



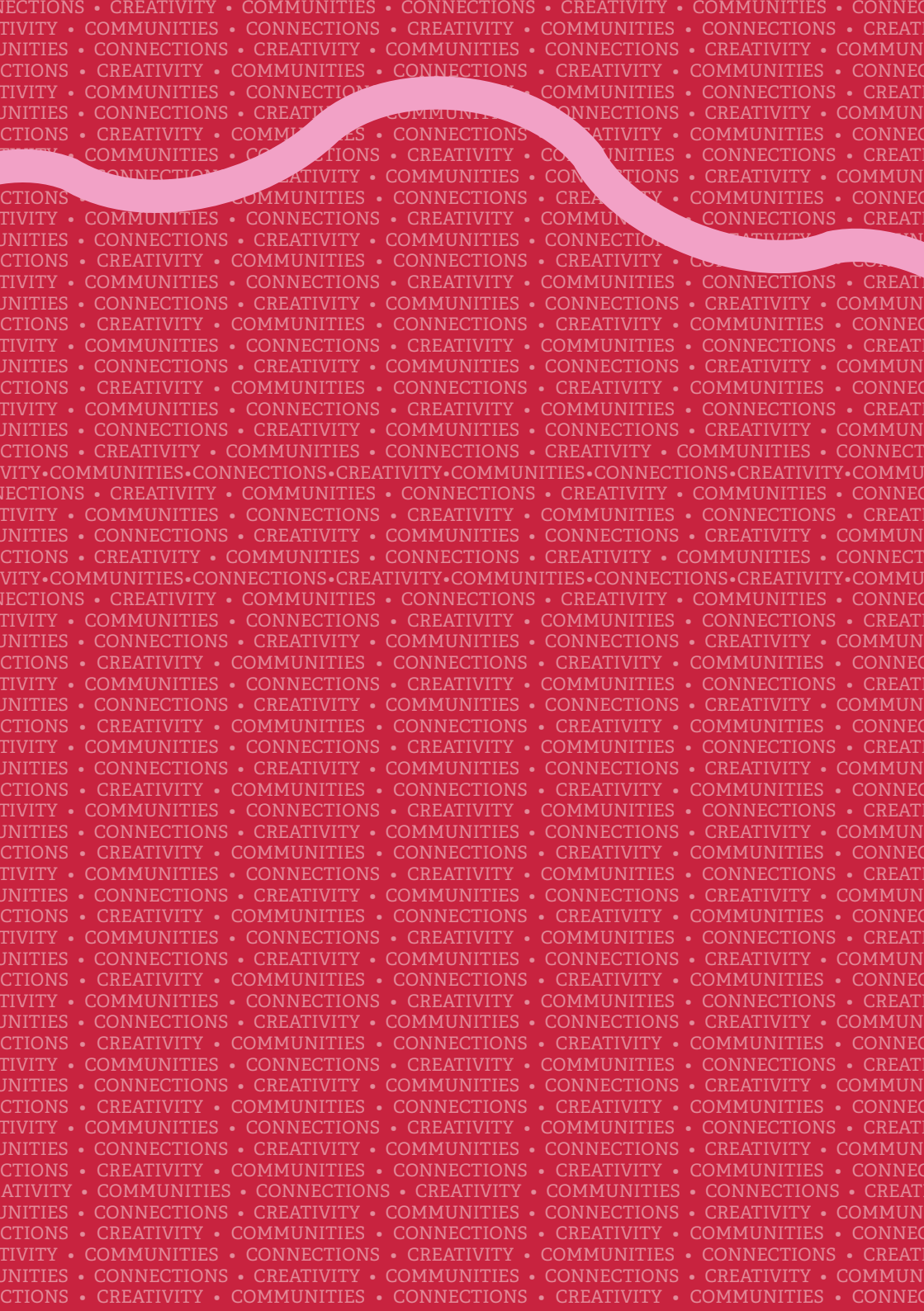
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Arts
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 ABORIGINAL ELDERS
PAST AND PRESENT.





MISSION

A RICH CULTURAL
LANDSCAPE IN THE
NEW ENGLAND
NORTH WEST
OF NSW.

VISION

TO GENERATE CREATIVE
OPPORTUNITIES IN THE
NEW ENGLAND
NORTH WEST OF NSW.



