

A

x
N

17

R

FOR ALL THINGS ARTS + CULTURE

ARTS NORTHERN RIVERS

annual report

17

chair's report	4
our vision / our mission	6
communication	8
engagement	9
projects	10
partnerships	14
casp	17
indigenous arts projects	18
building capacity	20
local councils	21
about us	22



chairs report

Welcome to the 2017 Annual Report highlighting key activities and outcomes delivered by Arts Northern Rivers (ANR).

2017 was my first year as Chair for this vibrant and dynamic organisation that supports, promotes and delivers arts and cultural development activity for the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. It was an extraordinary year to step into this role and full of challenges ranging from floods, office relocation and the delivery of an inaugural regional arts conference and cultural program.

Our organisation is supported financially by the seven local governments of the region as well as Create NSW - NSW Government's agency for arts, screen and culture in NSW. In addition we receive funding through the Federal Government's Indigenous Visual Arts and Industry Support program that allows us to employ a full time Indigenous Arts Development Officer who offers outreach services supporting Aboriginal artists across the region. Our projects are funded via a variety of agencies and we enjoy strong sponsorship and philanthropic support enabled by our Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. Maintaining and developing these multiple funding streams is an on-going task managed by our

Executive Director and supported by our Board of Directors - each representing the local governments of our region. In a world of competing priorities and limited arts funding options I'm pleased to confirm the on-going support of our local, state and federal government funding partners.

2017 became a more challenging year than anticipated with the devastating March flood event affecting large parts of our region, with the Lismore and Tweed local government areas impacted severely. Amongst the thousands affected by this disaster were scores of artists and arts workers - many of them lost years of work along with their tools and means to continue their creative businesses. The community response was beyond heart warming with extraordinary acts of generosity, kindness and support extended to those affected by this catastrophic event. Amongst this support was a crowd funding campaign managed by ANR and created to attract donations that would be used to support artists to replace materials and equipment destroyed by the floods. The response to this campaign was extraordinary with donations received from within and outside the region (and internationally!) - the final amount raised meant that every request for support was met.

In addition ANR worked with our funding agencies to access quick response and out of round funding support enabling Lismore based Bundjalung artist Digby Moran to continue his participation in a scheduled exhibition opportunity, as well as a community exhibition for the Murwillumbah Art Trail that saw the local community submit artworks detailing their experiences of the flood. It was a fine demonstration of the strength and resilience of our community and an example of our organisation's ability to work quickly and effectively to support our creative community.

2017 included the relocation of the ANR office to the new Lismore Regional Gallery. The move had the endorsement of the Board of Directors and was seen as an opportunity to increase our public profile and to locate our whole-of-region program in a new and exciting cultural hub. Alstonville had been our home since inception and I extend on behalf of the Board our sincere thanks to Ballina Shire Council for their support over the last 11 years of our tenancy at the old Tintenbar Chambers in Alstonville.

Other major activity in 2017 included Artstate Lismore - the inaugural arts conference and cultural program delivered in partnership with Regional

Arts NSW and supported by Create NSW, Lismore City Council and Southern Cross University. This event saw over 200 delegates visit Lismore in December to hear international, national and local keynote speakers and soak up an exciting arts program that showcased the vibrancy of our region. Highlights were the world premiere of Djurra a Bundjalung creation story developed by NORPA and We're Closer Than You Think - an exhibition showcasing the rich and dynamic visual arts sector of the Northern Rivers region. The event continues to receive positive feedback and succeeded in positioning our region as one of the most creative in the state.

ANR has delivered another year of world-class projects and programs supporting the arts and cultural sector of our region. I extend my thanks to our dedicated staff and Board and to our funding partners that make what we do possible - and of course to our community of artists, arts workers and art lovers who make what we do so enjoyable.

Cr Elly Bird
Chair

our vision

A diverse, vibrant and resilient arts and cultural community, valued in our region and recognised nationally and internationally.

our mission

As the peak arts organisation for our region we deliver services and projects that foster artistic innovation and excellence and work to ensure access and engagement with arts and cultural activity.

we do this by

Developing quality programs in collaboration with our stakeholders. Extending our reach across the region to encourage participation in and promotion of our vibrant arts and cultural sector. Ensuring we remain viable as an organisation through good governance practice and financial management.



engagement + communication

Aims

X Raise awareness of and participation in arts and cultural activity across the region

X Position ANR as the 'go to' organisation for all things arts and culture

X Increase audience numbers for our projects and services

X Grow new audiences for arts and cultural activity in our region

Communication and marketing is a key activity for ANR, our commitment to promoting and celebrating creative projects, activities and opportunities is embedded in our strategic plan and is one of the core services we offer.

