



Annual Report
2018

Arts
north
west

Arts north west

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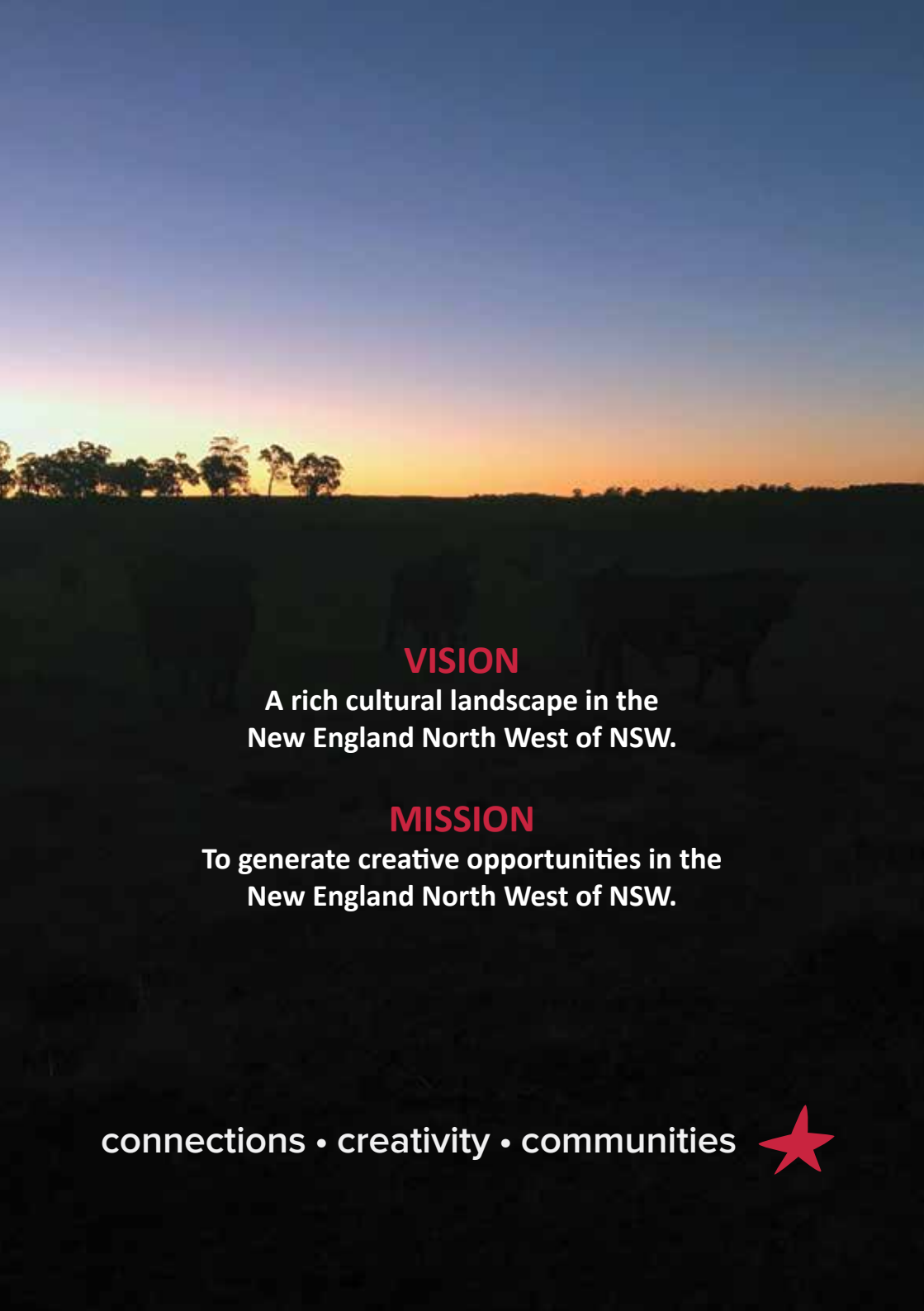
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Arts North West acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands we work on; we recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal people and respect the Aboriginal Elders past and present

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, there is a dark field with several cows silhouetted against the light. A line of trees is visible on the horizon.

