



Annual Report 2016





PO Box 801 Glen Innes NSW 2370
Glen Innes Visitor Information Centre
152 Church Street, Glen Innes 2370

t: 02 6732 4988 • m: 0428 042 622

• e: office@artsnw.com.au • artsnw.com.au • [fb.com/artsnw](https://www.facebook.com/artsnw) • [@artsnorthwest](https://www.instagram.com/artsnorthwest)

ABN 13 294 582 557



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

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





Putting the Pieces Together workshop Tamworth

From the Chair

Goodness - my first year as Chair of such a dynamic and creative organisation has been exciting and a privilege! During the past year Arts North West has undertaken a host of activities and continues to provide advice, advocacy and assistance to councils, arts and cultural organisations and artists across the New England North West of NSW. Various projects and programs have been undertaken during the year, I trust that you will enjoy reading about them in this report.

We appreciate the support from Arts NSW as our major funding organisation and recognise the role of Regional Arts NSW as the peak body and support agency for arts and cultural development in regional NSW. We also acknowledge the contributions made by our participating councils and look forward to working with you in 2017 to further enrich the cultural landscapes of your communities.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to our committed and dedicated Executive Director Caroline Downer who has guided me in my first year as Chair, and staff members Nicci Parry-Jones, Stephanie McIntosh, Lorraine Riggs and John Hamilton for their professionalism, passion and innovative manner with which they delivered our programs. I also wish to thank the Board members for their participation and support, and I am sure I echo their sentiments in what a pleasure it is, to work with Caroline and her team.

Arts North West looks forward to another year of exciting arts and cultural activity in 2017.

Anna Watt
Chair, Arts North West
Regional Arts Development Organisation

From the Executive Director

It has been a wonderful exciting and busy year for Arts North West.

The work, as always, has been wide and varied. From running professional development workshops on business skills and project delivery to arts projects focussing on textiles, puzzle pieces and everything in between.

We have enjoyed getting out to some of the smaller villages in our region, with Creativitea - connect, chat and create, textile workshops for drought affected communities. This project in particular has built stronger partnerships with disability providers in our region, including Ascent Group, Centacare NE/ NW and Carers NSW.

All our programs have grown in 2016, with even more creative projects being delivered. In the Aboriginal Cultural Support Program we have been focussing on identity, Country Art Escapes has been developing greater links with our smaller museums, and Arts North West ON TOUR has a new initiative Pocket Productions which will roll out next year.

I would like to thank Nicci, Lorryne, Stephanie and John for their enthusiasm and commitment to Arts North West in assisting to build a vibrant and exciting arts community in the New England North West. It is a delight to work and support all the artists and arts workers who live, work and create in this wonderful region. Let's continue to connect creative communities!

Caroline Downer
Executive Director



arts
with
est

connections
community
activities

ANW Creative Roadshow, Moree

★ Objective 1: Creativity

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

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SUPPORT

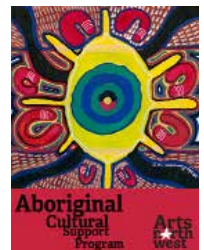
Through extensive community consultation and strategic partnerships Arts North West Aboriginal Arts Officer works with numerous individual and organisations to build and improve opportunities for Aboriginal arts and communities in our region.

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

- Aboriginal Community consultations were held in Tenterfield, Tamworth, Narrabri and Moree in May to discuss the development and implementation of ANW's program.