We build and access various communication platforms to amplify the arts and cultural activity of the Northern Rivers and we use these platforms to help our partners and stakeholders communicate with a broad and engaged audience.

We communicate @ . . .

artsnorthernrivers.com.au

facebook.com/artsnorthernrivers

twitter.com/arts_nr

instagram.com/artsnr

We update and promote activity to over 3,000 of our subscribers, who all receive monthly updates containing news, opportunities and information on significant projects in our region and beyond.

ANR also works strategically with our media partners including ABC North Coast, ABC Open and The Northern Star.

audience engagement

workshops + forums	presented with	audience
Printmaking Masterclass	Arone Meeks / TAFE & ACE	15
Marketing strategies and Top Ten Tips for Creative Businesses	Monica Davidson	34
1on1 Advisory Sessions	Creative Plus Business	24
Cultural Program Funding		58
Mullumbimby Public Art Forum	Create NSW/ Tweed Regional Gallery	85
Art on Bundjalung Country Workshops for Indigenous artists	Mullumbimby Creative	45
	Lismore Regional Gallery/ North Coast Primary Health Network/ Bulgar Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation	59
Indigenous Women's Weaving	Wake Up Time Women/ Gulibal Living Culture/ Individual artists	10
ARCH - Arts Recovery Creative Hub (Lismore)	RealArtWorks	1,230
The Big Flood (Murwillumbah) Bundjalung + Kunwinku Cultural Exchange weaving and textile workshops	Murwillumbah Arts Trail Arts Northern Rivers	638
		25
exhibitions		
Art on Bundjalung Country	Lismore Regional Gallery	25,542
We're Closer Than You Think	Regional Arts NSW	1,200
Balun Gilamahla - River Journey	Regional Arts NSW	1,900
Digby Moran Installation	Regional Arts NSW	1,500
Disruption of Distance	Regional Arts NSW	1,500
Gooyarng and Gurrumbil Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Centre		12,000
If These Halls Could Talk/ Tumbulgum Hall	Tweed Regional Gallery	12,000
Broadwater Rileys Hill Hall & Meerschaum Vale Hall	Northern Rivers Community Gallery	2,000
Eatonsville Hall		
The Channon Hall & Bonalbo Hall & Eureka Hall	Grafton Regional Gallery	2,000
	Lismore Regional Gallery	12,000
performance + events		
Bonnywood Rising/ Remount	Artstate/ SCU	80
Lindy Hume/ Platform paper launch	Currency House	65
marketing + communications		
Subscribers		3042
Facebook	facebook.com/artsnorthernrivers	3544
Twitter	twitter.com/arts_nr	1478
Instagram	instagram.com/artsnr	1583
Web: Arts Northern Rivers	sessions with website	23,046

total

106,703

projects

ANR delivers a diverse program of activity through both core and project funding. This activity is shaped by the priorities outlined in the ANR strategic plan and is a direct response to the needs of the wider arts community.

Artstate Lismore Conference + Arts Program

Building on the success of the national regional arts event, ARTLANDS Dubbo 2016, Regional Arts NSW (RANSW) has developed a 4 year program working in partnership with 4 Regional Arts Development Organisations (RADOs) to deliver a regional conference/arts festival to demonstrate regional excellence and continue to build on the conversations, partnerships and opportunities for regional artists and arts organisations that were an outcome of ARTLANDS.

The inaugural Artstate event took place in Lismore in December 2017 and was delivered in partnership with ANR. Lismore was selected for its vibrant and engaged arts community including local professional companies, a committed local government, the presence of Southern Cross University and the cities quality arts infrastructure including the Lismore City Hall and new Lismore Regional Gallery. Gauging from feedback the inaugural Artstate was a significant success for our region. At the closing conference dinner Arts Minister Don Harwin declared the event an important and successful showcase of the creativity and artistic excellence that defines the Northern Rivers as a significant creative hub.

On top of the conference program Artstate presented a stunning arts program featuring over 37 performing, visual, musical and screen events throughout Lismore.