In my capacity as Chair, I am pleased to be able to present the 23rd Annual Report, which again reflects a strong and stable organisation. I am extremely proud of how our team responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. ANW is privileged to have Caroline Downer at the helm. To all our delight, Caroline was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the visual and performing arts through a range of roles at the Queen's birthday honours of 2020. This was certainly our highlight of the year and an extraordinary achievement – Congratulations Caroline!

COVID-19 had a huge impact on the arts sector; however, with Caroline's creative thinking in response to the pandemic, Arts North West rolled out a micro grants initiative. The initiative resulted in the offering of 23 Quick Response Micro Grants of up to \$1,000 for independent professional practicing artists across all art forms, designed to support the continuation of local community arts and cultural practice across our region. The project was such a success that other NSW Regional Art Development Organisations modelled our project in their regions.

The upcoming 12 months will be challenging – there is still much uncertainty – but we are responding quickly to the changing habits and needs of our members. We have proven how flexible we can be, and we will continue to tackle any challenges decisively and proactively to ensure we position our organisation to remain strong into the future, enabling us to continue supporting our members with an authentic, personalised service.

I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to our Executive Director Caroline Downer as well as staff members, Chris McIntosh, Christine Davis, Hayley Clark, Lorryne Fishenden, Michael Burge, Michèle Jedlicka and Stephanie McIntosh for their expertise, passion and innovative

manner with which they delivered our many various programs throughout the year.

I also wish to formally recognise the contributions of all board members and Strategic Advisory Council (SAC) members who have faced the challenges in front of them without wavering. Their focus and diligence around ensuring that good decisions are made is greatly appreciated. Special thanks is given to Chris Newbigin for his contributions to ANW over the last 19 years. On behalf of the Board, SAC and staff, I wish Chris all the best in his future endeavours and anticipated relocation. Thanks also to Hayley Ward and Sally Blackwood who are leaving the Board, following their appointments in 2018.

We appreciate the support from our major funding organisation Create NSW and our peak body, Regional Arts NSW. We also acknowledge the contributions made by our participating councils and look forward to working with them again during 2021 to further enrich the cultural landscapes of their communities.

Finally, I acknowledge the support of all members. Many of you will be facing difficult times. Thank you for your continued support. Our united goal of a vibrant arts and cultural landscape creating healthy and sustainable and connected communities in the New England North West of NSW remains the ANW focus.

Anna Watt
Chair, Arts North West

**FROM
THE
CHAIR**

Certainly 2020 proved to be a very challenging and unusual year. With the COVID-19 pandemic having an enormous negative impact on the arts sector, Arts North West focussed on initiatives that could support our community at this difficult time.

Our website became a central point of advice – from working from home resources, information on event cancellation, to health and wellbeing and some COVID-19 distractions. Many of our professional development workshops and advice sessions went online in the first half the year.

We also rolled out three new initiatives:

1. ***The Panorama Project*** – delivered during the early months of the pandemic when many were in isolation, this was designed as a creative project that was undertaken individually but was part of a wider collaborative community. One thousand sketchbooks were sent out across the region for creatives to fill in with their artwork and ideas. Many of these sketchbooks were then returned to Arts North West and are now form part of an exhibition travelling to small libraries in our region in 2021.

2. ***Captain Isobolt and the Great COVID Crises of 2020*** - a series of 5 short videos - a light-hearted spoof developed by Arts North West with pandemic and New England North West references. This was targeted to community theatre practitioners who were unable to put on their shows in 2020.

**FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

3. ***ANW Micro Grants*** – a simple quick turnaround small grant to support creative endeavours. We supported 23 projects with different artforms, and across our region.

I am very proud of the efforts of ANW in 2020 – we were able to prove that we are indeed a very flexible and nimble organisation that can respond to the significant issues that face our sector and our community. I want to particularly thank the ANW team this year – Stephanie McIntosh, Michèle Jedlicka, Christine Davis, Chris McIntosh, Michael Burge, Lorraine Fishenden and Hayley Clark. Their commitment, enthusiasm and perseverance in a year that was topsy-turvy was very impressive.

An extraordinary year.

Caroline Downer, OAM
Executive Director, Arts North West





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OUR COMMUNITY.

**CREATIVE
COMMUNITIES
BO**



**Develop, broaden
and diversify our
audiences and
their participation
in arts and
cultural activities**

CREATIVITY

Arts North West contracts 2 Rivers Pty Ltd to manage projects in its Aboriginal Cultural Support Program. Lorraine Fishenden provides advice and assistance for Aboriginal artists within our region and regularly offers professional development opportunities through project funding. We also thank Makishia Felton, Ros Riggs, Pene Riggs and Loren Ryan for all their work behind-the-scenes at 2 Rivers keeping track of our many Aboriginal projects.

