOUR
coordinated tour of Sound and Fury

The region's venues and organisations include:

- The Armidillos, Armidale
- Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- Playhouse Hotel Theatre, Barraba
- The Chapel Theatre, Glen Innes
- Inverell Cultural Group, Inverell
- Moree Arts Council, Moree
- Crossing Theatre, Narrabri
- Royal Theatre, Quirindi
- Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts, Tenterfield

Advocacy: This year Arts North West has advocated on behalf of the New England North West arts and cultural sector including submissions to relevant taskforces and policy and funding committees. Arts North West and the network of regional arts boards lobby and communicate regularly with relevant politicians, government agencies and funding bodies to ensure we get the best possible opportunities for our stakeholders. As part of this advocacy it is also important that Arts North West be able to access and provide to-the-minute research and information relating to the region's cultural development. Our highly experienced staff work hard to maintain a library of fresh data, research and findings. Our partnerships, significant networks and stakeholders are central this library and we hope to be able to provide increased access to this library in the future. In the meantime we rely on our current marketing tools as well as presenting and participating at workshops, conferences, meetings and publications.

Marketing and Promotion is sometimes so much a part of advocacy that it is difficult to divide the two. In addition to the web-site development (below), Arts North West has developed and maintains artseed.org.au and filmnenw.com.au. We now integrate these websites with other social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Skype, YouTube, Place Stories etc.) in order to maximise our interaction with the diverse stakeholders in our community. However, for everything that can be seen online and through our e-bulletins or emails, there is an equal amount of physical meetings, phone calls, workshops, forums, traditional media, and advertising.



Arts North West WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

For everything that can be seen online and through our e-bulletins or emails, there is an equal amount of physical meetings, phone calls, workshops, forums, traditional media form and advertising.

Youth online ARTSEED WEBSITE

Arts North West developed the Artseed website www.artseed.org.au in 2011 following a perceived need for the region's youth to have their own space to exhibit their art work, share ideas, questions and skills with other emerging artists as well as with more established ones. Funded by ArtStart NSW Youth Arts and Skills Artseed is an online, art-focused environment dedicated to young and emerging artists of the New England North West of NSW. Artseed considers art in its broadest sense including performing arts, visual arts, digital and screen, writing, music, media, and design. Artseed offers a creative space for emerging creatives to gain inspiration, develop arts skills and knowledge, explore their artistic processes, exhibit their work, gain artistic experience, and connect with other artists based in the same region.

Artseed also serves as the region's central point for information and resources, and event promotion relating to emerging arts and acts as a stepping stone for emerging artists to connect with Arts North West's main site and creative community.

WEBSITE

Website development over 2011-2012 has seen an increasing clarity and consolidation of information and creative opportunities for our regional stakeholders. There is of course the Artist gallery, Venues gallery, What's On calendar (a free and accessible regional Calendar of Events) but also improved links to funding and resources, and specialised tabs for Creative Industries, EnAble Arts, Aboriginal Arts and other key networking projects such as Screen NENW and board representatives. As part of Arts North West Connect (see page 10) the website will continue to grow and develop niche areas and interactive components. We always appreciate feedback and updates from artists (across all art forms) and organisations who would like to be listed on these pages. Look forward to hearing your feedback. www.artsnw.com.au Arts North West Facebook



Page is a vibrant well used page and good source of information and inspiration on arts and culture in the region.

E-BULLETIN

Our **free** monthly e-bulletin (an email newsletter) is sent to a growing number of recipients in and around the New England North West region of NSW. The e-bulletin highlights local artists and events as well as offering timely news, opportunities, and resources and **with its large distribution is an excellent platform to share your art space, event or arts practice**. Anybody can subscribe free of charge to the e-bulletin by contacting the office or joining via our website www.artsnw.com.au



Arts North West recorded a surplus of \$820 for the 2011-12 financial year after providing for depreciation of \$8,809 and putting away \$12,000 for the computer reserve and \$8,000 for the motor vehicle replacement reserve. Income totalled \$214,036 (up from \$200,471 in 2010-11). Arts NSW contributed \$103,423 through their annual grant, while local government contributed \$87,840. Income for administration of projects increased from \$3,681 in 2010-11 to \$11,888 in 2011-12. Expenses, including depreciation and transfers to reserves totalled \$213,216 compared to \$190,733 in 2010-11.

CURRENT ASSETS:	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Cash and Cash Equivalents	147,727	166,444
Trade and Other Receivables	0	0
Other Current Assets	5,501	2,932
Total Current Assets	153,228	169,376
Non Current Assets		
Property Plant and Equipment	25,084	29,777
Total Non Current Assets	25,084	29,777
TOTAL ASSETS:	178,312	199,153
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Trade and Other Payables	99,046	148,143
Provisions	32,806	17,231
Total Current Liabilities	131,852	165,374
Non Current Liabilities		
Provisions	7,149	5,296
Total Non Current Liabilities	7,149	5,296
TOTAL LIABILITIES:	139,001	170,670
Net Assets	39,311	28,483
Equity		
Retained Earnings	39,311	28,483
TOTAL EQUITY	39,311	28,483



Communities
arts nsw



Arts North West
creative opportunities.



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