A clear highlight of the arts program was an exhibition that showcased the breadth and depth of our region's vibrant visual arts sector. *We're Closer Than You Think* brought together artwork by 19 artists based in the Northern Rivers. Curators Natalie Bull and Zoe Robinson-Kennedy used the platform to question the notion of regionality and the perception that artists working outside of metropolitan areas are hindered by location.

Another critical success was the Djanda Mandi Gingerlah Opening Night dance and music event, directed by Rhoda Roberts and featuring more than 20 young Indigenous dancers. Not even a Northern Rivers sub-tropical downpour could dampen the crowd's enthusiasm for this spectacular opening that has set a high bar for future opening ceremonies.

In 2018 the Artstate Conference will take place in Bathurst.

If These Halls Could Talk Final Exhibition Program

2017 saw this extraordinary project come to an end (for the time being!). The multi-arts initiative involving seven halls, from across the region hosting their own significant contemporary arts event culminated with featured exhibitions. These exhibitions were held at Tweed Regional Gallery (Tumbulgum Hall); Northern Rivers Community Gallery (Broadwater Rileys Hill Hall and Meerschaum Vale Hall); Grafton Regional Gallery (Eatonsville Hall); Lismore Regional Gallery (Eureka Hall, Bonalbo Hall, The Channon Hall).

The visual, audio and small screen exhibitions showcased the collaborative works produced at these halls;

X *Land to Vale*, a film by H.W. Collective who worked closely with the Meerschaum Vale Hall community in the Ballina Shire.

X *20th Birthday Party*, a performance based work by Spaghetti Circus, Roundabout Theatre and designer and director Joey Ruigrok van der Werven at Broadwater Rileys Hill Hall in the Richmond Valley.

X *Can You Hear The Whispering Walls* showcased the work produced by local Yaegl woman and visual artist, Frances Belle Parker who transformed

Eatonsville Hall through a large-scale immersive installation in October 2016. X *Tumbulgum and the Countdown to Midnight at the First Supper Between Now and Forever* drew from photographic, video and audio documentation gathered from the process of collecting the oral histories of Tumbulgum Hall through to the Opera Queensland production.

A public program, including an opening by Opera Queensland Artistic Director, Lindy Hume, an artist talk with Grayson Cooke, the extraordinary media artist commissioned to work with Bonalbo Hall and a performance by the Murwillumbah Philharmonic Choir of the original songs from the Tumbulgum Hall production was held at the Tweed Regional Gallery.

X The Channon, Eureka Hall and Bonalbo projects were showcased at the new Lismore Regional Gallery and Grayson Cooke's live performance *Bonnywood Rising* and film project had a remount at the Star Court Theatre in Lismore as part of the Artstate Lismore Conference and arts program.

While the exhibition program heralded the official closure of the project many aspects of it live on and in 2018 the ANR team will be exploring partnership opportunities that could see versions of the project delivered locally and internationally (watch this space!)

artstate



partnerships

ANR amplifies its work by joining with other organisations and individuals to develop, present and promote a range of innovative programs, targeting various sectors within the arts and creative industries.

Flood Response

In March 2017 the Northern Rivers region was impacted by ex-tropical cyclone Debbie that saw tens of thousands of people evacuated from towns with Lismore and Murwillumbah severely affected. In response to this devastating event ANR worked closely with the arts community to assist and explore ways of helping them continue their creative businesses.

Northern Rivers Artist Flood Go Fund Me Campaign

Immediately after the devastating floods hit the Northern Rivers region, ANR partnered with Common Ground Byron Bay to support a crowd funding campaign to raise funds to support artists affected by the floods. The goal was set to reach \$10,000 in donations and distribute these funds to artists or creative businesses that had lost essential materials or equipment that has affected their ability to generate income.

ANR convened an independent panel to develop a set of guidelines for how these funds would be accessed as well as a simple application process. The crowd-funding campaign raised over \$18,000 and all requests for assistance were met.

Flood Impact Survey

ANR developed an online survey for artists and creative businesses to identify what the immediate and long-term impacts were of this event. The results helped us to target resources and identify best responses to help the arts community. The results also assisted in negotiating financial support from funding agencies to assist the arts community.