A grant from the Federal Government has allowed Arts North West to continue Lorraine's employment to 30 June 2021 to support the delivery of the ANW NENW Aboriginal Arts Strategy. This funding supports and fosters Aboriginal artists in the New England North West of NSW by engaging an Aboriginal Arts Officer for Arts North West. Funded by Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS)

Creative Projects in the Aboriginal Cultural Support Program included:

YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW:

Documenting stories from key sites in the North West of NSW. Six emerging Kamilaroi artists were mentored to develop works inspired by Country, culminating in public exhibitions held at the Inverell Art Gallery, Ray Walsh House, Tamworth, and Dhiyaan Centre Moree. Films are on the ANW website.

Supported by the Federal Government through Indigenous Languages and the Arts.

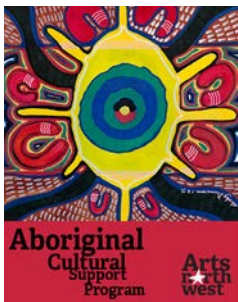
YINAAR: A creative exploration of Women's Business in the New England North West. The project is informed by documented research into traditional Songlines and storytelling of women's practices, and with key engagement with our Aboriginal Elders, Knowledge Holders and Community. COVID-19 delayed project delivery and expectations of consultation and outcomes were scaled back. In the light of this, an extensive review of the project plan, and detailed work on the cultural protocols was undertaken. Funded by the Australia Council for the Arts.

PORTFOLIO PROMOTION PITCH:

An initiative for 6 young emerging Aboriginal visual artists in the New England North West to develop their arts practice through PD workshops, mentoring and networking. Some workshops went ahead in 2020 in early March but the final project was extended and varied to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. An e-resource for Aboriginal artists pitching their work to galleries was developed and is on the ANW website.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

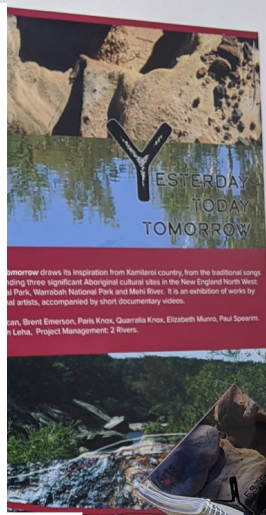
ARTS NORTH WEST, THROUGH EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, IS WORKING WITH NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS TO BUILD AND IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABORIGINAL ARTS AND COMMUNITIES IN OUR REGION.



Aboriginal
Cultural
Support
Program

Arts
in the
west

2 RIVERS
PL



Y
ESTERDAY
TODAY
TOMORROW

tomorrow draws its inspiration from Kamilari country, from the traditional songs singing three significant Aboriginal cultural sites in the West: Egmont North-West National Park, Warabrah National Park and Muhl River. It is an exhibition of works by local artists, accompanied by short documentary videos.

Curator: Brent Emerson, Paris Knox, Quarrilla Knox, Elizabeth Munro, Paul Spormann, Lena. Project Management: 2 Rivers.



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Multiple ANWOT tours were negotiated for the network in 2020, although only one was able to go ahead before the COVID-19 pandemic caused widespread lockdowns.

What's New Pussycat? was a joyous, foot-stamping, hand-clapping celebration of the Swingin' Sixties. It was performed by Australia's favourite cabaret duo at Gunnedah, Quirindi and Tenterfield.

Once the performing arts venues of the New England North West went dark, like theatres across the world, touring coordinator Michael Burge worked with our network members to reschedule all ANWOT's 2020 tours into 2021. This was achieved with a great amount of flexibility by everyone involved. Only one tour ultimately got cancelled due to WA-based Spare Parts Puppet Theatre ceasing all interstate touring across 2021.

To encourage performing arts venues to stay open, when NSW health orders allowed for 50% audience capacity, ANWOT promoted a hybrid of our mainstage and Pocket Productions touring strands and engaged a regional company to tour a community-building comedy.

POCKET PRODUCTIONS continues to address the need in our region for small-scale, bespoke productions

and musical acts to tour to regional venues that do not have a dedicated performing arts venue. A successful tour of Country Witches Association was mounted in November 2020 and played Bonshaw, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Deepwater and Tenterfield.

A network meeting for ANWOT was held online on April 8; and at Gunnedah's Civic Theatre on November 4, giving representatives an opportunity to interact with their regional colleagues and discuss pertinent issues, share successes and assess failures.

