

ANNUAL REPORT ★ 2015

**Arts
north
west**

 connections
creativity
communities

Arts n★rth west

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Photography by Irene Lemon, Christine Durham, Lorraine Riggs, Nicci Parry-Jones, Megan Shrivener, Stephanie Brummell



VISION

**A rich cultural landscape in the
New England North West of NSW.**

MISSION

**To generate creative opportunities in the
New England North West of NSW.**

connections • creativity • communities





Eudaimonia Children's Theatre Workshops in Tenterfield - Lemlor Productions and ANW

From the Chair

I have much pleasure in submitting my chair's report for 2015. During the past year Arts North West has undertaken a host of activities and continues to provide advice and assistance to councils, arts and cultural organisations and artists across the Region.

Details of the projects and programs undertaken during the year are detailed elsewhere in this report. 2015 saw the departure of RADO/EO Jane Kreis in March and I sincerely thank Jane for her dedication and professionalism during her five years with Arts North West.

In April we welcomed new RADO/EO Caroline Downer. Caroline hit the ground running and the transition proved to be seamless.

During the year Arts North West successfully applied for triennial funding from Arts New South Wales and my sincere thanks to Caroline for driving this application and the revision of the strategic plan.

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

I wish to thank our committed and dedicated staff, RADO/EO Caroline Downer and staff members Nicci Parry-Jones, Stephanie Brummell, Lorryne Riggs and John Hamilton for the professional and cheerful manner with which they delivered our programs throughout the year.

As this is my last report as Chair I wish to thank the Board members and staff for their support, encouragement and friendship over the past six years. It has been a delight to work with you all and I wish the incoming Chair and Arts North West every success in the future

Rob Hurcum
Chair, Arts North West Regional Arts Board

From the RADO/EO

Since my appointment in April I've thoroughly enjoyed being welcomed into the Arts North West family.

With a new application required for negotiated triennial funding from Arts NSW, it was an opportunity to revise our strategic plan. It was the perfect occasion for me, new to the organisation, to review ANW achievements over the last three years, consult with stakeholders and to work with staff and Board to develop our priorities into the future.

We have such a rich and vibrant region and it has been fascinating for me to travel around the almost 100,000 km visiting town and villages and seeing what is happening on the ground. Our Community Arts Forums held in 6 locations throughout the year informed our future activities. Our application to Arts NSW was successful, and with the contribution of our 12 local government authorities and project partners, we can now move forward confidently into 2016 and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the people that make Arts North West such a success. To the wonderful ANW team whose passion, dedication and enthusiasm is the reason that ANW continues to deliver its programs so effectively. Thank you to the ANW Board for their exceptional support and in particular Rob Hurcum, whose longstanding commitment to, and broad knowledge of, Arts North West has been particularly valued.

I would like to extend our thanks to all the artists, arts workers and supporters who live, work and create in this wonderful region. It is a delight to work with you all - connecting and building creative communities.

Caroline Downer
RADO/EO



CASP grant 2015, Artful Antics, NERAM

★ Objective 1: Creativity

Develop, broaden and diversify our audiences and their participation in arts and cultural activities

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SUPPORT

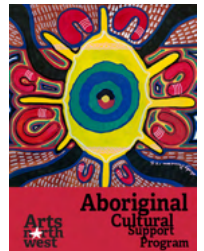
Through extensive community consultation and strategic partnerships Arts North West Aboriginal Arts Officer works with numerous individual and organisations to build and improve opportunities for Aboriginal arts and communities in our region. Arts North West has also set up a new networking group on Facebook Aboriginal Arts Network. It is an information sharing page where Aboriginal Artists from our region can connect and collaborate.

Arts North West provided strong **professional development** opportunities including:

- Making Money Workshops with David Sharpe in Moree in November.
- APRA Arts Law workshop for Aboriginal artists in Tamworth in March.
- Grant writing workshops in Glen Innes and Moree in February and March.

The **Creative Program** included:

- Preserving Cultural Crafts Workshops with Aboriginal Elder and weaver Dolly Jerome in Tamworth in May.
- AFTRS Travelling Places (Short Film Making), Armidale in partnership with Museums and Galleries NSW and the Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place.
- Art Relay - Staged - a mentoring program for Aboriginal performing artists.
- APRA Workshop and Staging Stories consultation.
- 2015 Tamworth Cultural Showcase (part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival) in partnership with Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council.
- Corroboree - Black Arts Market in Sydney.



