



**Annual Report
2017**

**Arts
north
west**

Arts north west

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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





John Heffernan at Quirindi High School for *The Stuff of Tales*.

From the Chair

Arts North West has certainly taken its Mission “to generate creative opportunities in the New England North West of NSW” to new heights in the past year with an extremely busy schedule of events, activities and programs hosted across our region. While continuing to provide advice, advocacy and assistance to councils, arts and cultural organisations and artists. I trust that you will enjoy reading about all of these within the following pages of our Annual Report.

We appreciate the support from our major funding organisation Create NSW and Regional Arts NSW. We also acknowledge the contributions made by our participating councils and look forward to working with you in 2018 to further enrich the cultural landscapes of your communities.

I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to our committed and dedicated Executive Director Caroline Downer as well as staff members Nicci Parry-Jones, Stephanie McIntosh, Lorraine Riggs and John Hamilton for their professionalism, passion and innovative manner with which they delivered our many various programs throughout the year. I also wish to express my appreciation to my fellow 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 2018. As well as the upcoming challenge of a new governance structure, as we move to a two-tiered configuration with a skills based Board and a Strategic Advisory Council.

Anna Watt
Chair, Arts North West

From the Executive Director

This year seems to have been as busy as ever, if not more so!

We finished a number of key projects in our Enable Arts area- with the launch of our regional arts and disability resource manual: *Enabling Creativity*, and the completion of *Heading West* and *Putting the Pieces Together*.

We continue to provide professional advice; one-to-one and in workshops, and I always find it so enjoyable to hear about all the different ideas of arts projects and creative ideas in our region.

We have had a bumper year of strategic projects which have focused on youth engagement and diversity - everything from film-making, ceramics, large horse sculptures to creative writing on weird and wonderful objects in our museum collections.

Our core programs continued to build in 2017. In the Aboriginal Cultural Support Program, our key project has been to document the Elder stories of our region through film-making, Country Art Escapes continues to develop links with our smaller museums, and the new initiative Pocket Productions of Arts North West ON TOUR had its first tour to some of our small communities.

I would like to thank Nicci, Lorraine, Stephanie and John for their dedication and their passion for working in the arts. I would particularly like to acknowledge Nicci's service to our region. As a valued staff member of Arts North West for 10 years, she is moving north to follow her own creative pursuits and we wish her all the best.

We all love working with our artists and arts workers who create in the New England North West. And we are happy that Arts North West can make those connections to build our creative communities.

Caroline Downer
Executive Director



CHARGED! *The Battle of Beersheba* at Kentucky Public School

★ Objective 1: Creativity

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

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SUPPORT

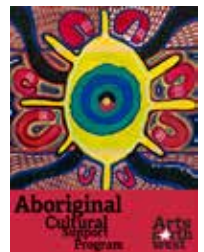
Through extensive community consultation and strategic partnerships Arts North West Aboriginal Arts Officer works with numerous individuals and organisations to build and improve opportunities for Aboriginal arts and communities in our region.

Arts North West provided strong professional development opportunities including:

- Professional Development workshop on Social Media in Moree
- Community Consultation in Moree to inform ANW programming into the future.
- Artstate Lismore was particularly successful in building and strengthening our relationship with key Aboriginal organisations in our region, and with Create NSW. Lorraine chaired a panel of Aboriginal Creative Collaborations in the North West which highlighted some of the key connections and projects that occur in our region.

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. Rod McIntosh, Adele Chapman-Burgess and Lorraine Riggs, and Pene Riggs visited the Australian Museum in February 2017 to view the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander collection with Rebecca Fisher & Sharni Jones. They viewed and discussed the traditional markings on artefacts from the New England and North West region.
- *Rivers to Ridges* continues to be a feature and focus for the program. *Rivers to Ridges and the stories in between* is an innovative project that uses the traditional concept of songlines in a contemporary form of multimedia to share and document stories of Elders, artists and areas of Aboriginal significance in our region. Lead artists including Dolly Jerome, Loren Ryan and Jade Porter accompanied Lorraine Riggs (Project Manager) and Brendan Blacklock (film maker) to collect oral history from Aboriginal Elders from our region. The project visited Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Tamworth, Gunnedah, Wee Waa, Narrabri and Moree. Supported by the Federal Government through Indigenous Languages and the Arts.