Arts Recovery Community Hub (ARCH)

Following the flood event ANR worked with a group of Lismore artists, led by the RealArtWorks Collective to deliver a creative workshop program to assist people with their recovery process. ARCH participants were encouraged to use creative expression as a way to reconnect with the community and make sense of the recent events, providing a space for participants to share stories and feelings and express their responses through a creative process.

Murwillumbah Art Trail (MAT)

Posts from the Big Flood was a community art project commemorating and celebrating local stories with a community art exhibition. ANR partnered with MAT to deliver this project that was supported by a RANSW QUICK Response Grant applied for by ANR on behalf of the MAT project.



Lismore Flood, photographer: Rick Lewis

more partnerships

Creative Lismore

Creative Lismore is an alliance of arts, cultural, business, tourism and education partners. In 2017 ANR continued to support the alliance through participation in the management committee as well as participating in the Art of Doing Business project that saw the creation of a pop up space for Aboriginal artists from across the region.

The activation of the site was managed by Mark Cora - Indigenous Arts Development Officer, and featured over 25 Indigenous artists predominately from the Bundjalung region of NSW.

The activation of the pop up gallery aligned with Artstate Lismore - a three-day conference and arts program that was managed by Regional Arts NSW in partnership with ANR, Lismore City Council, Create NSW and Southern Cross University. Artstate Lismore attracted over 200 delegates and offered a predominately free arts program that engaged the wider Lismore community.

The key goal was to provide a showcase opportunity for Aboriginal artists from our region that have been pursuing their creative practice, developing markets and income generating opportunities while sharing their art and culture with others locally

nationally and internationally. In addition the artists indicated a desire to share knowledge through their artworks, with an opportunity to run workshops and further develop markets and sales opportunities.

Bundjalung & Kunwinjku Cultural Exchange

ANR supported a unique cultural exchange and arts project between the Wake Up Time Women, a Northern Rivers Bundjalung textile-arts collective based in Casino and a group of Kunwinjku textile artists, from Injalak Arts, Oenpelli, Northern Territory. The project took place in March 2017 and at the completion of the two-week cultural exchange program the Bundjalung and Kunwinjku women opened the doors to offer a workshop. These sold out workshops offered a unique opportunity for participants to engage and meet with both Bundjalung and Kunwinjku women, to share their culture and wisdom and learn the respective techniques of each group.

With both groups specialising in fabric textiles including printing, dyeing, fibre and weaving, the project supported the women to develop and exchange traditions, skills and techniques, and to create strong and lasting reciprocal relationships of cultural significance to each group.

country arts support program - casp

Each year ANR manages CASP for our region. This is a devolved funding program from Create NSW and supports locally determined arts and cultural activity for regional communities. The Northern Rivers once again generated the largest number of applications for projects in regional NSW. With a funding pot that rarely grows and which is divided evenly across the 14 Regional Arts Development Organisations, there are always far more applications than funds available. In 2017 we received 22 applications seeking \$102,224 for projects across the Northern Rivers.

ANR convenes a panel of independent artists and arts workers from across the region to assess all applications.

In 2017 the following applications were successful for projects that will take place in 2018.

Byron Youth Theatre: In My Skin (\$5,000)

Byron Youth Theatre will consult with local Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse groups, as well as health and educational organisations to create an original performance focusing on the complex issues of racism. The production will be toured to local high schools and public audiences in the region.

Kyogle Public School Parents and Citizens Association: Bringing the Outside In (\$4,200)

A collaborative project between the Kyogle Public School P&C, the students of Kyogle Public School, and local artist Rebecca Tapscott that will result in local flora and fauna being painted onto the power poles along the main street of Kyogle across May-July 2018.

RealArtWorks Inc: Cross Stitch - Unhitched: "It's not all tea and scones" (\$4,600)

RealArtWorks will host a creative investigation into how regional female artists and craft makers initiate debate, challenge boundaries and create social change. During the event, invited artists will collaborate with Country Women's Association craftswomen to explore local cultural identities, activism and self-expression, culminating in a multi-arts exhibition and the creation of a bridge between two creative worlds.

The Big Scrub Orchestra - Drumming for Engagement (\$3,200)

Young people living in the Big Scrub region (Whian, Dunoon and Modanville) will participate in a three-day djembe drumming camp in The Big Scrub Rainforest. Participants will then perform at the 2018 Lismore Lantern Parade and the 2018 Big Scrub Rainforest Day at Rocky Creek Dam.



indigenous arts projects

Indigenous arts development is one of our strategic priorities. Since 2005 ANR has employed an Indigenous Arts Development Officer tasked with supporting and developing projects that support Aboriginal artists across our region.

