

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

WELCOME

WE LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES

Our year started in the usual busy fashion - with exhibition openings, theatre productions, professional development sessions, and lots more. Of course with the COVID-19 pandemic, things have changed considerably since mid-March.

As we are sure you are aware, the arts and cultural sector has been impacted severely by COVID-19 and the social distancing requirements. Across our region, we have had numerous festivals and theatre productions cancelled, galleries and museums shut, bookshops closed, let alone the devastating effect to artists in trying to maintain their income. Our work relies on gatherings, and national touring, both small and large, in remote locations, in regions

and in cities. We were the first industry to be hit and we will be one of the last able to trade again. Over the past couple of weeks, self-generated income for artists for the year has vanished.

At this time, it is even more important for our sector to have support, advice and advocacy. Arts North West is still open for business and continues to provide advice and support to regional artists in the New England North West, as part of the strong RADO network in NSW. We have compiled a collection of resources to inform our stakeholders and to provide some support as we all navigate this very uncertain new world. www.artsnw.com.au.

ANW staff are working from home, and we already have good online platforms and technology to support remote



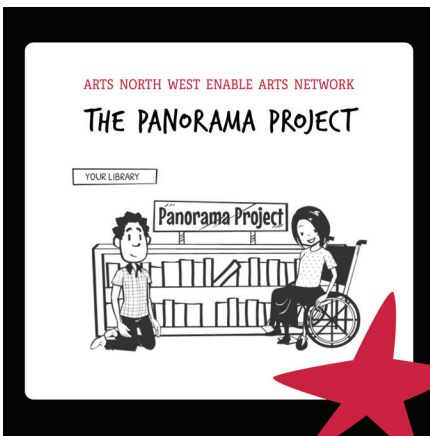
working and online meetings. ANW's AGM will be 11:30am on Friday 22 May. Go to <https://www.artsnw.com.au/organisation-information> for the AGM Papers.

Stay safe and well, together we can look after and support our wonderful creative community.

Caroline Downer
Executive Director

ENABLE ARTS NETWORK

ARTS AND DISABILITY PROJECTS



The Panorama Project is a collective arts activity from Arts North West, engaging hundreds of people across the New England North West of NSW from the places they call home. <http://www.artsnw.com.au/panorama-project>

It starts with a small, personal sketchbook, delivered to each participant in all **12 LGAs**, and ends as a travelling exhibition of all the sketchbooks, transformed by the breadth of imagination, talent, and voices of this vast region.

This project gives a rare opportunity for a wide audience to understand the perspectives of people in New England North West through imagery, colour and media, while capturing a moment in time, and serves a kind of visual historical document of this challenging time.

It is open to all people, of all abilities, aged 16 and above, but is focused on artists with a disability and lower socio-economic residents of our area. It has already been embraced by disability and community support services across the region. Local councils have also come aboard to promote the project to their residents.

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.

ANW MICRO GRANTS

SUPPORTING OUR CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Arts North West is offering Quick Response Micro Grants of up to \$1,000 for independent professional practising artists across all art forms, community groups and arts organisations to support their creative endeavour.

Designed to support the continuation of locally determined community arts and cultural practice in uncertain times, this funding aims to be as flexible as possible. Projects do not require a specific outcome but can focus on skills development or capacity-building.

This is a quick turn around grant-applications close 4 May and successful applicants are notified by 11 May. This program is open to creatives in all **12 LGAs**. <https://www.artsnw.com.au/microgrant-application>

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

SUPPORT, ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR ABORIGINAL ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES



Yesterday Today Tomorrow worked with six emerging Kamilaroi artists who developed works inspired by Country.

Inverell Art Gallery hosted the first of the travelling exhibitions (13 February to 17 March). Artists Brent Emerson and Vicky Duncan were in attendance and Aunty Liza Duncan also spoke as the lead Elder for the Inverell Shire component. Exhibitions at Moree and Tamworth have been postponed.

The first professional development session for *Portfolio Promotion Pitch* was held in **Tamworth** in early March.

This is an initiative to support young emerging Aboriginal visual artists in the New England North West to develop their arts practice. The next session at Narrabri High School has had to be postponed due to COVID-19.



Yinaar aims to deliver contemporary artistic and creative practice inspired by Aboriginal women's traditional practices. Community consultations were held in **Glen Innes**, **Tenterfield** and **Inverell** where the draft cultural protocols were tabled for feedback.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR ARTISTS



Art Word Place, the exhibition from Artstate, was installed in Canberra at the Regional Australia Institute in early March. Regional Australia Institute (RAI) is a think tank devoted to issues concerning regional Australia with a wealth of experience in regional research, policy-making and community consultation.

Unfortunately the offices have been closed since late March and we are now hoping to extend the time of the exhibition in Canberra so it can get a decent showing.

OUT AND [NOT] ABOUT

CONVERSATIONS, NEWS, NETWORKING, SKILLS



ANW partnered with the Australia Council for the Arts on their Arts Leadership Exchange as part of their broader Arts Leadership Program which was held at the **Tamworth** Regional Gallery in February.

Caroline presented to a **Walcha** Councillor Workshop on 17 February on the Public Art Policy that she has developing with the Arts Council.

Caroline has been appointed Chair of the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee for **Armidale** Regional Council. She has also been attending the **Inverell** Arts in Health Working Group and delivered an information session to **Narrabri** Shire Council in February.

She attended the **Armidale** Arts Launch in February held at the TAS Hoskins Centre, and has also coordinated the **Armidale** Region Heritage Network which was to deliver an integrated week of activities in May (cancelled due to COVID-19).

At a state level, ANW has been extremely busy advocating for regional arts, particularly for support during this pandemic. The RADO network continues to be a valuable and collaborative resource. Since the end of March, it has been meeting fortnightly on zoom, to discuss covid-19 response and provide peer support. ANW also provided data to State and Federal governments through its bushfire and drought survey.



ARTS NORTH WEST ON TOUR

PERFORMING ARTS NETWORK

Arts North West on Tour continues to negotiate touring product throughout the region. Nostalgia musical/cabaret *What's New Pussycat?* toured to **Gunnedah**, **Quirindi** and **Tenterfield** in February, with positive audience responses.

The ANWOT network met online in early April to discuss the 2020 and 2021 schedule of tours, the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on performing arts venues, and updates to staffing and resourcing.



ANW also auspiced the Comic Relief Tour, which was organised by the North West Film Festival and toured to multiple small villages in our region in February and early March.