The **Creative Program** included:

- *Making Old Marking New* (Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund) to support professional and skills development of four artists, observed and supported by a Kamilaroi Elder and an Aboriginal Project Manager, to re-connect with cultural artefacts and re-build cultural identities.
- *NAIDOC Week Celebrations* A print media exhibition in local newspapers, a photo book and postcards celebrating the NAIDOC week theme Songlines.
- *Speed Dating for Aboriginal Artists* - 9 professional Aboriginal Artists across the region with 3 commercial galleries, 3 regional galleries and 3 funding bodies to connect, network and develop strategic relationships and linkages.
- *Weaving Workshop* Quirindi PreSchool
- *2016 Tamworth Aboriginal Cultural Showcase* (part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival) in partnership with Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council including facilitation of workshops and opening ceremony. 2016 saw the highest attendance numbers on record of over 3000 people, due largely to the improved location of the event on Peel Street making it more accessible in the footprint of the Country Music Festival.
- Aboriginal Arts Officer Lorraine Riggs has also been undertaking a community consultation for Arts NSW to inform the Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place in Armidale.





Tamworth Aboriginal Cultural Showcase, Tamworth



Putting the Pieces Together at Gunnedah Civic

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.

This project included:

- Meetings with key stakeholders in Armidale, Uralla and Tamworth.
- Development of Arts North West Disability Action Plan
- Presentation at the Accessible Arts NSW Arts Activated Conference in Sydney.

Putting the Pieces Together - an arts and disability creative project was launched at the Ability Links Festival of Abilities in July in Tamworth. Through a series of workshops and activities, participants used large blank puzzle pieces as a canvas to express their own artistic experience.

Three fully inclusive workshops for artists with and without disability were run at the Moree Plains Gallery, Tamworth Regional Gallery and the New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale with great success. Puzzle pieces also made their way to individual artists in Narrabri, Gunnedah, Glen Innes, and Uralla.

This artistic collaborative result was realised as an art installation of 16 cubes made from 96 individual puzzle pieces, representative of building blocks of an inclusive arts sector. It opened at the Gunnedah Civic on 3 December to celebrate International Day of People with a Disability.

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 2016.

- *Stones in His Pockets* by Critical Stages toured to Roxy Theatre, Bingara, Royal Theatre, Quirindi and TAS Hoskins Theatre, Armidale, high quality production with broad appeal, excellent ticket sales and loved by audiences.
- *Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow* hit 5 venues across the New England North West region Glen Innes, Gunnedah, Narrabri, Quirindi and Tenterfield after a two year negotiation process through Arts North West ON TOUR. It is the first time to this region and was an immensely popular tour many of the shows selling out and venues expressing an interest in getting the show back in 2017.
- Erth's *Dinosaur Zoo* was a huge success as a regional tour in September to Bingara, Narrabri, Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Tamworth and Gunnedah.
- *Evening with Groucho* from Jally Entertainment toured to four venues in October (Bingara, Narrabri, Glen Innes, and Gunnedah).
- Camilla Blunden's *All this Living* toured to small venues in Tamworth regional.

The network meeting for Arts North West ON TOUR was held in Quirindi in July.

A new initiative POCKET PRODUCTIONS was also launched in July. This is a second tier of the Arts North West ON TOUR model, developed to secure touring shows for small community venues across our region. A tour is planned for 2017.

ANW Projects Officer is on the advisory panel for Arts on Tour devolved funding touring grants.

2016 NETWORK MEMBERS
Armidale - TAS Hoskins Centre
Bingara - Roxy Theatre
Glen Innes - Chapel Theatre
Gunnedah - Civic Centre
Narrabri - Crossing Theatre
Quirindi - Royal Theatre
Tamworth - Capitol Theatre
Tenterfield - School of Arts

MELBOURNE
INTERNATIONAL
COMEDY
FESTIVAL
ROADSHOW



Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow
Glen Innes Chapel Theatre



WEDNESDAY 19th

Wednesday 19th

Spent the day at the office, and in the evening went to the theatre. The play was very good, and I enjoyed it very much. I went to bed at 11 o'clock.

Spent the day at the office, and in the evening went to the theatre. The play was very good, and I enjoyed it very much. I went to bed at 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY 20th

Spent the day at the office, and in the evening went to the theatre. The play was very good, and I enjoyed it very much. I went to bed at 11 o'clock.