Weaving Workshops, Tamworth





Glen Industries artists with The Postbox Project, Glen Innes Art Gallery

Heading West is a region-to-region response to arts and disability development in regional NSW. Funded by Arts NSW, the project is a two year strategic partnership between Arts Northern Rivers, Arts North West, and Accessible Arts that supports the professional coordination between, and development of, arts and disability projects and their stakeholders in North Western NSW. The program and its creative outcomes are built on the shared commitment of our communities to foster inclusivity and accessible creative opportunities for regional NSW.

Stephanie Brummell is now employed 2 days a week as Arts North West Arts and Disability Officer. She was mentored in this position by Julie Barratt, Regional Arts Development Manager of Accessible Arts.

This project included:

- Meetings with key stakeholders in Armidale, Uralla and Tamworth.
- Establishment of a steering committee based in Armidale which focuses on the development of Disability Action Plans for arts and cultural organisations in the NENW.
- Arts and Disability Community Forum held in July at the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) in Armidale. The forum audience was a diverse representation of the arts and disability sector within the New England North West. Highlights of the day included the creating of new connections and networks for attendees and the Enable Arts Network, learning and sharing existing creative opportunities in the NENW, development of action strategies for the direction of the project, and a documentation of individual stories of attendees by Uralla scriptwriter Suzie Wicks.
- Arts and Disability Training Day held in Tamworth in late October in conjunction with Accessible Arts. This was the first time that this training was delivered in a regional centre.
- An Arts and Disability Community Forum was also held in Gunnedah.

The **Post Box Project** funded by the Country Arts Support Program and in partnership with the Tenterfield Hub offered regional people with disability a new process for creative practice and community participation. The project has been in tremendous demand with 30 kits making it to Moree, Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Armidale and Tamworth with approximately 50 participants. The exhibition toured to Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Armidale and Tamworth.

ARTS NORTH WEST ON TOUR

Arts North West On Tour is a regional network of small to medium performing arts venues in the New England North West coordinated by Arts North West who promotes and negotiates touring product for their venues and community and provides touring resources.



The following tours were negotiated for the network in 2015.

Flak (Helen Ellis) - Tenterfield, Quirindi

Galapagos Duck (Australian jazz band) - Glen Innes, Barraba

Unknown Soldier (Monkey Baa Theatre) - Quirindi

Swamp Juice (Bunk Puppets, Regional Arts Victoria) - Tenterfield, Moree, Gunnedah, Barraba

Bijou Cabaret (Chrissie Shaw) - Gunnedah, Quirindi, Uralla, Barraba

Australia Day (Hit Productions) - Quirindi, Armidale, Barraba, Bingara, Moree, Glen Innes

Snow White and the Seven Cool Dudes - Jally Entertainment) - Quirindi, Bingara, Moree, Glen Innes

Short Guide to Shakespeare (Felt Tip Theatre) - Glen Innes, Narrabri, Quirindi

In partnership with Lemlor Productions, Children's Theatre workshops (Eudaimonia) were held in Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Moree, Barraba, Quirindi, and Narrabri, and Gunnedah.