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





From the Chair

Wow – 2018! During the past twelve months Arts North West has delivered a host of activities, programs and projects while continuing to provide advice, advocacy and assistance to councils, arts and cultural organisations and artists. Arts North West also moved to a new governance structure and now operates with a two-tiered configuration; a skills based Board of Management and a Strategic Advisory Council. Under this structure the role of the Board of Management is to ensure that ANW remains viable (legally compliant, financially solvent and that risks are well managed), to conduct strategic planning as well as to manage and represent those who are members. The Strategic Advisory Council reports to the Board of Management and comprises of representatives from contributing LGAs and up to four independent cultural organisations. Its role is to provide strategic input and feedback into programming and direction.

I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to our devoted and enthusiastic Executive Director Caroline Downer as well as staff members, Stephanie McIntosh, Lorraine Riggs, Christine Davis and Michael Burge for their expertise, passion and innovative manner with which they delivered our many various programs throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and express my appreciation to my fellow Board and Strategic Advisory Council members for their participation and support, and I am sure I echo their sentiments in saying what a pleasure it is to work with Caroline and her team. Special thanks to Sue Price for her contributions to ANW over the last six years and on behalf of the Board, Strategic Advisory Council and staff, I would like to wish Sue and Glen all the best in their future endeavours.

We appreciate the support from our major funding organisation Create NSW and our partner Regional Arts NSW. We also acknowledge the contributions made by our participating councils and look forward to working with you again during 2019 to further enrich the cultural landscapes of your communities.

Arts North West is very much looking forward to showcasing our region, artists and the experiences to be had when people from across NSW will unite in Tamworth to attend “Artstate Tamworth 2019” that we are co-hosting with the Tamworth Regional Council from Thursday, October 31st to Sunday, November 3rd 2019.

I suggest that you get a glass of your favourite infusion, sit back and enjoy reading everything achieved by Arts North West during 2018.

Anna Watt
Chair, Arts North West

From the Executive Director

It is always fascinating to reflect back on the previous year, and to celebrate some of the wonderful projects that Arts North West has undertaken.

2018 was again a year full of a myriad of activities - from advice and skills development to networking, partnerships and project delivery.

Arts North West ON TOUR had 8 productions with 33 performances in the region, as well as 7 performances in our Pocket Production program. We have been very busy with our Aboriginal Cultural Support Program with four projects on the go, and ANW Connect had a complete rebrand and refresh to create better connections in cultural tourism.

A highlight was the completion of our two year partnership with local writers and local museums *Stuff of Tales* that culminated in a published book and a launch in Armidale in November.

2018 has been a year of change- a new skill-based board, new staff and indeed a new office. I welcome Christine Davis and Michael Burge to the ANW team, and would like to thank Stephanie McIntosh and Lorraine Riggs for their commitment and enthusiasm.

It has been another enjoyable and fairly crazy creative year in the New England North West.

Caroline Downer
Executive Director



Walcha Sculpture Symposium

★ Objective 1: Creativity

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

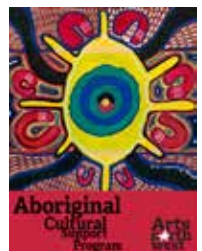
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SUPPORT

Arts North West, through extensive community consultation and strategic partnerships, is working with numerous individual and organisations to build and improve opportunities for Aboriginal arts and communities in our region.

Arts North West contracts 2 Rivers Pty Ltd to manage its Aboriginal Cultural Support Program. Through our Aboriginal Arts Officer, Lorraine Riggs, we are able to engage with the Aboriginal community be it at networking meetings, sitting on the river bank having a yarn or over a cup of tea.

Lorraine provides advice and assistance for Aboriginal artists within our region and regularly offers professional development opportunities through project funding. She also plays a key role in advocacy and support, including at the Aboriginal Arts Exchange and Artstate in Bathurst and is on a number of Create NSW Assessment Panels. We also thank Pene Riggs for all her work behind-the-scenes at 2 Rivers keeping track of our many Aboriginal projects.

A grant from Create NSW (Creative Koori) has allowed Arts North West to continue Lorraine's employment to drive the Arts North West Aboriginal Cultural Support Program. This is focused on building capacity and sustainability of Aboriginal artists and organisations through consultation, professional development workshops and developing an Aboriginal arts and culture strategy for the region. *Capacity-building, Networking and Sustainability: ANW Aboriginal Cultural Support Program* is a two year program which will provide a dedicated, cohesive, and regionally-based support for Aboriginal arts and cultural development in the NENW allowing our community greater access to opportunities to strengthen their culture through their arts practice and career development.





