

**ARMIDALE REGIONAL - GLEN INNES SEVERN - GUNNEDAH - GWYDIR - INVERELL - LIVERPOOL PLAINS - MOREE PLAINS - NARRABRI - TENTERFIELD - TAMWORTH REGIONAL - URALLA - WALCHA**

## WELCOME

A NEW YEAR AND LOTS OF EXCITING PLANS!

We have been climbing down from the excitement of Artstate Tamworth which was held at the beginning of November. It was gratifying to see The Hon Ben Franklin mention the event in the Legislative Chamber on 21 November: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Hansard/Pages/HansarResult.aspx#/docid/HANSARD-1820781676-81252>

Planning is well underway for a bumper year of community capacity-building activities in 2020, our usual collaborations with Arts North West on Tour venues and as well as the delivery of some new exciting projects in our Aboriginal Cultural Support and Enable Arts programs.

Caroline Downer  
Executive Director



## ENABLE ARTS NETWORK

ARTS AND DISABILITY PROJECTS

Our Enable Arts Network which is focused on providing creative opportunities to artists with a disability will be returning to the forefront of Arts North West programming in 2020. We are in the process of finalising two exciting new projects that will be rolled out towards the middle of the year.



We will be welcoming back *Sprung Integrated Dance Company* from the Northern Rivers, to **Inverell** and **Armidale**. In *Make it Rain*, participants will create a work on a blank umbrella that will then be used as a prop in a dance workshop. After the workshop, the umbrellas will then be installed in Armidale Regional Airport.

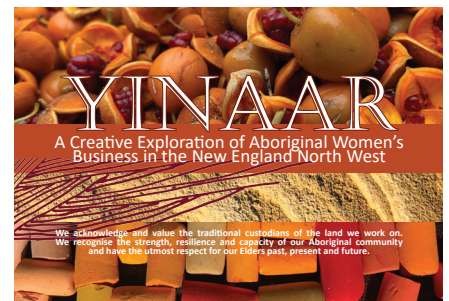


The second project, *Sketchbook Library*, will give artists with and without a disability the opportunity to create their own body of work within a sketchbook. Participants can have the sketchbook mailed to them or take part in one of a series of creative workshops throughout the region.

The sketchbooks will then tour around the region's libraries including **Narrabri**, Shire, **Gunnedah** Shire, **Gwydir** Shire, **Liverpool Plains** Shire, **Tamworth** Regional, **Uralla** Shire, and **Walcha** Council.

## ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

SUPPORT, ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR  
ABORIGINAL ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES



The *Yinaar* project has begun with considerable consultation and the development of protocols under the direction of an Aboriginal Steering Committee chaired by Aunty Yvonne Kent.

Finishing touches were completed on the *Yesterday Today Tomorrow* project in preparation for its exhibition tour to **Inverell** (13 February to 17 March) **Moree** (26 March to 20 April) and **Tamworth** (4 May to 2 June).

Arts North West is assisted by the NSW Government through Create NSW and the partnership of twelve local government authorities in the New England North West.

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.



## COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM

SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY GRANTS FOR 2020



Winter Blooming 2019 Drag Workshop with Zodiac and Miss Daphne Gay. Photograph by Gabi Briggs.

**Deepwater:** *Deepwater Progress Association Inc: Woodfired Raku Kiln Workshop*  
A 2-day workshop on history of Raku, glaze making for woodfired Raku pottery firing in steel rubbish bin kilns.

**Quirindi:** *Quirindi Preschool Kindergarten Incorporated: Biochrome – Children, Nature, Art and Science Collaboration*  
Artist Dr Renata Buziak will conduct a 3-day workshop. Educators, children and families will explore one of the earliest historical photographic processes: the cyanotype.

**Armidale:** *New England Regional Art Museum: Winter Blooming Festival*  
Winter Blooming is a festival that celebrates Indigenous, multicultural and LGBTIQ arts, culture and communities. The festival is an inclusive event that supports diversity and it open to all occurrence.

**Armidale:** *New England Writers' Centre: Leaf, Stone, Beetle: Storytelling through metaphor and visual narrative*  
Presented by multi-award-winning author Ursula Dubosarsky and publisher Margrete Lamond, this imaginative, innovative project involves a community workshop, public talk, and school presentations.

**Gunnedah:** *Arts Gunnedah Inc: Artist Workshops to be held during the year of the 50th Annual Art Exhibition Celebration in 2020*  
Visual art workshops will assist beginners, and experienced artists in all mediums and of all ages to learn new skills and come together to facilitate learning and encourage community involvement.

**Moree:** *Bank Art Museum Moree: The Painted River Project*  
Two professional artists will lead an “en plein air” workshop at the Gwydir Wetlands in Moree in collaboration with University of Western Sydney, local Moree artists and the Local Lands Services in April 2020. Artworks will be exhibited as part of the BAMB Art Fair 2020.

**Glen Innes:** *Glen Innes Pottery Club: “Precious Flora”*

Glen Innes Pottery Club will host ceramic artist Dr Cathy Franzi for a workshop where participants will visit World Heritage National Parks, gather inspiration from the precious environment, learn new ceramic techniques and exhibit work at the local Agricultural Show.



## OUT AND ABOUT

CONVERSATIONS, NEWS, NETWORKING, SKILLS

The Executive Director continues to work with **Walcha** Council on developing their Public Art Policy and has been attending the **Inverell** Arts in Health Working Group. She developed and facilitated a workshop on Art Handling and Installation to **Narrabri** Shire Council in November.

Caroline also attended the Classical Music Artform Advisory Board meeting and the Regional Arts Development Organisation Network meeting, both in Sydney in November. These events allow for Caroline to network and advocate on behalf of the arts and cultural sector in our region.

Finally Caroline has been in discussions with State agencies and the Creative Recovery Network to assist our creative community with bushfire and drought recovery.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING, NETWORKS

We are delighted to partner with the University of New England this year to bring some professional development workshops to the region. These workshops will build capacity for our region’s community and cultural development and provide opportunities for local creatives. Keep an eye out for the wonderful Monica Davidson from Creative Plus Business who will be coming through the region (**Tamworth, Armidale, Inverell**) in May.

Arts North West on Tour continues to negotiate touring product throughout the region. Fifteen performances are planned in the first six months of 2020 in venues in **Armidale, Gunnedah, Glen Innes, Inverell, Narrabri, Quirindi, Tamworth** and **Tenterfield**. Shows booked are *What’s New Pussy Cat*, *Hell Ship* and the *Melbourne Comedy Festival Roadshow*.



*Portfolio Promotion Pitch*, a skills development program for Aboriginal artists kicks off in March in **Wallabadah** with a residency.

The artstate exhibition *Art Word Place* which promoted artists and writers from all our **12 LGAs** will be touring to **Armidale** and **Moree** in the first half of the year.