Across August and September, Michael Burge joined the Australian Performing Arts Exchange (APAX) online conference and pitch sessions, noting tour-ready works for ANWOT's 2022-2023 seasons.

ARTS NORTH WEST ON TOUR (ANWOT) IS A REGIONAL NETWORK OF SMALL-TO-MEDIUM PERFORMING ARTS VENUES IN THE NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST COORDINATED BY ARTS NORTH WEST.

ARTS NORTH WEST ON TOUR

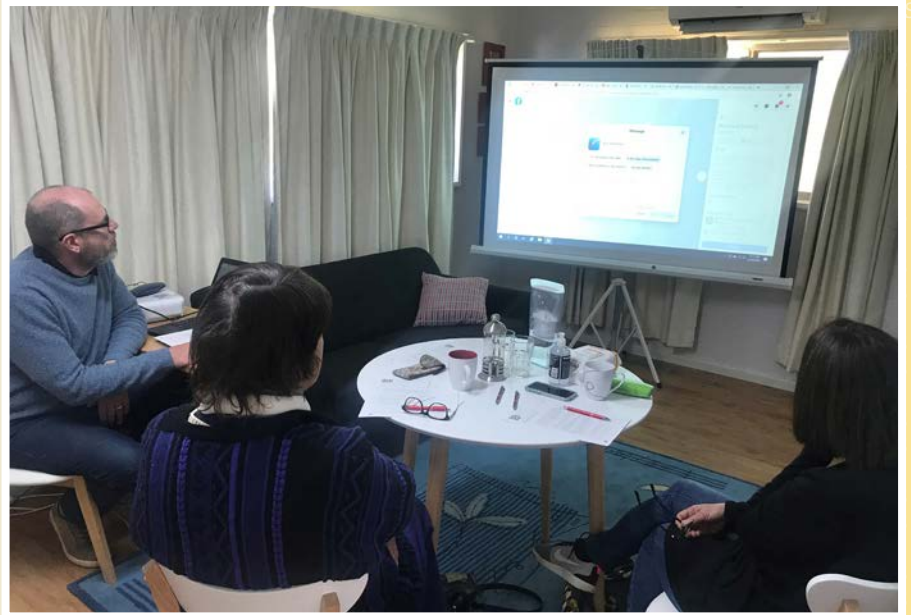
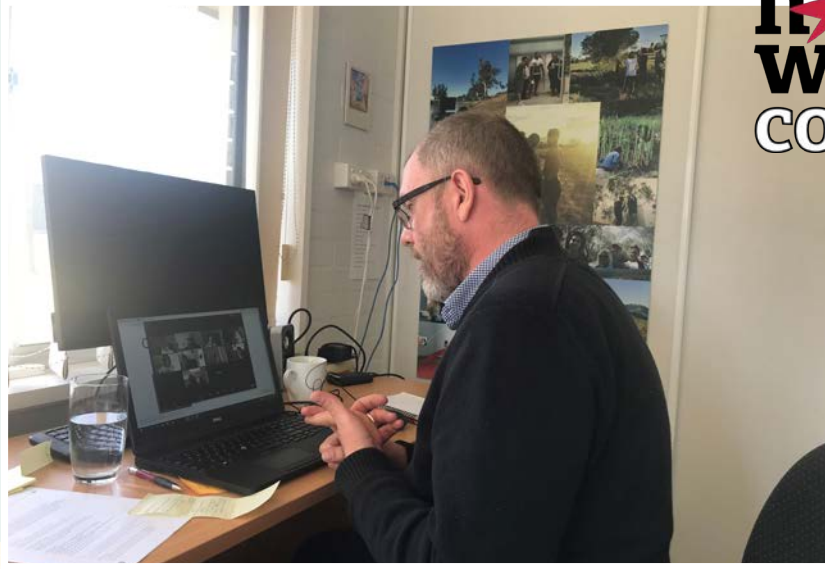




Image from the Country Witches Association Tour Facebook page



Arts
north
west
connect



The Panorama Project was a collective arts activity, engaging hundreds of people across the New England North West from the places they call home. It started with a small, personal sketchbook, delivered to each participant, and ended as a travelling exhibition of all the sketchbooks, transformed by the breadth of imagination, talent, and voices of this vast region. This project gave a rare opportunity for a wide audience to understand the perspectives of people in 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. Ten artists were paid a small artist fee to participate. The tour comprises over 20 libraries in the ANW footprint.

www.artsnw.com.au/panorama-project

Captain Isobolt and the Great COVID Crises of 2020 is a set of 5 short videos engaging community theatre practitioners in the New England North West. Enthusiastic dramaturgs in our region created this slightly crazy spoof which was released on our social media channels.

www.artsnw.com.au/captain-isobolt

Wyaliba Creative Recovery Project was a partnership with the Glen Innes Pottery Club in the delivery of a bushfire recovery project in the community of Wyaliba. Workshop

"Earth for your Heart.h" was based on slab building domestic ware with simple slip, stamp and glaze decoration. A slab roller was also purchased for the community.