2015 NETWORK MEMBERS

Armidale - TAS Hoskins Centre

Barraba - The Playhouse Hotel

Bingara - Roxy Theatre

Glen Innes - Chapel Theatre

Gunnedah - Civic Centre

Moree - Moree Arts Council

Narrabri - Crossing Theatre

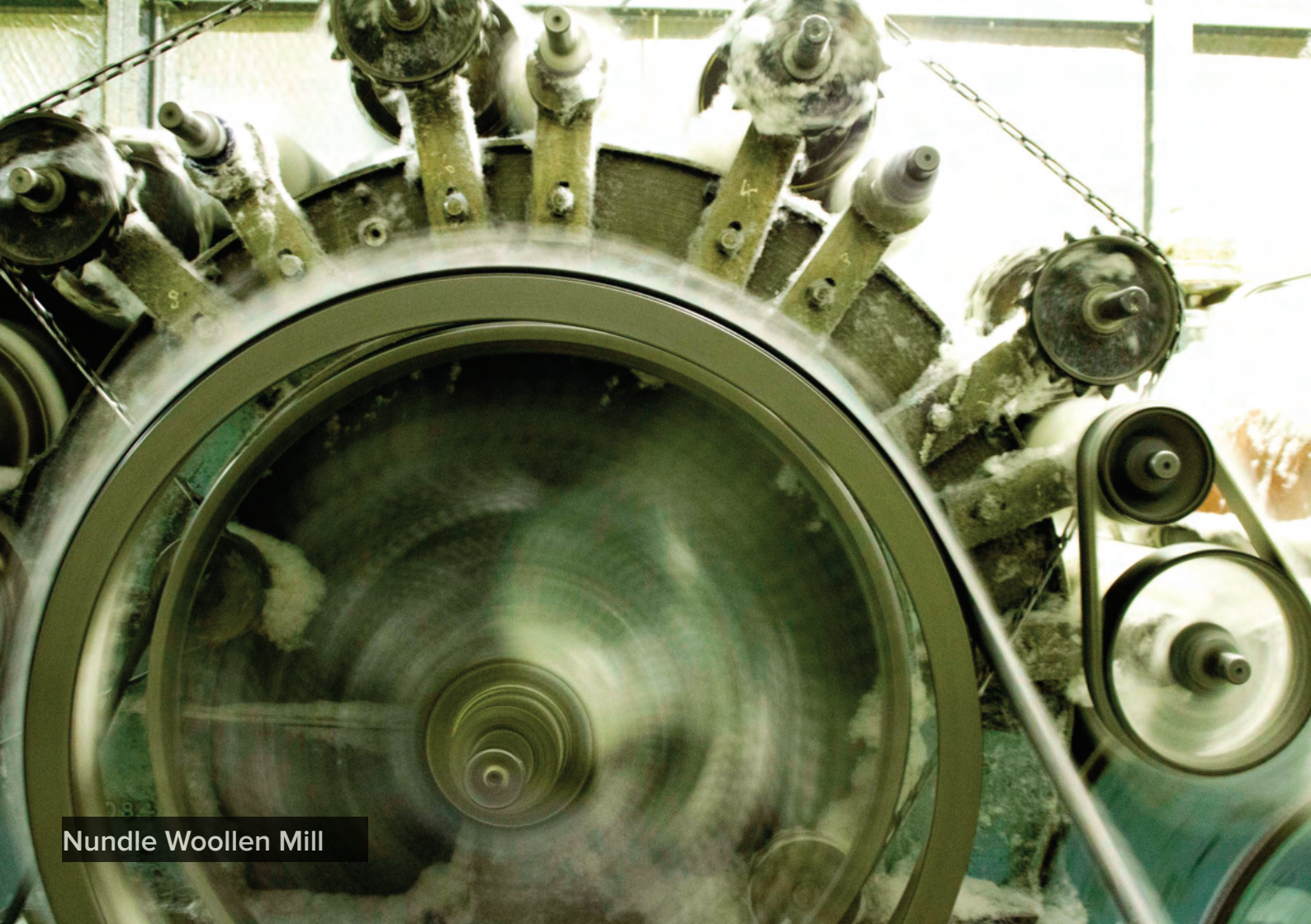
Quirindi - Royal Theatre

Tamworth - Capitol Theatre

Tenterfield - School of Arts



The Roxy Theatre, Bingara



Nundle Woollen Mill

COUNTRY ART ESCAPES

Country Art Escapes is an online and interactive arts trail developed in partnership with arts and cultural workers of the New England North West to better promote their interests in the region's cultural tourism. There are over 70 subscribers on this web based trail, covering most of the region.



In 2015:

- A partnership with Narrabri Tourism to include the Kamilaroi Highway Project.
- Four new subscribers including Outback Arts which will extend the reach of the program.
- A subscriber meeting was held in November at Go Create! in Kentucky to discuss opportunities to leverage the network.
- Website update to include promotional incentives for visitors, and updated technology/link with Google maps.
- Development and launch of iphone app.
- New brochure was designed and distributed.
- Quarterly enews.

FILM NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST

Film NENW is the Regional Film Office which links organisations in the region and is a contact point for filming, providing support and referrals to assist with filming requirements.

Arts North West Communications Officer attended Reel Scout training, Sydney, March 2015. *Locations*, *Locations* guides continue to be distributed to all regions and the Reel-Scout database was maintained and promoted.



★ Objective 2: Communities

Encourage and build community cultural capacity

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The highlight for Arts North West in the last quarter of the year was our professional development workshops, *ANW Creative Roadshows*, held in Quirindi, Narrabri and Walcha in November 2015. This was a very successful full day program of advice, networking, and professional development for artists, arts organisations and community groups. In 2015 we engaged Kim V Goldsmith of Ochre Communications to focus on Social Media development and strategies.

ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

RADO provided advice and assistance to a number of artists and organisations in the NE/NW. She is a member of UNE Arts Advisory Panel, Tamworth Regional Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, Armidale Public Art Advisory Panel and NERAM Collections Advisory Committee. She is also a Board Member of the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM).