Art on Bundjalung Country

Art on Bundjalung Country was an exciting exhibition and workshop project delivered in partnership with the North Coast Primary Health Network, University Centre for Rural Health, Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation and Lismore Regional Gallery.

The project was conceived as an opportunity for emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to learn new skills and for local artists to have their work seen and sold in an exhibition program at the new Lismore Regional Gallery in 2017.

The exhibition opened at the new Lismore Regional Gallery and aligned with the Artstate Lismore Conference and Arts program. With over 25,000 visitors passing through the new gallery and exhibition it was an exciting opportunity for our local Bundjalung artists to have their work seen and sold to an enthusiastic market.

Balun Gilamahla River Journey

For Balun Gilamahla ANR brought together Indigenous weavers living in Bundjalung Country and from Quandamooka Country (Stradbroke Island) collaborating to craft a unique weaving installation.

The artists were interested in exploring the connection of the rivers and sea in Bundjalung Country and how they speak to the three brothers dreaming from a woman's perspective. The installation consisted of four canoes, which were overflowing with women's gathering tools, food, turtles and fish. The intricate work presents insight into different techniques and materials that have been used in Indigenous culture for generations. The installation was presented during the Artstate Lismore Conference and Arts program and was displayed throughout the NORPA season of Djurra - a physical theatre production based on a Bundjalung creation story.

The artists have an on-going commitment to reviving ancient weaving techniques and re-establishing and incorporating traditional grasses and reeds from the region. ANR will work with the group in 2018 to explore other funding and project possibilities.

building capacity

ANR delivers professional and skills development programs that aim to build capacity and resilience amongst the arts and creative industries of the region.

Workshops, Forums + Skills Development

In 2016 we delivered a series of skills and professional development opportunities and forums that were developed to meet the needs of our regional arts sector.

Creative Plus Business Workshop Program

In September ANR presented a series of workshops delivered by creative industries experts Monica Davidson and Irene Lemon (Creative Plus Business). The workshops were designed to inspire artists and creative small businesses to look strategically at their practice in terms of building a career and a business. The workshops were crafted specifically to cater to the needs of those working in the creative industries.

Create NSW Roadshow

Create NSW partnered with ANR to deliver a roadshow for the arts. Taking place at the Tweed Regional Gallery, Create NSW delivered a panel discussion session as well as one-on-one meetings with artists and organisations to discuss arts project ideas and funding information sessions. The Tweed Roadshow attracted over 65 participants and offered some great insights into funding models and opportunities for creatives in our region.

Currency House Platform Paper

ANR partnered with Currency House to launch opera, theatre and festival director, Lindy Hume's platform paper: Restless Giant: Changing Cultural Values In Regional Australia.

Lindy's persuasive and aspirational paper outlined the current Australian regional arts landscape and opened discussion on the possibility of creating a tantalising opportunity for our regional and urban arts communities, namely, creating a truly integrated national arts landscape.

ANR brought together a panel of local experts including:

- X Julian Louis, Artistic Director, NORPA
- X Brett Haylock, Director, Brunswick Picture House
- X Gavin Webber, Artistic Director, The Farm
- X Convenor: Peter Wood, Executive Director, ANR

With regional arts receiving only 15% of total arts funding in this country, the presentation was a timely examination of the issues and challenges facing regional artists and arts organisations.

local councils

As financial contributors to ANR, councils enjoy the full support of our services across the region. From participation on council committees to the delivery of innovative projects that support community-wide participation in arts and cultural activity we deliver services and amplify arts funding for all councils of the Northern Rivers.

Councils ongoing support and contribution to ANR ensures:

- X All artists and cultural organisations in each LGA can seek advice and assistance from ANR
- X Our staff can work with council staff to help source funding and deliver dynamic arts and cultural projects
- X Access to our expertise in cultural planning, policy development, project development and community consultation
- X The support of creative industry development in each LGA
- X Connections to state and nationally-funded cultural programs
- X Access to our region-wide projects
- X Inclusion in a network that attracts over a \$2million dollar investment from the State Government
- X Access to our professional and skills development program

about us

we're a small team that do big things ...