Art Word Place exhibition curated by Caroline Downer for Artstate Tamworth 2019 which explored the interaction between writers and artists from all 12 LGAs of our region, toured to 2 venues in 2020 – Regional Australia Institute in Canberra, and the Gunnedah Civic Gallery.

ANW Micro Grants were offered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Quick Response Micro Grants of up to \$1,000 for independent professional practising artists across all art forms, community groups and arts organisations were designed to support the continuation of locally determined community arts and cultural practice in uncertain times, Arts North West Micro Grant funding aimed to be as flexible as possible. 23 projects were funded over 2 rounds and included live music, visual arts residencies, arts and disability theatre as well as literature. A very positive project during the pandemic, this has allowed ANW to raise its profile across the region.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS





PANORAMA PROJECT

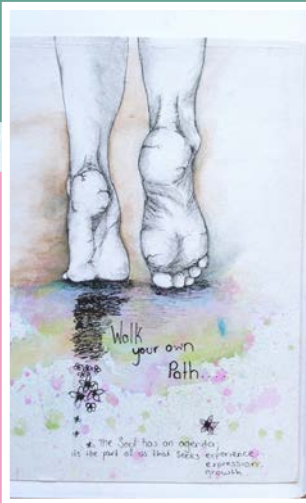


I sometimes think about when I will be old, if the plot, should I realize my husband, that I move in with my eldest and dearest friend does not happen, considering that her husband, should I first... maybe...

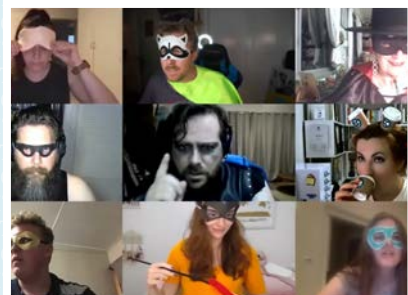
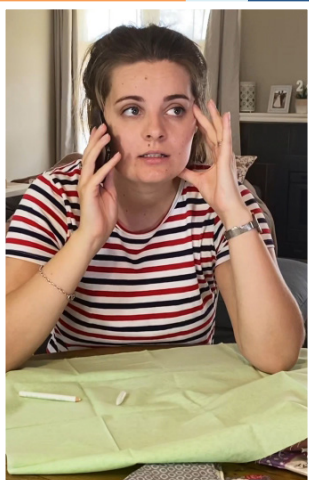
If I do not up there, might the memory of someone else in an apartment's home, I won't have a lot of choice.

Probably, this frightens me, I have not with old folks who have to be loved, every person deserves to be loved.

Not I disagree... I was trying to explain that I fear ending up in a place where people could, eventually believe something on my, and while I am unsure, from age, from emotion, they might glaze at my vulnerability. So I buried myself to the core, let them laugh, because I know I barely recover over my own vulnerability.



CAPTAIN ISOBOLT



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CAPTAIN ISOBOLT

CREATIVITY • CONNECTIONS • COMMUNITIES

CREATIVITY • CONNECTIONS • COMMUNITIES





By the Book
 Tips and advice from local writers, illustrators, editors and publishers

NEWCC

VIDEO SERIES
 Showcasing the creative talent and professional expertise in the New England NSW region, aimed at aspiring writers and illustrators

Featuring

- Sophie Masson Author, Publisher & New England Writers Centre Chair
- Helena Pastor Author (non-fiction)
- Trish Donald Author (children's books)
- Linda Nix (Editor & Director at Golden Orbs Creative publishing services)
- Kathy Creamer Illustrator & Director at Little Pink Dog Books (children's publisher)
- Ian Irvine Author (speculative fiction)
- Bronwyn Parry Author (crime, historical & romance fiction)
- Heather Alvarez Commissioning Editor, Christian Press (children's & YA books)