Len Waters at Terry Hie Hie



Rivers to Ridges

Creative Projects in the Aboriginal Cultural Support Program included:

- ***Making Old Marking New*** was a professional and skills development project, to rediscover Aboriginal mark-making traditions from our region. It provided an opportunity for Aboriginal artists to research and connect to the unique style from our region, based on traditional markings, icons and symbols. It culminated in an exhibition at the Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place in June. This expressed a strengthened connection of the artists to their culture as they shared their journey and discoveries of the project through the creation of new artworks. Supported by Create NSW through the Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund.
- ***Rivers to Ridges and the stories in between*** was an innovative project that used 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 Dolly Jerome, Loren Ryan, Jack Conlan and Jade Porter accompanied Lorraine Riggs (Project Manager) and Tim Leha (film maker) to collect and capture some wonderful stories from our Aboriginal Elders from across our region: Tingha, Toomelah, Moree, Narrabri, Terry Hie Hie, Tamworth, Walhallow, Tenterfield, Gunnedah and Wee Waa. Supported by the Federal Government through Indigenous Languages and the Arts.
- ***Our Plains, Our Hills, Our Home*** was a professional exhibition held in June at Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree. The exhibition was curated by Arts North West Aboriginal Arts Officer, Lorraine Riggs and showcased excellence in Aboriginal art by Kamilaroi people and focused on the special connection Aboriginal people have to Country.
- ***Create the Curator*** was a professional development program for emerging regional Aboriginal curators to gain the skills and networks required to establish themselves as Curators living and working in regional NSW. This was a two year project that included a series of workshops and professional skills development under Sandra McMahon, Director of Weswal Gallery, and held in Tamworth 29-31 October. The curators were from Moree, Armidale and Tamworth. Supported by Create NSW through the Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund.

ARTS NORTH WEST ON TOUR

Arts North West On Tour (ANWOT) is a regional network of small-to-medium performing arts venues in the New England North West coordinated by Arts North West. It promotes and negotiates touring productions for its venues and provides touring resources.

The following tours were negotiated for the network in 2018:

- *London Klezmer Quartet* toured with its internationally-renowned Eastern European music to Gunnedah Conservatorium; Capitol Theatre, Tamworth; Crossing Theatre, Narrabri; School of Arts, Tenterfield; Royal Theatre, Quirindi, and Chapel Theatre, Glen Innes in February. Audience figures averaged 63% capacity across the network, with positive reviews.
- A Performing Lines production, *William Yang: The Story Only I Can Tell* toured to TAS Hoskins Centre, Armidale; Chapel Theatre, Glen Innes; Gunnedah Civic Theatre; School of Arts, Tenterfield; Barraba Playhouse, and Nundle Memorial Hall (Tamworth LGA) in March. Audience attendance averaged around 30% capacity. The strongest audience numbers were reported in centres with Chinese heritage from the Gold Rush era (Glen Innes/Nundle).
- ArtTour's *Dustier Than Ever-A Show in Honour of Slim* performed during April at Gunnedah Civic Theatre; Royal Theatre, Quirindi, and Capitol Theatre, Tamworth, averaging 53% capacity.
- Monkey Baa's *Ickypedia* "kidult comedy duo" toured to Gunnedah Civic Theatre; Royal Theatre, Quirindi, and School of Arts, Tenterfield, to 100% capacity audiences.
- In May and June, Melbourne City Ballet's *Carmen* toured to TAS Hoskins Centre, Armidale; Chapel Theatre, Glen Innes; Roxy Theatre, Bingara; Crossing Theatre, Narrabri, and School of Arts, Tenterfield. Venues reported between 60-100% capacity.
- *Melbourne International Comedy Festival's* popular Roadshow toured in June to TAS Hoskins Centre, Armidale; Chapel Theatre, Glen Innes; Gunnedah Civic Theatre; Royal Theatre, Quirindi, and Capitol Theatre, Tamworth. Audiences numbers averaged 90% capacity.
- *Big Bad Wolf* by Windmill Theatre toured in October to TAS Hoskins Centre; Gunnedah Civic Theatre; Roxy Theatre, Bingara and Capitol Theatre, Tamworth. Audiences averaged between 43% and 90%.

