

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

WELCOME

A BUMPER START TO THE YEAR!



At the end of 2020 we were finally able to get out and about and delivered a series of professional development workshops on various topics- art handling, disaster preparedness for museums (seemed very apt in the era of COVID-19), how to set up an online shop and the art of pitching.

We also enhanced and expanded our online presence with a number of different e-resources to support artists with their creative businesses www.artsnw.com.au/anw-eresources.

Do also check out our new website (a creative directory and cultural tourism site) www.artsnwconnect.com.au. There are sections on each of our LGAs, encouraging visitors to explore our wonderful region.

2021 has started with bumper news and we are delighted to announce that we have \$130,000 arts restart funding from Create NSW to support arts and cultural activities in our region. Your LGA's contribution to Arts North West allows us to deliver some very exciting projects into your area. Further information of what is being planned is in this news.

These projects are on top of other ANW initiatives which continue to be rolled out this year. This includes the two major community arts projects- *The Panorama Project* (sketchbooks that have documented COVID-19 in the NENW - www.artsnw.com.au/panorama-project) and *Captain Isobolt and the Great Covid Crises of 2020* (a set of 5 short videos engaging community theatre practitioners in the NENW). www.artsnw.com.au/captain-isobolt.

Both these projects have involved artists in all our LGAs, providing many opportunities for creative networking.

We have a great year ahead, we hope to see you all out safely at arts and cultural event in the NENW.

Caroline Downer, OAM
Executive Director

ARTS RESTART FUNDING

A MYRIAD OF CREATIVE PROJECTS

The Arts Restart Funding from Create NSW will include the following projects:

1. ANW Connect

Employing 12 "creative champions" in each of our regions who will work with creative practitioners and arts venues to promote and sell their work. We will also be employing 12 local photographers who will be tasked in documenting the many arts events that are happening in our area.

2. Enable arts (arts and disability)

Sprung! Integrated Dance and Theatre will deliver performances and workshops in Inverell and Armidale working alongside some of our key arts and disability community groups.

3. Aboriginal Cultural Support Program

"Bawi-li" - a duo of Aboriginal female singer songwriters from Tamworth- Loren Ryan and Quarralia Knox writing and recording 6 new songs and performing in Wee Waa, Wallhallow, Toomelah, Mungindi.

4. Roundtables and Residencies

These two projects focus on a key feature of ANW's programs- the cross fertilisation and networking across artforms.

• "Looking Both Ways"

A series of creative roundtables - bringing together 30 visual artists and writers from across the NENW to study creative inspiration and the interplay of text and image.

• "In the Museum"

A set of 5 residencies in small volunteer museums in our region - in Narrabri,

Tenterfield, Gunnedah, Armidale and Glen Innes. A local artist (from any artform) will be embedded in these museums to work with their collections, and to develop new work for exhibition. As part of this residency, they will also deliver a workshop for the community.

Arts North West is partnering with Tamworth Regional Council to deliver the Manilla Micro Music Festival which will bring together a range of local musicians drawn from across the Tamworth LGA and greater region for a relaxed music gathering over a Friday night and Saturday afternoon in April 2021. Covering all contemporary styles from jazz to country to blues, there will be at least 12 performance spots for local singer-songwriters and musicians.

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.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

ANW CREATIVE INITIATIVES

The exhibition *Art Word Place* was shown at the **Gunnedah** Civic Gallery November 2020 to February 2021. It moves to the Dixson Library at UNE in **Armidale** in early February.



We had some very enthusiastic dramaturgs who have been involved in the *Captain Isobolt and the Great Covid Crises of 2020* series. The videos were all completed at the end of 2020, with the soundtrack added in January 2021. It has been released through our social media channels and there will also be the opportunity for cinema showings **around the region.** www.artsnw.com.au/captain-isobolt.

ARTS NORTH WEST ON TOUR

PERFORMING ARTS NETWORK

In November, Pocket Productions toured a covid-safe production *Country Witches Association* to **Bonshaw, Quirindi, Gunnedah, Deepwater, and Tenterfield.**



We are confident that we will also be able to tour a number of productions in 2021- even under COVID restrictions. In March *Hell Ship* with Michael Veitch is touring to **Narrabri, Tamworth, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Inverell and Glen Innes.**

ENABLE ARTS

ARTS AND DISABILITY PROJECTS

The Panorama Project is now on the road on its library tour. Check out the dates for the next couple of months:

- **Uralla** Library 5- 18 Feb
 - **Walcha** Library 19 Feb- 4 Mar
 - **Tamworth** Library (main) 5- 23 Mar
 - **Werris Creek** Library 24- 30 Mar
 - **Quirindi** Library 31 Mar- 6 Apr
 - **Nundle** Library 7- 13 Apr
 - **Gunnedah** Library 15 Apr- 5 May
- www.artsnw.com.au/panorama-project.



COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

The following projects were successful with their grant applications for the Country Arts Support Program in 2021

Armidale NE Writers Centre: *Prepare to Self Publish*

Workshops for self-publishing authors on editing, designing and creating the professional print-ready file for their book as well as marketing and promotion.

Gunnedah Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society Incorporated: *Slam Poetry Workshops*
Miles Merrill, slam performance writer from Word Travels, based in Sydney, will conduct a writing and performance workshop for secondary school students from Gunnedah High School and Barraba Central School.

Gunnedah Winanga-Li: *Create Gunnedah High*

A public art project at the local high school using 18 concrete planters around the school grounds.

Narrabri Narrabri Shire Council: *CREATE - An Art and Culture Event*

An annual event "CREATE" which will include art, film, music and lights, with following years seeing more activities added to increase diversification.

Bingara Gwydir Shire Council: *Print Making Workshop*

A drypoint printing workshop will run for two days out of the Living Classroom in Bingara.

Armidale New England Regional Art Museum: *Artist Residency Program*
Two funded residencies to NSW-based artists to engage in creative and professional development utilising NERAM's Packsaddle Residence and the Museum of Printing.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY



ANW developed and supported a number of professional development workshops in the last quarter.

- **Disaster Planning Workshop for Museums** Presenter Julie McCarthy in **Tenterfield** and **Tamworth**
- **Art Handling and Installation.** Presenter Caroline Downer in **Narrabri**
- **Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Workshop** with Dave Widders (**Zoom**)
- **Pitchface** – Presenter Monica Davidson (**Zoom**)

Keep an eye out for more Creative Plus Business workshops- this time face to face in **Armidale, Tamworth, Gunnedah** and **Inverell** 10-13 March.