Find the full playlist on the NEWCC YouTube channel

Arts for West NSW Create NSW Arts, Screen & Culture WHITAIL



Arts for West Two Sticks

romeo + juliet

MICRO GRANTS



ART WORD PLACE



WYTAIIBA CREATIVE RECOVERY



Images from the Glen Innes Pottery Club Facebook page



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
COMMUNITY
CREATIVITY
COMMUNITIES • CONNECTIONS • CREATIVITY
COMMUNITIES • CONNECTIONS • CREATIVITY
COMMUNITIES • CONNECTIONS • CREATIVITY

OBJECTIVE 2:

Grow and support
community cultural
capacity



COMMUNITIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

ANW looked at various ways to deliver its professional development workshops in 2020, as face-to-face proved difficult in the first half of the year. We redeveloped our grant writing workshops into a suite of 11 unique short video animations which were released through our social media platforms. They can also be viewed on our website at www.artsnw.com.au/anw-eresources#/top-ten-tips-to-grant-writing.

This initiative was supported by UNE. Continuing this theme, new eResources were developed “How to Pitch” and “The Arts Marketer’s Handbook” – they are valuable tools for creatives in our region and are available on the ANW website.

Finally a number of ‘boutique’ workshops on specialised topics were delivered at the request of our stakeholders.

- Armidale- *Gift of the Gab: how to write an awesome artist statement*- Presenter Rachael Parsons, Director at NERAM.
- Tamworth and Tenterfield – *Disaster Planning Workshop for Museums* Presenter Julie McCarthy
- Narrabri- *Art Handling and Installation*. Presenter Caroline Downer.
- Zoom Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Workshop with Dave Widders for ANW Staff and Board.
- Zoom *Pitchface* – Presenter Monica Davidson

ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

The Executive Director continues to work with a number of individuals and organisations throughout the region

on funding applications, COVID-19 information, general enquiries, project development, resource referrals as well as numerous letters of support.

Caroline Downer is a member of the Tamworth Regional Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, Armidale Regional Council Arts, Cultural and Heritage Advisory Committee (Chair), the Inverell Arts and Health Working Group, the Glen Innes Public Art Panel and Kaleidoscope Armidale Arts Marketing.

The Executive Director continues on the Classical Music, Choir and Opera Artform Advisory Board assessing project, annual and multiyear applications to Create NSW. ANW has also provided data to State and Federal governments around impact of COVID-19 as well as bushfires and drought on the sector.

RADO network remains to be a valuable resource and brains trust. Since the end of March, it has been meeting fortnightly on zoom, to discuss covid-19 response and provide peer support. These zoom meetings are organised and managed by ANW. The RADO network also undertakes its own regional advocacy as ANW compiled and designed the [RADO Network Success Stories e-book](#) as an advocacy tool.

CASP GRANTS

A number of applications were received for the 2020 Country Arts Support Program (CASP) which is funded through Create NSW and managed locally by Arts North West. The successful CASP projects for delivery in 2020 were:

- *Deepwater Progress Association Inc: Woodfired Raku Kiln Workshop*
A 2-day workshop on history of Raku and glaze making for woodfired Raku pottery and how to use steel rubbish

bin kilns to fire the participants work.

- ***Quirindi Preschool Kindergarten Incorporated: Biochrome – Children, Nature, Art and Science Collaboration***

Artist Dr Renata Buziak will conduct a 3-day workshop for educators, children and families on one of the earliest historical photographic processes: the cyanotype.

- ***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.

- ***New England Writers' Centre: Leaf, Stone, Beetle: Storytelling through metaphor and visual narrative***

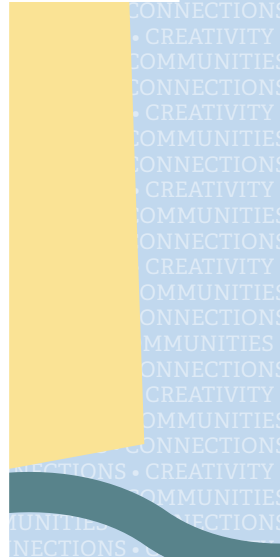
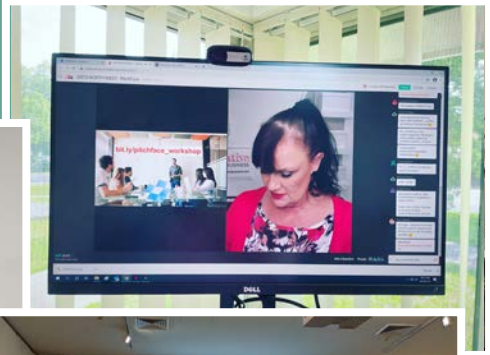
Presented by author Ursula Dubosarsky and publisher Margrete Lamond of Dirt Lane Press, this imaginative, innovative project will involve a community workshop, public talk, and school presentations.