Our new initiative POCKET PRODUCTIONS continues to address the need in our region for small-scale, bespoke productions and musical acts to tour to regional venues that do not have a dedicated performing arts venue. A successful tour of Armidale-based Bloodwood Quartet was mounted in April 2018 to Wallabadah, Barraba, Emerald Hill, Walcha, Deepwater, Armidale and Breeza.

A network meeting for Arts North West ON TOUR was held at TAS Hoskins Centre, Armidale on 27 March, giving representatives an opportunity to interact with their regional colleagues and discuss pertinent issues, share successes and assess failures.



2018 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 Royal Theatre at Quirindi



ARTS NORTH WEST CONNECT

Arts North West Connect is an online membership-based creative directory 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.

In 2018:

- Country Art Escapes was rebranded Arts North West Connect, with the new website shifting focus to be primarily a membership-based regional arts and creative directory administered by Arts North West that promotes cultural venues, artists and events in the New England North West region.
- The inaugural North West Art Trail Open Weekend was held 21/22 July for the Glen Innes and Tenterfield arts community, followed by the second open weekend on 27/28 October for Armidale, Uralla and Walcha. These Open Weekends gave visitors and locals the opportunity to explore artist studios, galleries, museums and cultural venues in the region. They have enabled Arts North West to engage with new members including small artist studios and raise the profile of Arts North West Connect in the region.

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 2018 we partnered with Screenwave in Coffs Harbour to provide support for youth filmmaking workshops in Uralla, Tamworth, Gunnedah and Armidale.

In September, Screenworks in partnership with Create NSW also ran a Location Scouting Seminar and practical workshop in Tamworth. This seminar trained local council officers and event managers to be able to respond efficiently to filming enquiries leading to better sourcing and promoting the locations of our region to domestic and international production companies.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

ANW ran a number of Strategic Projects in 2018 focusing on community capacity building:

STUFF OF TALES: Stories of Museums in the NENW

2018 was the second year of a two year partnership with New England Writers Centre and the Museums Australia NW Chapter to promote small museums in the New England North West. Arts North West delivered a number of workshops for both volunteers and youth. In Werris Creek and Tamworth volunteers participated in iMovie making workshops *Illuminating our Hidden Treasures*. Students from Quirindi High, Tamworth High, Glen Innes High and PLC Armidale took part in zine-making workshops.

Our six writers (Sophie Masson, John Heffernan, Ian Irvine, Beattie Alvarez, Fiona McDonald and Bronwyn Parry) submitted their commissioned story inspired by an object chosen from the permanent collections of six museums (Rail Journeys Museum Werris Creek, The Roxy Museum Bingara, The Land of the Beardies History House Glen Innes, McCrossins Mill Museum Uralla, Tamworth Powerstation Museum, Saumarez Homestead National Trust Armidale). A print-on-demand book was published and launched in Armidale in November. It is available for sale through the ANW website. The project was supported by Create NSW through Regional Partnerships.

Community CreativiTEA: Chat Connect Create

Arts North West worked with the Ben Lomond community in 2018 delivering a series of creative workshops which introduced and engaged the therapeutic benefits of art-making such as freedom of expression and creativity, stress relief and a distraction from the everyday realities of rural life in drought-affected areas. The project comprised 10 three-hour sessions over the year with artist Stephanie McIntosh and focused on developing skills in different arts media. It culminated in the development of an iMovie about the Ben Lomond War Memorial Hall. This was funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Tackling Tough Times Together Program.

★ Objective 2: Communities

Encourage and build community cultural capacity

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The Executive Director presented grant-writing workshops across the region in 2018. *Arts Grant Writing Basics*, developed by ANW, 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. It was delivered in Glen Innes, Armidale and Tamworth in March and Moree and Inverell in August.

The Executive Director presented a workshop to the Museums Australia NENW Chapter *Promotion on a Shoestring* at Saumarez Homestead Armidale in February.

An iMovie-making workshop *Creative Campaigns* was developed by Arts North West and delivered to New England North West Landcare organisations in Bingara.