Rivers to Ridges - Dolly Jerome & Brendan Blacklock, Tenterfield

Sprung Integrated Dance Theatre at NERAM, Armidale



The **Heading West** project was completed in 2017 with the development and publishing of *Enabling Creativity: A Regional Arts and Disability Resource Manual* which was launched in Gunnedah and on ANW website <http://www.artsnsw.com.au/regional-arts-and-disability-manual/>

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

Putting the Pieces Together also finished in 2017, with three exhibitions in Tamworth, Armidale and Moree. This was a fully inclusive creative project that used large blank puzzle pieces as a canvas for both artists with and without a disability to express their own individual artistic experience. 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. A promotional video was also developed <http://www.artsnsw.com.au/putting-the-pieces-together-1>. Supported by Accessible Arts.

Sprung Integrated Dance Theatre from the Northern Rivers of NSW presented "Play" at the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale on 13 August 2017. Dancers Sinead Skorka Brennan and Tara Coughlan and Artistic Director Michael Hennessy worked with local actors from the Saturday Magic Theatre Troupe, local high school students, Ascent group staff and other community members through a series of dance and theatre activities resulting in a showing of the day's work in the afternoon. Participants had a fantastic day learning new skills, making new friends and creating an exciting collaborative theatre piece. Supported by ADFAS Youth Arts Grant.

Sprung Integrated Dance Theatre Inc is a not for profit community organisation providing dance and theatre workshops for persons with disability, with a focus on opportunities for integrated dance, dance and physical theatre training, collaborative and disability-led process, and developing dance theatre works that inspire mainstream audiences and promote a more inclusive society.

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 2017.

- *Spooky Men's Chorale* through Musica Viva toured to Gunnedah Civic Centre, TAS Hoskins Centre, Armidale, Capitol Theatre, Tamworth, Crossing Theatre, Narrabri, School of Arts, Tenterfield, and Chapel Theatre Glen Innes in February. A high quality production with broad appeal, excellent ticket sales and loved by audiences.
- *Dust of Uruzgan* gave performances at the Capitol Theatre, Tamworth and Gunnedah Conservatorium in May.
- *Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow* continues to be a big hit in our region- touring to Tamworth, Quirindi, Gunnedah and Tenterfield in June. An immensely popular tour with many of the shows selling out and venues already booked for 2018.
- Arts North West ON TOUR was delighted to negotiate with the Melbourne City Ballet to bring *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to the region in August/September (Bingara, Narrabri, Tamworth, and Gunnedah).

Our new initiative POCKET PRODUCTIONS was created to address a perceived need in our region for small bespoke theatre productions to tour to the small regional venues without a dedicated performing arts venue. A successful tour was managed in March 2017 of Dennis Coard's *The Fall of Roman Umpire* to ten communities- Emerald Hill, Walcha, Breeza, Barraba, Deepwater, Bundarra, Ben Lomond, Nundle, Barraba and Wialda in March 2017. It has been wonderful working with small communities and engaging with new stakeholders.

Two network meetings for Arts North West ON TOUR were held in TAS Hoskins, Armidale on 27 Feb and Narrabri Crossing Theatre 8 September. These have given venue representatives an opportunity to meet with their colleagues around the region and discuss pertinent issues; share successes and failures to better assist each other with ongoing matters relative to all of these regional venues.