CASP GRANTS

A number of applications were received for the 2015 Country Arts Support Program (CASP). The annual funding round for small grants is funded through Arts NSW and managed locally by Arts North West. The successful CASP projects in 2015 were:

- Gravesend P & C, *The ARTbird Project* \$2,200
- NENW Branch, Children's Book Council of Australia, *Booked In! Annual Children's Literature Festival* \$1,750
- Moree Arts Council Thespians, *MACT Children's Workshops* 2015 \$2,586
- New England Writers' Centre, *Short Stories on the Spot* \$2,625
- NERAM, *Artful Antics* \$2,100
- Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, *Preserving Cultural Crafts - Weaving Workshop* \$3,000
- Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, *Tom Barker Carving Workshop* at the Aboriginal Cultural Showcase \$2,144
- Tenterfield Community Hub, *The Post Box Project* \$3,000



ANW Creative Roadshow, Walcha

Arts north west



SUBMIT
YOUR
EVENT



★ Objective 3: Connections

Forge strong partnerships and networks across the region through a strong communication platform

BRANDING

New branding was established to strengthen the ANW identity and profile and was rolled out to our social media, and promotional collateral. A new look website was launched in September. It provides a central resource for all things arts and culture in the New England North West, and includes an integrated Arts Calendar where our stakeholders can submit their own events.

MEDIA

We launched our Creative Communities Campaign in September. This is an opportunity for our subscribers and extended audience to engage in creative practices and take part in different monthly challenges. Arts North West continues to send out fortnightly enews on events around our region, a monthly funding opportunity newsletter, and quarterly news to local Councils. We are active on a number of social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and have developed guidelines for social media management this year.

ANW CONNECT

A networking group has been established by Arts North West for directors of key cultural organisations in the New England North West to add to our growing ANW Connect database.

PARTNERSHIPS

In 2015, Arts North West partnered with New England North West Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) to provide support for the project *Innovative Digital Business Solutions*, the delivery of expert small business advice using the best e-learning and creative solutions. It will assist in providing data and content for learning modules, provide workshops in 8 venues over 3 years, assist in the promotion and dissemination of material for the program, and provide opportunities for the Creative Industry sector to undertake professional development in digital literacy.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

RADO presented to Councils on the role of Arts North West, and how it can assist Councils in reaching their own objectives. Presentations were given to Gunnedah Shire, Glen Innes Severn Shire, Gwydir Shire, the Public Art Advisory Panel at Armidale Dumaresq, the Tamworth Regional Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, Moree Plains and Narrabri Shire Council.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

Community Arts Forums were held in Guyra, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Walcha and Narrabri. A highly successful forum was held in Armidale in November with over 35 in attendance. Matters discussed will inform Council's Cultural Plan, an online survey has been circulated and bi-annual forums have been planned for the future.

PRESENTATIONS

RADO presented at the Regional Stakeholders Forum at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney as well as a Museum Training Day in Tamworth. ANW Projects Officer presented at the Australian Performing Arts Centres Association (APACA) Conference in Sydney on Arts North West ON TOUR and at the Museums Australia New England North West Chapter Meeting on Country Art Escapes.



Armidale Community Arts Forum

★ Objective 4: Govern

Provide sound and effective corporate governance to ensure a sustainable organisation.

BOARD MEETINGS

Arts North West Regional Arts Board met four times in Glen Innes, Tamworth, Wallabedah and Moree providing oversight of the organisation's finances, policies and strategic direction. The Board has 2 sub committees - Planning and Governance and CASP. The Planning and Governance Subcommittee is developing a plan to look at Constitutional change, and the transition to a skill based Board over the next three years. The CASP Committee met to assess the 2016 CASP grant applications.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

A new Strategic Plan was developed for the organisation in conjunction with its successful application for triennial funding with Arts NSW. This plan, including a Marketing and Communications Strategy and a Succession Plan, was ratified in July.

An audit was undertaken of policies and procedures in 2015. The following were approved in December 2015: Appropriate Workplace Behaviour, Code of Conduct, Complaints and Grievance, Contractor Engagement, Disciplinary and Dismissal, Driving Safely, Media Management, Social Media Computer Usage, Project Auspicing.

STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Caroline Downer was appointed as the new RADO for Arts North West in April, replacing Jane Kreis.

RADO attends the Regional Arts NSW network meetings held three times a year. These meetings provide opportunities to engage with other RADOs from across the state and to meet with Federal and State departments and arts organisations. Aboriginal Arts Officer and Communication Officer also attend an annual joint meeting, and participate in teleconferences.