Spent the day at the office, and in the evening went to the theatre. The play was very good, and I enjoyed it very much. I went to bed at 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY 20th

Spent the day at the office, and in the evening went to the theatre. The play was very good, and I enjoyed it very much. I went to bed at 11 o'clock.

Spent the day at the office, and in the evening went to the theatre. The play was very good, and I enjoyed it very much. I went to bed at 11 o'clock.

Spent the day at the office, and in the evening went to the theatre. The play was very good, and I enjoyed it very much. I went to bed at 11 o'clock.



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 2016:

- Eleven new subscribers from Deepwater, Tamworth, Armidale, Glen Innes, Uralla, Moree, Bingara and Moonbi.
- A highlight of the CAE year was Arts North West's partnership with ABC Open to deliver ***Hidden Treasures*** - two free video/social media workshops with six Country Art Escapes museums. Participants included McCrossin's Mill Uralla, History House Museum Glen Innes, Saumarez Homestead Armidale, Powerstation Museum, Tamworth, Armidale Folk Museum, UNE museums Armidale. This project won an Imagine Award 2016 from Museums and Galleries NSW, and the videos can be seen on Arts North West website.
- 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.





CreativiTEA in Deepwater

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

CreativiTEA was one of ANW key projects in 2016. Using art as a tool for conversation for women in isolated communities, the CreativiTEA textile workshops were highly successful in attracting capacity attendance. In partnership with Centacare New England, Ascent Group, Carers NSW and Schizophrenia Fellowship, this Arts North West initiated project was funded through the Federal Government's drought-assistance package, bringing rural women together for a full day of conversation, creativity and companionship.

Workshops were run by textile artist Stephanie McIntosh in Deepwater, Urbenville, Ben Lomond, Ebor, Bundarra, Mungindi, Gravesend, Breeza, Pilliga and Maules Creek. One further workshop was held for carers in Armidale.

ARTLANDS Dubbo gave Arts North West the opportunity to have a significant presence on a national stage. The Conference delved broadly into significant issues surrounding regional arts in general, and in particular the important role of First Nations.

Arts North West presence at Artlands:

- Artworks@ARTLANDS – curated by Caroline Downer and Nicci Parry-Jones was a celebration of twelve regional artists which highlighted their creativity and their diversity of expression in a variety of media. Inspired not only by the landscape but by their own personal stories, this exhibition explored the texture and form of clay, the flow of line, shape and colour to create a fascinating snapshot of the work of artists in the mid-west of regional NSW.
- Caroline presented as part of the panel discussion Inspiring Communities with Science.
- Caroline gave a presentation on CreativiTEA - Chat, Create, Connect for Small Talks Creative Exchange.

★ Objective 2: Communities

Encourage and build community cultural capacity

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Arts North West welcomed Monica Davidson, an award-winning expert on the creative industries to the region as the guest workshop facilitator for our Creative Roadshow in March. Making money from creativity is an exciting challenge and the workshop covered the ten most important things that any creative person needs to address when managing an art-based business. Sessions were held in Armidale, Tamworth and Gunnedah and also included one-on-one arts/business advice and networking opportunities for artists, arts and community organisations.

In November the ANW Creative Roadshow went to Glen Innes, Moree and Tenterfield. *What Why & Wow! The Art of Project and Event Planning*, developed by ANW focused on arts project development, planning and delivery for artists, arts organisations, community groups, and local government event planners. A practical hands-on workshop which explored your project scope, budgets, timelines and checklists.



ANW Creative Roadshow, Armidale



Curious Creators (CASP2016), Quirindi Preschool

ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

The Executive Director has continued to provide assistance to a number of individuals across the region on a range of issues, including reviews of funding applications to Arts NSW and Federal Government.