Arts North West also partnered with a number of external organisations to deliver additional workshops: Create NSW *Creative Roadshow* and National Association for Visual Artists *Valuing your Work*.



iMovie making workshop



Armidale Youth Orchestra: An Orchestral Celebration

ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

The Executive Director continues to work with a number of individuals and organisations throughout the region on funding applications, general enquiries, project development, resource referrals as well as numerous letters of support.

Caroline has worked closely with Bank Art Museum Moree on its Strategic Planning and Board Review, and has provided support and feedback to Walcha Tourism for its Walcha Sculpture Symposium, held in September. She is also part of the Armidale Refugee Resettlement Task Group convened under the NENW Regional Leadership Executive and approved by State Cabinet.

Caroline is a member of the Tamworth Regional Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, Armidale Regional Council Arts, Cultural and Heritage Advisory Committee and the Glen Innes Public Art Panel. She is also a Board Member of the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM).

CASP GRANTS

A number of applications were received for the 2018 Country Arts Support Program (CASP) which is funded through Create NSW and managed locally by Arts North West. The successful CASP projects that took place in 2018 were:

- Armidale Regional Council: *Enliven: the beginning of a street art explosion*
Council employed a street artist in summer to create a vibrant mural that will eventually become part of a street art walking tour.
- Barraba Potters and Craft Guild Inc.: *Marsupials and Birds Sculpture Techniques*
Maggie Brockie tutored a three day clay workshop in Barraba to enhance the skills of regular potters and introduce new potters to sculpting in clay.
- Arts Gunnedah Inc *Arts Gunnedah Visual Arts Workshops*
Visual art workshops were held encouraging local artists of all ages from Gunnedah and surrounding areas.
- Walcha Tourism: *Walcha Sculpture Symposium*
Four Artist Demonstration Workshops were a component of a wider sculpture symposium held in Walcha in September 2018.
- *Cool Choir Deepwater*
Cool Choir was a series of four community choir workshops held in Deepwater November/December 2018.
- Armidale Youth Orchestra: *An Orchestral Celebration*
The Armidale Youth Orchestra turned 50 in 2018- and celebrated by commissioning a work by local composer Paul Marshall, performed at a special celebratory concert in Armidale in August 2018 by current members and alumni of the orchestra.

Objective 3: Connections

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

WEBSITE

The Arts North West 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 publishes fortnightly enews highlighting events around our region and funding opportunities. A quarterly newsletter is distributed to our 12 contributing local Councils. We are also active on a number of social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

ANW continues to manage a number of networks including Visual Arts, Writers, Enable Arts, Film NENW, ANW Connect, Aboriginal Artists and Arts North West ON TOUR. In 2018 Arts North West also took on the coordination of the Museums Australia NENW Museums Chapter (now Museums New England North West network). Partnerships in 2018 focused on strategic initiatives and included project delivery with organisations such as NE Writers Centre, NAVA, Screenworks, Screenwave, Weswal Gallery, The Australian Museum and the Kainga Project.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We are delighted that Inverell Shire Council has returned to the network and look forward to working with their community developing arts and cultural initiatives.

ANW remains a strong advocate for arts and cultural development in regional NSW, working in partnership with all three levels of government. The Executive Director provides advice and input into strategies and initiatives across a number of portfolios including the 2025 State Cultural Infrastructure Plan. Caroline is proactive in the region, presenting to local Councils as well as judging various community art shows and competitions. ANW also assisted Cultural Infrastructure Project Management Office (CIPMO) and the Regional Cultural Fund to deliver information sessions in the region in June.



Create the Curator at Weswal Gallery

★ 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.

In 2018, Arts North West moved to a new governance structure comprising a skill-based Board of Governance of nine members with a second tier, the Strategic Advisory Council, consisting of a delegate from each of our contributing Local Government Authorities as well as four community arts organisation representatives.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Executive Director attended the Regional Arts NSW network meetings which are 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. The Aboriginal Arts Officer and Communication Officer also each attended an annual joint RADO meeting, and participated in teleconferences.

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

NEW OFFICE

After more than ten years above the Glen Innes Tourist Information Centre, Arts North West moved to 16 East Avenue in the beautiful Glen Innes King George Parklands, courtesy of the Glen Innes Severn Council. The new move gives Arts North West a more noticeable presence in the Glen Innes community and a more accessible location for staff and visitors.