2017 NETWORK MEMBERS

Armidale - TAS Hoskins Centre

Barraba - The Playhouse Hotel

Bingara - Roxy Theatre

Glen Innes - Chapel Theatre

Gunnedah - Civic Centre

Narrabri - Crossing Theatre

Quirindi - Royal Theatre

Tamworth - Capitol Theatre

Tenterfield - School of Arts





The Stuff of Tales at Saumarez Homestead, Armidale



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 2017:

- New subscribers on the Country Art Escapes trail include Kootingal Country Art Retreat; Artisans of the Glen, Glen Innes; The Living Classroom, Bingara; Lizzie Horne Creative in Armidale; Chaucer on Bridge St Gallery Uralla and Calala Cottage Museum, Tamworth.
- Six Country Art Escapes subscribers (Tamworth Powerstation Museum, McCrossins Mill Uralla, Saumarez Homestead Armidale, Railway Journeys Museum Werris Creek, Roxy Museum Bingara and The History House Glen Innes) also took part in a strategic project- *Stuff of Tales*
- 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.

In 2017 we partnered with Screenwave in Coffs Harbour to provide support for youth filmmaking workshops in Uralla, Tamworth and Armidale.





STRATEGIC PROJECTS

ANW ran a number of Strategic Projects in 2017 focusing on two key areas of youth participation and diversity.

CHARGED!: The Story of the Battle of Beersheba went to 6 small schools in our region Kentucky Public School, Chandler Public School, Jennings Public School, Fairfax Public School, and Toomelah Public School. Students spent three days on a number of different arts activities to explore the stories of the men of the 12th Light Horse Regiment that took part in the Battle. Students made hard tack biscuits, composed a letter home from the Front, and made their own special horse to create their own 'charge'. They used a number of different historical sources – letters, photographs, Light Horse uniform, maps to discover more about this significant event in World War I. In Toomelah students built a large horse sculpture. A video of the schools' involvement is on the ANW website <http://www.artsnw.com.au/beersheba/> Supported by the Australian Government through Anzac Centenary Funds.

STUFF OF TALES: Stories of Museums in the NE/NW is a two year partnership with New England Writers Centre, the Museums Australia NW Chapter and Bauer Media to promote small museums in the New England North West. In 2017, writers (Sophie Masson, John Heffernan, Ian Irvine, Beattie Alvarez, Fiona McDonald and Bronwyn Parry) worked closely with each museum to deliver professional development workshops to volunteers, as well as youth creative writing workshops to local high schools. The writers also created a story inspired by an object chosen from the permanent collection. Supported by Create NSW through Regional Partnerships.

Harmony Day a day of arts and culture in partnership with Glen Innes Severn Shire Council and Refugee Welcome Group Glen Innes (RWGI). The selection of cultural festivities based on art, food and music aims to highlight the rich contribution multiculturalism has made, and continues to make, to Australian culture and to encourage community inclusivity through harmonious engagement and creativity. Supported by Multicultural NSW through Celebrations Grant.

Table Talk was a series of pottery workshops for refugees and new migrants to the New England North West of NSW in partnership with the region's multicultural and support agencies. Two pottery workshop sessions run by ceramicist Nicci Parry-Jones were undertaken in Tamworth and Armidale to two separate groups of refugees/migrants that have made their home in our region. The concept was designed to deliver an arts-based project for socially isolated members in our community by promoting social harmony and the value of self-expression. Supported by Multicultural NSW through Unity Grant.

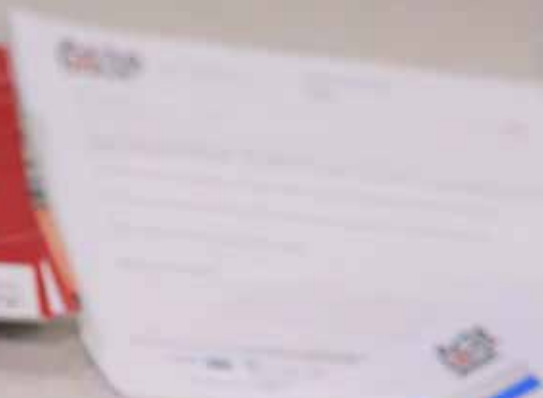
Objective 2: Communities

Encourage and build community cultural capacity

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

A series of professional development workshops were held in smaller villages for arts-based projects by environmental/Landcare groups. These were held in Uralla, Walcha, Deepwater, Bingara and Bundarra in the first half of the year. *What Why & Wow! The Art of Project and Event Planning*, developed by ANW focused on arts project development, planning and delivery. A practical hands-on workshop which explored project scope, budgets, timelines and checklists. Supported 2016 National Landcare Programme Community Grants.