She is a member of UNE Arts Advisory Panel, Tamworth Regional Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, Armidale Public Art Advisory Panel, Peel River Public Art Assessment Panel, and Tamworth Hospital Redevelopment Arts and Cultural Committee. She was appointed has also been appointed Chair of the Armidale Regional Council Arts and Cultural 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 2016 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 2016 were:

- Narrabri Art and Craft Society, *Discover Your Inner Artist- mosaic workshop* \$3,000
- New England Bach Festival, *Baroque Bar* \$1,800
- New England Medieval Arts Society, *Medieval Music workshops and Performance by PRAXIS* \$2,000
- New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM), *Print Beyond Text- artist inresidence project* \$3,000
- Quirindi Pre- School Kindergarten, *'Curious Creators' - Connecting with Nature* \$3,000
- Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, *Aboriginal Cultural Showcase, Traditional Dance* \$1,572
- Wallaby Art Group, *Inclusive Creativity* \$2,500



Gunnedah Community Arts Forum

Objective 3: Connections

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

WEBSITE

Our website 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

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.

NETWORKS

The inaugural Cultural Leaders Network for the New England/North West met in March in Armidale for a professional development day. Participants include directors of key cultural institutions in our region - theatre, galleries, museums, conservatorium. Leaders from Quirindi, Armidale, Tamworth and Gunnedah attended.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships in 2016 focussed on strategic initiatives, and included project delivery with organisations such as Centacare New England, Ascent Group, Carers NSW, NE Writers Centre, Museums Australia NE/NW Chapter, Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, Weswal Gallery, Tamworth Regional Gallery and Ability Links.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

ANW hosted Arts NSW in Tamworth and Armidale for Q&A sessions on their funding programs.

A Community Arts Forum was held in Glen Innes on 20 April which will assist in informing the review of their Cultural Plan. ED is also working with Gunnedah Shire Council on the development of their Public Art Strategy and Cultural Plan, with a Community Forum held on 4 July.

In Armidale, Caroline has been working closely with the newly merged Armidale Regional Council (Armidale/Guyra) on the development of their Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan and also completed a Cultural Mapping Project for the new Armidale region.

Caroline attended the NENW Regional Managers meeting in Tamworth and the NENW Chapter Museums Australia in April.

PRESENTATIONS

Caroline was invited to present at the Regional Galleries Association of South Australia conference. She highlighted some of the exciting projects that are happening in our own regional galleries here in the New England North West.

Caroline presented at the Accessible Arts Conference in Sydney as well as at the national regional arts conference ARTLANDS in Dubbo.

ANW Projects Officer gave a presentation to the History House Museum in Glen Innes on social media and using and creating videos to showcase museum objects.



Uralla Community Arts Forum, McCrossins Mill

★ 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, Walcha, Bingara and Tenterfield providing oversight of the organisation's finances, policies and strategic direction. The Board has one main sub committees - Planning and Governance. The Planning and Governance Subcommittee has developed a plan for Constitutional change, and the transition to a skill based Board over the next three years.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

A full policy and procedures audit was undertaken of policies and procedures. The following were approved in 2016: ANW Board and EO Delegations; ANW Board Code of Conduct; ANW Board Conflict of Interest and Declaration; ANW Board Duty Statement Acceptable Use of ANW Equipment; Brand Standards; Disability Action Plan; Disaster Management Plan; Emergency Evacuation; Fatigue Management; Financial Management; First Aid; Fraud and Risk Management; Injury and Incident Reporting; Privacy Policy; Risk Management Policy and Plan; Risk Management Procedures; Staff Expense Reimbursement; Staff Flexible Work Arrangements; Staff Leave; Staff Performance Appraisal; Staff Professional Development; Use of Vehicles for ANW Business; Vehicle Changeover; Work Health and Safety Policy.

STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The ED 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.

The ARTLANDS Conference at Dubbo also gave staff the opportunity to network with other regions, both in NSW and interstate, and to learn and exchange ideas.

