

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

WELCOME

REVITALISE and REJUVENATE

COVID continued to disrupt our activities in October to December so it has been a quarter of rebuilding and rescheduling. 2021 was also our 25th Birthday so we are celebrating into 2022- with some birthday postcards from our community, commissioning ceramic artists for a series of small functional objects, a new Acknowledgment of Country sign for our office created by Aboriginal artist Adele Chapman-Burgess, and an anniversary book.

We are very much looking forward to the many exciting things happening this year.



Birthday postcard artwork by Nicci Morgan

We have a focus on restore, refresh, rejuvenate and revitalise. We have planned professional development workshops, creative workshops as well as the inaugural Aboriginal Artisan Markets in Tamworth 23/24 April.

Arts North West is also currently recruiting for a new position 'Programs and Partnerships Officer' which will mean that Arts North West can deliver even more for the communities in our region.

We are looking forward to working with our 12 Councils – with congratulations to the new Councillors and Mayors following the elections late last year. We can't wait to get out and about, re-engage with creatives in our region and support arts and cultural activities in the New England North West

Caroline Downer, OAM
Executive Director



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

9 February saw the rescheduled professional development workshop *Get Your Act Together* take place at TAS Hoskins Centre, **Armidale**. This one-day workshop was tailored for volunteers, venue staff and performing arts practitioners wanting to upskill on contracts, marketing and light and sound cueing. Participants from **Bingara, Glen Innes, Tamworth, Armidale** were in attendance.

We have lots of professional development planned this year- supporting artists and arts organisations following several very disruptive years. In the next couple of months we have:

18 Feb; 23-25 Mar

4 days of specialised mental health and creative recovery training for creatives in the **Glen Innes** region. In partnership with RAMPH and the Creative Recovery Network, Arts North West will be able



Get Your Act Together Workshop at TAS Hoskins Armidale with Michael Cornford

to build organisational capacity and strengthen the delivery of its key arts/health projects.

10-11 March

Two workshops in **Armidale** and **Tamworth** facilitated by Monica Davidson from Creative Plus Business focussing on money! *Diversify your creative income* <https://bit.ly/3Ha9FNS> and *Tax Time for Creatives* <https://bit.ly/3rQlfgS>. Monica will also be facilitating the New England North West Cultural Leaders Network which comprises arts professionals from across the **12 LGAs**.

ART AND ABOUT...

CONVERSATIONS, NEWS, NETWORKING, SKILLS



A little bit of out and about when it was covid-possible!

In the last 3 months, Caroline has visited and provided advice to **Inverell** Cultural Group, NECOM, and attended the **Tamworth** TRICAC and TRAAC. In December she also facilitated a community consultation for **Glen Innes** Severn Council to develop their Arts and Cultural Plan.

In the coming months, the ED will be meeting with **all 12 Councils** following the local government elections at the end of last year.

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.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

KEEPING PEOPLE CONNECTED



We were so happy to conclude the Puppet Project with the warmth of our judge's Damian Callinan's kindness and lovely choices for our community entries. Check out all the entries here: <http://www.artsnw.com.au/the-puppet-project>

The first prize was split between two entries – Jody Ekert's project with her son (**Tamworth**), and the creative digitally-adept project by Andrew O'Connell (**Armidale**), where he made a floating cardboard head standing in as himself to tell his story. Other winners were Aunt Audrey Trindall (**Armidale**), the students of **Walhallow** School, Peter Carrett (**Wee Waa**), and Jonathan Stilts (**Tamworth**). The project was a bit of a winner as far as providing some diversion for some of our regional artists and community members at a time when we all felt so weary from the ongoing COVID crisis.



Our Snapshot project which sent out roving photographers to arts events across **all 12 LGAs** did find a few challenges with so many events and workshops cancelled or postponed because of the pandemic. But we still have some assignments going into 2022.

At the end of 2021, all the photographers had their work on exhibition at the Gunnedah Civic Gallery. This included:
Waleed al-Ali- **Armidale / Uralla**
Sally Alden- **Quirindi**
Caleb Duncan- **Inverell**
Robert Dunn- **Narrabri**
Brent Emerson- **Moree**
Annaliese Gillette- **Tenterfield / Glen Innes**
Marie Low and Alyssa Barwick- **Gunnedah**
Kim Miller- **Gwydir**
Conor Noonan- **Tamworth / Walcha**

CREATIVITEA

CHAT CREATE CONNECT



We are thrilled that CreativiTEA is finally on the calendar and bookings are underway! These creative women's workshops are scheduled from 28 Feb-3 March in **Tingha, Torrington, Drake, and Yetman**.

The project gives our women in rural communities a chance to come together for the first of four workshops where they will learn basic printmaking skills, and have access to a team member from the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program as well as two nurses from HealthWISE.

Subsequent workshops have been scheduled for June 2022, and into 2023.

Bookings: <http://www.artsnw.com.au/creativitea-2022>

ARTS NORTH WEST ON TOUR

PERFORMING ARTS TOURING NETWORK FOR THE NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST



November saw the return of the *Melbourne Comedy Festival Roadshow* to **Tamworth** and **Narrabri** to complete its interrupted July tour. It is always a fun night and this was no exception.

We also have 8 different shows booked for performances in 2022. Check out the info here: <http://www.artsnw.com.au/anw-on-tour-shows>

Stardust + The Mission heads off to **Gunnedah, Inverell, Quirindi, Narrabri** and **Tamworth** in April. From the Space



Company, these are two original Australian stories about love, music, war and all the things that people leave behind.

Then we have *Beep* from the Windmill Theatre Company, a beautiful children's theatre of gentle storytelling, music and puppetry, showing at **Armidale, Glen Innes, Gunnedah, Bingara, Inverell** and **Quirindi** in May.

Also in May, the crowd favourite *Melbourne Comedy Festival Roadshow* returns to the region.

In the second half of the year, Arts North West is excited to present *100 Years of Dance, This is Eden, Owl's Apprentice, The Box Show* and *Men Like Us!* A diverse program which includes kids shows, dance, theatre, puppets, comedy and more!

RADO NETWORK

ADVOCATING ARTS IN REGIONAL NSW



The RADO Network continues to meet regularly (zoom and in-person) to advocate for arts and culture in the regions.

State-wide initiatives in 2022 will include an arts leadership development program and *Regional Futures* - a collaborative residency and partnership program culminating in an exhibition in Sydney in 2023. Arts North West has played an active role in the development of both these programs.