In November, the Executive Director presented three grant-writing workshops in Tenterfield, Gunnedah and Quirindi. Arts Grant Writing Basics is a workshop offering handy tips and tricks to any individual or community organisation applying for arts grants. Participants learnt how to decode the application questions, summarise their project, prepare a justification and conquer their budget.



Colour me Kamilaroi



Artists Elizabeth Munro, An Johnson, Cindy Duncan

ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

Funding opportunities were disseminated to the network and the Executive Director continues to work with a number of individuals and organisations on funding applications, general enquiries, as well as numerous letters of support.

She is a member of UNE Arts Advisory Panel, and the Tamworth Regional Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee. She was 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 2017 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 that took place in 2017 were:

- Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council: \$1,700 for an Aboriginal Artist-in-Residence at the 2017 Aboriginal Cultural Showcase; a five-day program of Aboriginal arts and cultural activities that runs annually as part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival.
- New England Bach Festival Inc: \$3,000 for a one day community art festival "Artivate Armidale" in Armidale combining music, visual arts and theatre.
- New England Writers' Centre Inc: \$2,950 for a weekend of crime writing in Armidale which will include library talks and writing workshops and the official launch of the fifth annual Thunderbolt Crime Writing Award.
- Quirindi Preschool Kindergarten: \$3,000 for artist Madelynne Cornish to introduce preschool children to new ways of engaging with the environment through soundscape exploration.
- Mehi Gallery and Studio, Moree: \$3,000 to design, develop and compile a Kamilaroi inspired colouring book with the Aboriginal community. Emerging Aboriginal artists will design, produce and select a range of culturally significant designs to be featured in the colouring book
- GoCo Community Care- Gunnedah Shire Council: \$2,000 to support a disability inclusive group to participate in a four week pottery workshop series.
- Narrabri & District Community Aid Service Inc: \$1,481 to run print making and mixed media workshops to engage the Narrabri community in the visual arts.



ANW Project Delivery Workshop, Walcha

★ 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

ANW continues to manage a number of networks including Visual Arts, Writers, Enable Arts, Film NENW, Country Art Escapes, Aboriginal Artists, Arts North West ON TOUR

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships in 2017 focused on strategic initiatives, and included project delivery with organisations such as Ascent Group, Refugee Welcome Group Glen Innes, Northern Settlement Services, NE Writers Centre, Museums Australia NE/NW Chapter. Further afield the Executive Director has been developing a partnership with Cementa (contemporary arts festival in Kandos) to present an arts event in Bingara in 2018.

One of the most positive partnerships in development is with the Australian Museum in Sydney. RADOs were invited to an Arts and Cultural Forum in Sydney in October to discuss potential collaboration and to develop strategies for their regional engagement.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Create NSW visited our region in May. Caroline hosted and liaised forums in Armidale, Gunnedah and Moree, as well as specific one-on-one meetings in Tamworth. This was a very positive partnership between Create NSW and ANW.

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.

PRESENTATIONS

Caroline has given presentations about Arts North West programs and activities to Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn Shire, Gunnedah Shire, Gwydir Shire, Liverpool Plains Shire, Moree Plains Shire, Narrabri Shire, Tenterfield Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils in October and November. She also presented to the Tamworth Regional Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee.



★ 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, Narrabri, Tamworth and Armidale 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 in 2018. A Board Governance Workshop was also held in September in Tamworth, facilitated by David Sharpe to assist in the transition.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

A full policy and procedures audit was undertaken of policies and procedures in 2016, and remain up-to-date. New governance policies and a new Constitution were developed for ratification at the AGM in May 2018.