2016 BOARD MEMBERS

Anna Watt	Chair Glen Innes Severn
Rebecca Ryan	Vice-Chair Gunnedah
Sandy McNaughton	Vice-Chair (co-opted)
Chris Newbigin	Secretary (co-opted)
Sue Price	Treasurer Moree Plains
Alan Davison	Armidale Dumaresq
Kay Delahunt	Tamworth Regional
Angela Doering	Gwydir (to 10 Oct 2016)
Tania Hartigan	Liverpool Plains
Jocellin Jansson	Narrabri
Kent Mayo	Uralla
Peter O'Donohue	Armidale Dumaresq
Andrew Sharp	Tamworth Regional
Gary Verri	Tenterfield
Frances Young	Gwydir (from 21 Nov 2016)

2016 STAFF

Caroline Downer	Executive Director
Nicci Parry-Jones	Projects Officer
Stephanie McIntosh	Communications Officer/Arts and Disability Officer
Lorraine Riggs	Aboriginal Arts Officer
John Hamilton	Finance Officer



Overview

TOTAL VALUE ANW ACTIVITIES

\$470,980

Creative Projects **\$355,257**

Marketing **\$48,298**

Advice/Advocacy **\$20,429**

Professional Development **\$16,717**

PARTICIPATION IN ANW ACTIVITIES

11,109

Creative projects **5,141**

Advice/Professional development
5,968

ANW REGION

Area **98,574km²**

Population **190,000**

RADO kms travelled

34,000km

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

91,769

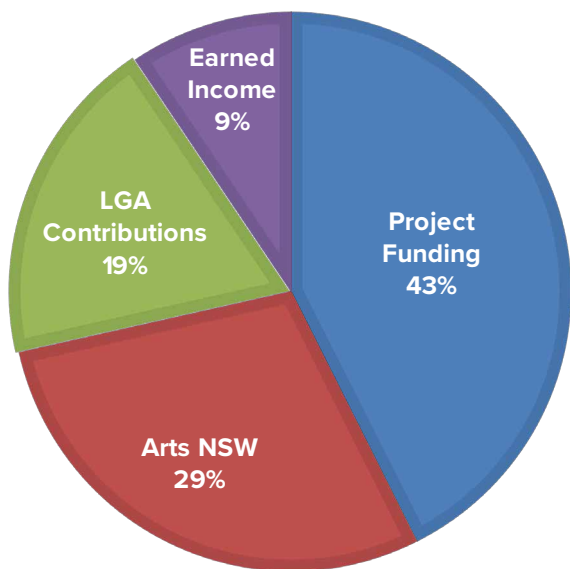
Social Media followers **2,484**

Number of responses **81,703**

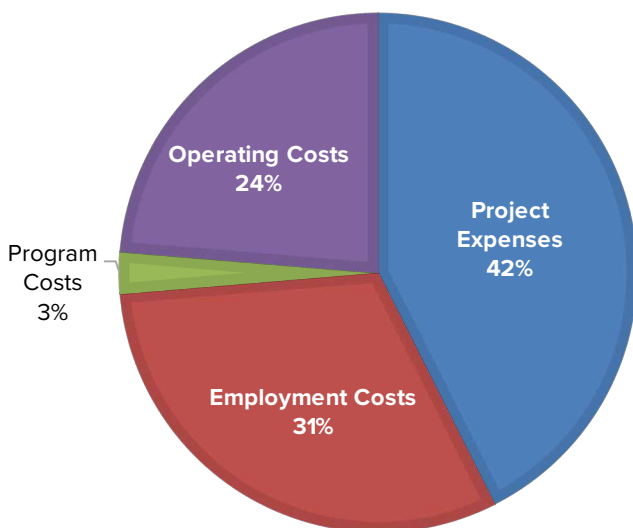
Number of website visitors **7,315**

★ Financial Overview

2016 INCOME



2016 EXPENDITURE



Audited Financial Statements are available on
Arts North West website www.artsnw.com.au

★ 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 11 **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.



Australian Government
Indigenous Culture Support

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

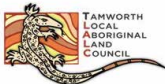


Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund



REGIONAL ARTS NSW

We acknowledge our **Project Partners**, Accessible Arts, Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, and the University of New England, Disability Providers in the NE/NW





www.artsnw.com.au

2016