

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

WELCOME

WHAT A BUSY FIRST QUARTER



There really isn't enough room on our allotted 2 pages to talk about all the activity ANW has been doing in the first quarter of the year.

We've had residencies, creative discussions, micro music festivals, an Aboriginal Leadership Symposium, lots and lots of networking, theatre performances, professional development workshops and exhibitions.

With all this activity, we have been able to employ quite a few people on short-term contracts as part of the Arts Restart funding. This includes a new Regional Music Officer- Sarah Leete who will be working 4 days a week until June 2022.

We also welcome Michèle Jedlicka to the ANW team, she is coming on board as Projects Officer to assist in project development and coordination.

Our two websites are full of information, plus our fortnightly e-news and three social media platforms. Check out www.artsnw.com.au and www.artsnwconnect.com.au

Finally we have our AGM in Glen Innes on 21 May at 5:30pm. All are welcome. We have a great year ahead, we hope to see you all out safely at arts and cultural events in the NENW.

Caroline Downer, OAM
Executive Director

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

SUPPORT, ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR ABORIGINAL ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES



The inaugural Aboriginal Leadership Symposium was held at the **Armidale Cultural Centre** and Keeping Place 26-28 April with key speakers Bibi Barba, Amala Groom, Jamie-Lea Trindall, Arts Law as well as our own Loren Ryan, Buddy Hippi, Nate Weatherall and Lorraine Fishenden. It was an important gathering of Aboriginal creatives to discuss issues that affect artists working in the region. We were also lucky to have Luke O'Shea and Kevin Bennett perform their song "Happy Australia Day".

ARTS NORTH WEST ON TOUR

PERFORMING ARTS NETWORK



Pocket Production *Shootin' Sadie* toured the region in April-May, 2021. Australian Poetry Hall of Fame **Guyra**, **Currabubula** Hall, **Kelvin** Hall, **Yetman** Hall, **Deepwater** School of Arts, **Uralla** Arts. The preview performance was at DAG Sheep Station, **Nundle**.

Hell Ship toured to our region in March 2021. (Crossing Theatre **Narrabri**, **Gunnedah** Civic, Royal Theatre **Quirindi**, **Inverell** Town Hall, **Glen Innes** Chapel Theatre.)

ENABLE ARTS

ARTS AND DISABILITY PROJECTS



The Panorama Project continues on its merry way.

Narrabri Library 6 - 26 May 2021
Wee Waa Library 27 May- 2 Jun 2021
Moree Library 3 - 23 Jun 2021
Mungindi Library 24 - 30 Jun 2021
Warialda Library 1 - 12 Jul 2021
Bingara Library 13 - 19 Jul 2021
Barraba Library 20- 26 Jul 2021
Manilla Library 27 Jul - 3 Aug 2021
Quirindi Library 4 - 13 Aug 2021

<http://www.artsnw.com.au/panorama-project>

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.

ARTS RESTART FUNDING

ACTIVATING OUR REGION



ANW CONNECT: Twelve people were employed as Creative Champions on a short 3 month contract in **each LGA**. They are supporting artists and arts organisations to connect into ANW online cultural registry. 9 more people have been employed as Snapshot photographers to document 3-4 events **across the 12 LGAs** from March-December 2021. ANW has also sponsored the Regional Music Officer position - Sarah Leete from **Baan Baa** was appointed to the 4 day a week role.

ENABLE ARTS: Accessible Arts delivered an online (**all LGAs**) "Disability Confidence Training" to ensure inclusive access to people with disability. An absolute highlight was the visit from five dancers and choreographers from the *Sprung!*



Integrated Dance Theatre based in Ballina to do dance/expressive performance workshops for people with disability on 26 March in **Inverell**, and 27 March in **Armidale**. We had a huge turnout in Inverell and it was memorable for participants and facilitators alike.

ROUNDTABLES & RESIDENCIES: A very busy component of our projects this quarter. *Looking Both Ways* was a set of two creative roundtables for 21 writers and artists from **all 12 LGAs**. Facilitated by writer Sophie Masson and painter Angus Nivison participants were combined in pairs (and one trio) to collaborate in their own media/creative practice with each other on a shared topic, exploring a creative thread together.



In the Museum placed 5 artists/writers/musicians in community museums (**Hillgrove, Emmaville, Tenterfield, Wee Waa, Gunnedah**) to respond to the collections. Resident creatives from **Armidale, Deepwater, Tenterfield, Baan Baa** and **Gunnedah**.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM: "Bawi-li" - a duo of Aboriginal female singer songwriters from **Tamworth** - Loren Ryan and Quarralia Knox wrote and recorded 6 new songs. Unfortunately their tour was postponed due to the floods but it has been rescheduled for May/June (with three extra venues added!) **Wee Waa, Wallhallow, Toomelah, Moree, Tingha, Walcha, Tenterfield**.

MANILLA MICRO MUSIC

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS



Friday and Saturday 9/10 April saw the **Manilla** Town Hall come alive with the Manilla Micro Music Festival. This was supported by Create NSW Arts Restart funding and delivered in collaboration with Tamworth Regional Council.

A superb line-up of local musicians performed and for many this was their first gig since COVID-19 shut down their work. We heard everything from country, rock, pop to jazz. Thanks to the production crew and staff from TRC that made everything work so smoothly.

BUT WAIT THERE IS MORE...

ANW CREATIVE INITIATIVES



The exhibition *Art Word Place* was shown at the Dixon Library at UNE in **Armidale** in early February.

Professional Development workshops went back face-to-face. In March we supported **Tamworth** Regional Gallery with its museum skills workshops which were presented by Tegan Anthes, a professional conservator with over 25 years expertise in adapting collaborating and applying conservation principles within the smallest budgets.

Also in March we welcomed back Monica Davidson from Creative Plus Business who delivered 5 workshops in

the region - *What's it Worth* - how to value and charge for your work (**Gunnedah** and **Inverell**), *Being Well* - balancing wellbeing and mental health with our creative practice (**Tamworth** and **Armidale**). Monica also facilitated *Better Brainstorming* for the NENW Cultural Leaders Network, held in **Armidale**.



Finally Caroline spent a day in **Bingara** with the Old Courthouse gallery, delivering the *ANW Art Handling and Installation workshop*.

And of course more planned for the year - the team is heading out to **Torrington, Drake, Tingha** and **Ashford** with artist Lizzie Horne in August.