2015 BOARD MEMBERS

Rob Hurcum	Chair Tamworth Regional
Sue Price	Vice-Chair Moree Plains
Anna Watt	Vice-Chair Glen Innes Severn
Tania Hartigan	Treasurer Liverpool Plains
Chris Newbiggin	Secretary co-opted
Herman Beyersdorf	Armidale Dumaresq
Alan Davison	Armidale Dumaresq
Kay Delahunt	Tamworth Regional
Angela Doering	Gwydir
Penny Jobling	Narrabri
Kent Mayo	Uralla
Sandy McNaughton	co-opted
Rebecca Ryan	Gunnedah
Andrew Sharp	Tamworth Regional
Gary Verri	Tenterfield

2015 STAFF

Jane Kreis	Regional Arts Development Officer (to March 2015)
Caroline Downer	Regional Arts Development Officer (from April 2015)
Nicci Parry-Jones	Projects Officer
Stephanie Brummell	Communications Officer/Arts and Disability Officer
Lorrayne Riggs	Aboriginal Arts Officer
John Hamilton	Finance Officer



★ Overview

**TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN
ANW ACTIVITIES**

20,088

Creative projects **15,875**

Advice/Professional development **4,213**

ANW REGION

Area **98,574km²**

Population **190,000**

RADO kms travelled

30,000km

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

Social Media followers **1,632**

E news subscribers **421**

Number of events promoted **165**

Number of website visitors **2,640**

TOTAL 4,858

EVENTS

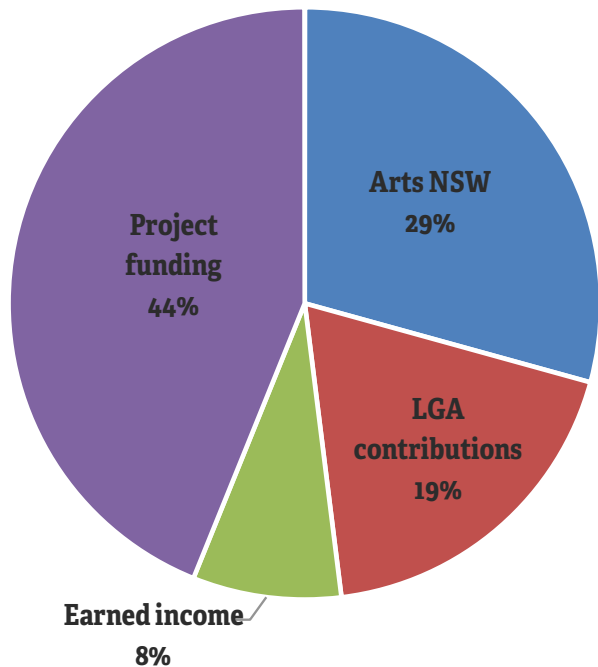
Number of creative events **50**

Number of presentations **14**

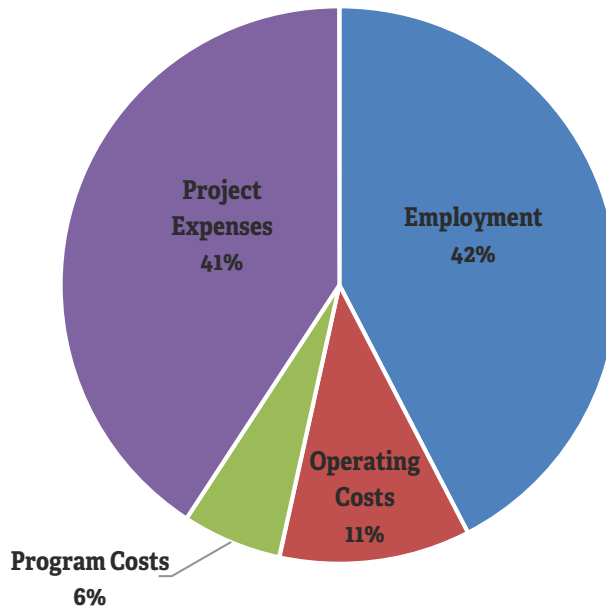
Number of workshops **18**

★ Financial Overview

2015 INCOME



2015 EXPENDITURE



★ Funding Partners

CORE FUNDING

Arts North West is supported by the **NSW Government** through Arts NSW



Arts North West is a member of Regional Arts NSW



Arts North West acknowledges the contribution from our 12 **Local Government Authorities** partners in the New England North West



PROGRAM AND PROJECT FUNDING

The **Aboriginal Cultural Support** Program is funded by the Federal Government through the Ministry for the Arts and the Indigenous Cultural Support Program



Arts North West acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands we work on; we recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal people and respect the Aboriginal Elders past and present

The **Heading West** Program was made possible by a grant from the Regional Arts Fund



We acknowledge our **Project Partners**, Accessible Arts, Business Enterprise Centre New England North West, Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, and the University of New England





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