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

In October, our long-standing staff member Nicci Parry-Jones left ANW to follow her own creative pursuits in the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

2017 BOARD MEMBERS

Anna Watt	Chair Glen Innes Severn Shire
Rebecca Ryan	Vice-Chair Gunnedah community member
Sandy McNaughton	Vice-Chair (co-opted)
Chris Newbigin	Secretary (co-opted)
Sue Price	Treasurer Moree Plains Shire
Donna Ausling	Liverpool Plains Shire (from 18 March 2017)
Vivien Clyne	Moree community member (from 18 March 2017)
Alan Davison	Armidale Dumaresq (to 18 March 2017)
Kay Delahunt	Tamworth Regional
Tania Hartigan	Liverpool Plains community member
Jocellin Jansson	Narrabri Shire (to 18 March 2017)
Lauren Mackley	Gunnedah Shire (from 18 March 2017)
Kent Mayo	Uralla Shire (to 18 March 2017)
Peter O'Donohue	Armidale Dumaresq (to 18 March 2017)
Monique Rosewarne	Narrabri community member (from 18 March 2017)
Andrew Sharp	Tamworth community member (to 18 March 2017)
Tara Toomey	Uralla Shire (from 1 September 2017)
Louis van Ekert	Uralla community member (from 18 March 2017)
Gary Verri	Tenterfield Shire
Hayley Ward	Armidale Regional (from 18 March 2017)
Frances Young	Gwydir Shire

2017 STAFF

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



★ Overview

TOTAL VALUE ANW ACTIVITIES

\$420,346

Creative Projects **\$295,464**

Marketing **\$45,882**

Prof Dev/Advice/Advocacy **\$79,000**

**PARTICIPATION IN
ANW ACTIVITIES**

14,305

Creative projects **12,296**

Advice/Professional development
2,009

ANW REGION

Area **98,574km²**

Population **190,000**

RADO kms travelled

41,000km

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

128,365

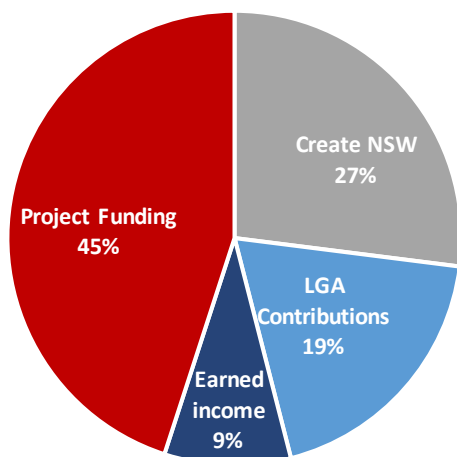
Social Media followers **2,912**

Number of responses **117,199**

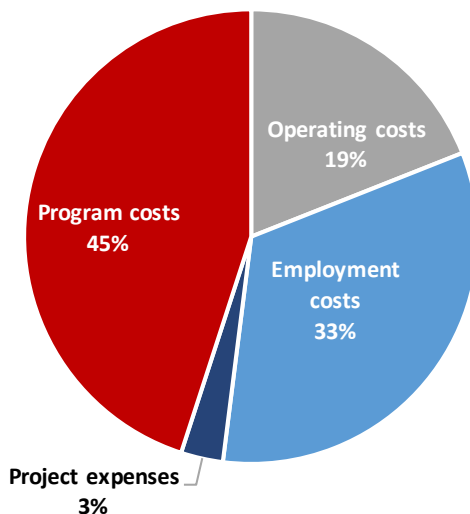
Number of website visitors **8,254**

★ Financial Overview

2017 INCOME



2017 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 Create 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 **Rivers to Ridges** Project is funded by the Federal Government through the Ministry for the Arts and the Indigenous Language and Arts Program



Australian Government
Department of Communications and the Arts

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



We acknowledge our **Project Partners**, Accessible Arts, Multicultural NSW, Federal Government through Anzac Centenary Funds, ADFAS Armidale, Northern Settlement Services, New England North West Landcare





connections
creativity
communities

www.artsnw.com.au

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