- ***Arts Gunnedah Inc: Workshops to be held by professional artists during the year of the 50th Annual Art Exhibition Celebration***

- ***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.

- ***Glen Innes Pottery Club: Precious Flora*** Glen Innes Pottery Club will host ceramic artist Dr Cathy Franzi 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.







3. OBJECTIVE



Forge strong partnerships and networks across the region

CONNECTIONS

WEBSITE

The Arts North West website provides a central resource for all things arts and culture in the New England North West and includes an integrated Arts Calendar where our stakeholders can submit their own events.

MEDIA

Arts North West publishes a fortnightly eNews highlighting events around our region and funding opportunities. A quarterly newsletter is distributed to our 12 contributing local Councils. We are also active on a number of social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

ANW continues to manage a number of networks including Visual Arts, Writers, Enable Arts, Film NENW, ANW Connect, Museums New England North West, Aboriginal Artists and Arts North West ON TOUR.

Two key partnerships with Tamworth Regional Gallery and the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale allowed for Arts North West to raise its profile in the region. Caroline Downer curated two exhibitions- Rosamund Greig's *Sunny* and *Make your Mark* a selection of works from the NERAM Collection.

ANW also partnered with the Australia Council for the Arts on their Arts Leadership Exchange as part of their broader Arts Leadership Program. Held at the Tamworth Regional Gallery in February, Caroline provided a written piece for the Arts

Leaders on Climate Change in the New England North West.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

ANW remains a strong advocate for arts and cultural development in regional NSW, working in partnership with all three levels of government. The Executive Director provides advice and input into strategies and initiatives across a number of portfolios. Caroline is proactive in the region, presenting to local Councils as well as judging various community art shows and competitions. This year, ANW has provided feedback and advice to Walcha Council on its Public Art Policy.



Make your Mark



Rosamund Greig *Sunny*

CREATIVE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



Provide sound and
effective corporate
governance to
ensure a sustainable
organisation

GOVERN

BOARD MEETINGS

Arts North West Regional Arts Board met four times; February in Quirindi, with the remaining meetings on zoom. The Board provides oversight of the organisation's finances, policies and strategic direction.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

ANW is now working off its 2020-2022 Strategic Plan which is published on the ANW website. A new Pandemic Policy was approved and the ANW Board and ED Delegations Policy was updated.

STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Executive Director attended the Regional Arts NSW network meetings which were held online this year. These meetings provide opportunities to engage with other RADOs from across the state and to meet with Federal and State departments and arts organisations. The Communications Officer and Executive also attended the Artstate conference which was held in Wagga Wagga.

2020 BOARD MEMBERS

Anna Watt **Chair**
Sandy McNaughton **Vice-Chair**
Chris Newbigin **Secretary**
Sally Blackwood **Treasurer**
Vivien Clyne
Lauren Mackley
Peter Ross
Hayley Ward
Len Waters

2020 STRATEGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Donna Ausling **Liverpool Plains Shire**
Vivien Clyne **Bank Art Museum Moree**
Kay Delahunt **Tamworth Regional**

Kate Dight **Inverell Shire**

Tania Hartigan

Wallaby Group Wallabadah

Jennifer Kealey **Walcha Shire**

Natasha Ledger **Uralla Shire**

(to 7 October 2020)

Lauren Mackley **Gunnedah Shire**

Tom O'Connor **Uralla Shire**

(from 7 October 2020)

Rachael Parsons **NERAM, Armidale**

(from 3 August 2020)

Scott Pollock **Narrabri Shire**

(from 28 April 2020)

Rebecca Ryan

Gunnedah Conservatorium of Music

John Tramby **Moree Plains Shire**

Louis van Ekert **McCrossins Mill Uralla**

(to 3 August 2020)

Gary Verri **Tenterfield Shire**

Hayley Ward **Armidale Regional**

Amanda Wales **Narrabri Shire**

(to 28 April 2020)

Anna Watt **Glen Innes Severn**

Frances Young **Gwydir Shire**

2020 STAFF

Caroline Downer

Executive Director

Stephanie McIntosh

Communications Officer

Christine Davis

Administrative Assistant

(to 24 June 2020)

Chris McIntosh

Administrative Assistant

(from 23 August 2020)

Michael Burge

Touring Coordinator

Hayley Clark

Finance Contractor

The delivery of the ANW Aboriginal Cultural Support Program is contracted to 2 Rivers Pty Ltd, and its Managing Director Lorraine Fishenden. Miranda Heckenberg and Michèle Jedlicka were contracted to assist in the delivery of various projects during the year.