ANW Staff at Glen Innes new office

2018 BOARD MEMBERS

To 11 May:

Anna Watt	Chair Glen Innes Severn Shire
Rebecca Ryan	Vice-Chair Gunnedah community member
Sandy McNaughton	Vice-Chair (co-opted)
Chris Newbiggin	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)
Kay Delahunt	Tamworth Regional
Tania Hartigan	Liverpool Plains community member
Lauren Mackley	Gunnedah Shire (from 18 March 2017)
Monique Rosewarne	Narrabri community member (from 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

Following AGM 11 May 2018

Anna Watt	Chair
Sandy McNaughton	Vice-Chair
Chris Newbiggin	Secretary
Sue Price	Treasurer
Sally Blackwood	
Vivien Clyne	
Peter Ross	
Hayley Ward	
Len Waters	



2018 STRATEGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Donna Ausling	Liverpool Plains Shire
Vivien Clyne	Bank Art Museum Moree
Kay Delahunt	Tamworth Regional
Tania Hartigan	Wallaby Group Wallabadah
Jennifer Kealey	Walcha
Lauren Mackley	Gunnedah Shire
Sue Price	Moree Plains Shire
Rebecca Ryan	Gunnedah Conservatorium of Music
Tara Toomey	Uralla Shire
Louis van Ekert	McCrossins Mill Museum Uralla
Gary Verri	Tenterfield Shire
Hayley Ward	Armidale Regional
Anna Watt	Glen Innes Severn Shire
Frances Young	Gwydir Shire

2018 STAFF

Caroline Downer	Executive Director
Stephanie McIntosh	Communications Officer
Lorrayne Riggs	Aboriginal Arts Officer
Christine Davis	Administrative Assistant (from May 2018)
Michael Burge	Touring Coordinator (from October 2018)
John Hamilton	Finance Officer (to July 2018)
Hayley Clark	Finance Contractor (from July 2018)





Overview

TOTAL VALUE ANW ACTIVITIES

\$459,513

Creative Projects **\$329,633**

Marketing **\$58,394**

Prof Dev/Advice/Advocacy **\$71,486**

**PARTICIPATION IN
ANW ACTIVITIES**

11,173

Creative projects **9,222**

Advice/Professional development

1,951

ANW REGION

Area **98,574km²**

Population **186,935**

kms travelled

44,000km

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

103,544

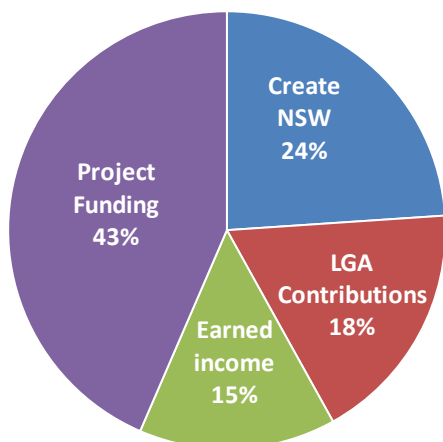
Social Media followers **3,262**

Number of responses **94,869**

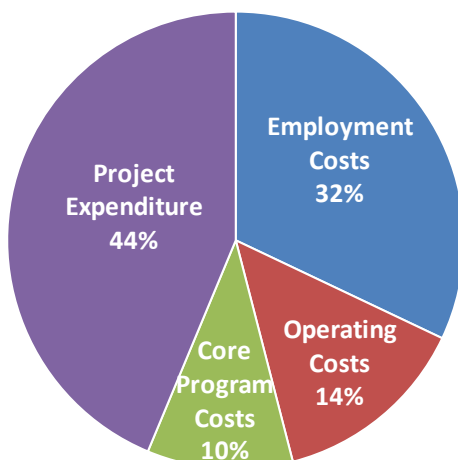
Number of website visitors **5,413**

★ Financial Overview

2018 INCOME



2018 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 12 **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 following projects were funded by Create NSW: **Create the Curator** and **Making Old Markings New** (Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund) and **Stuff of Tales** (Regional Partnerships).



Community CreativiTEA: Chat Connect Create was funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Tackling Tough Times Together program

Photography by Caroline Downer, Stephanie McIntosh and Lorraine Riggs



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