OVERVIEW

TOTAL VALUE ANW ACTIVITIES

\$682,538

Creative Projects \$313,766

Marketing \$50,613

**Professional Development/
Advice/Advocacy \$317,979**



PARTICIPATION IN ANW ACTIVITIES

20,997

Creative projects **20,104**

Advice/Professional Development **893**



ANW REGION

Area **98,574 km²**

Population **186,935**

Kms travelled **31,000 km**



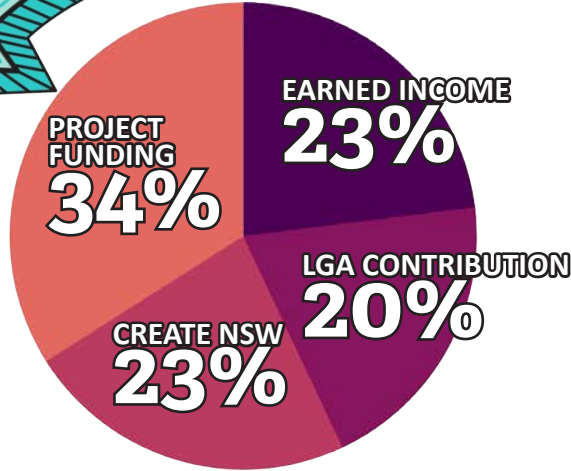
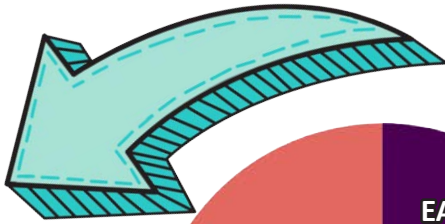
DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

26,201

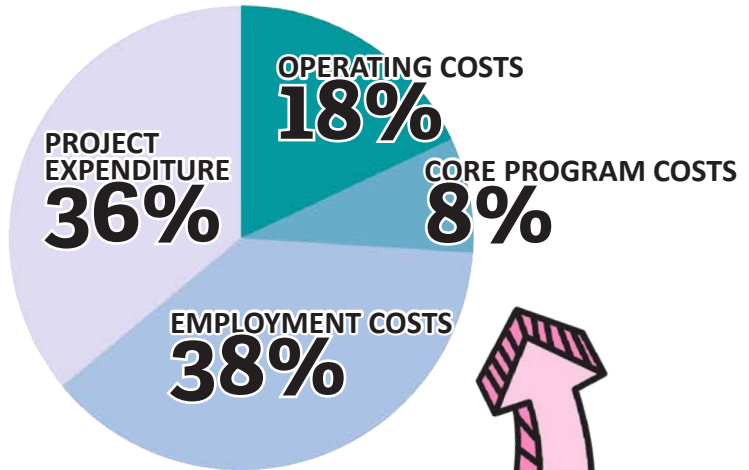
Social Media followers **6,107**

Number of responses **10,068**

2020 INCOME



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



2020 EXPENDITURE

FUNDING PARTNERS

CORE FUNDING

Arts North West is supported by the **NSW Government** through Create NSW



Arts North West is a member of **Regional Arts NSW**



**REGIONAL ARTS
NSW**

Arts North West acknowledges the contribution from our 12 **Local Government Authorities** partners in the New England North West



PROJECT FUNDING



Australian Government

Yinaar is funded by the Australia Council for the Arts



Australian Government
Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support

ANW Aboriginal Arts Officer position is funded by the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) program



Australian Government
Indigenous Languages and Arts

Yesterday Today Tomorrow projects are funded by the Federal Government through the Ministry for the Arts and the Indigenous Language and Arts Program



Portfolio Promotion Pitch was funded by Create NSW (Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund)



Gift of the Gab and **10 Top Tips to Arts Grant Writing** was funded through sponsorship from the University of New England



Wytiliba Creative Recovery Bushfire Recovery Agency through Glen Innes Severn Council



Arts north west



connections
creativity
communities

www.artsnw.com.au

2020