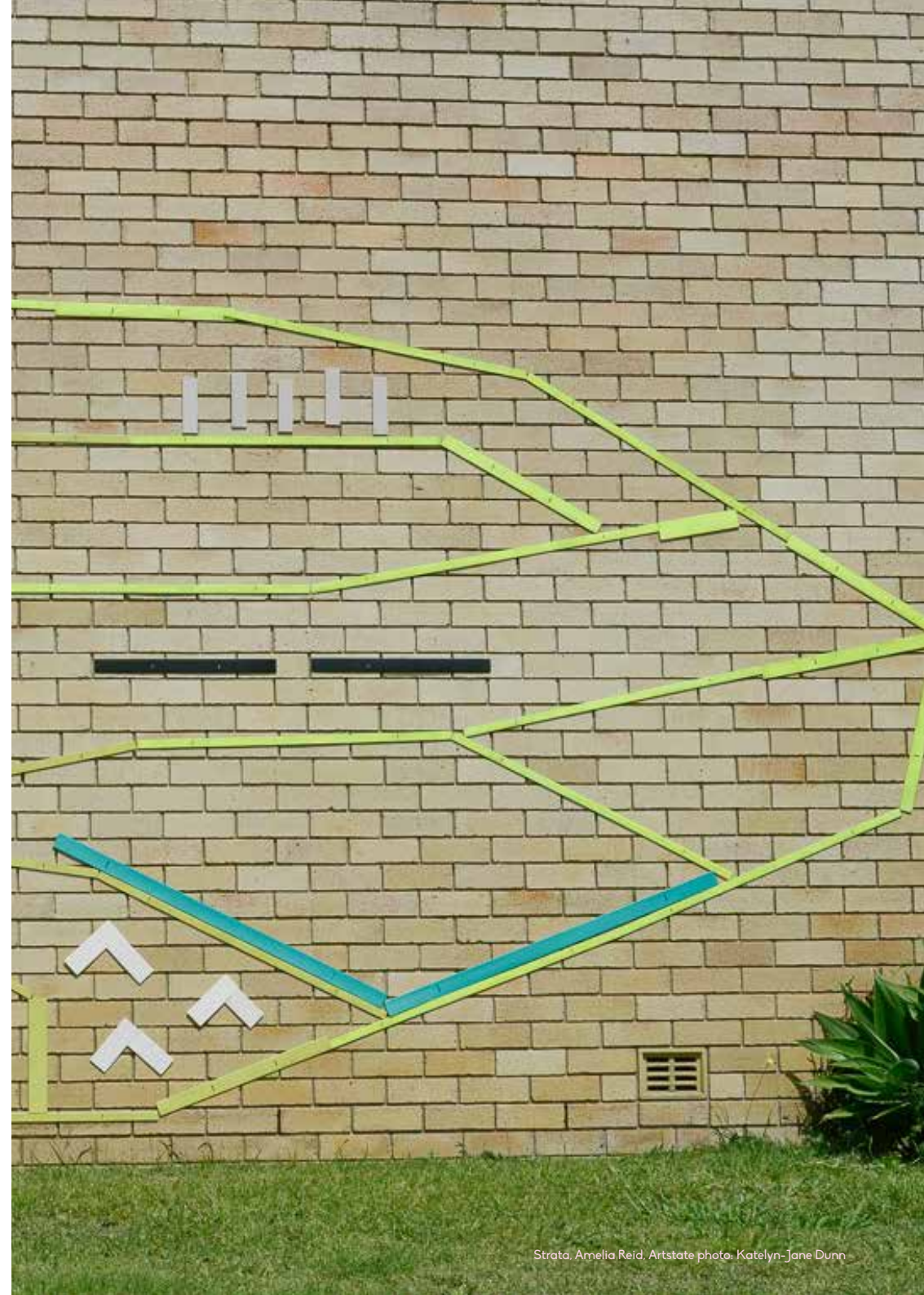
As the peak arts body, Arts Northern Rivers works with individuals, organisations and government to generate, promote and advocate for the arts and creative industries in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

staff

Executive Director	Peter Wood
Indigenous Arts Officer	Mark Cora
Project Manager	Natalie Bull
Communications Manager	Zoe Robinson-Kennedy
Administration Coordinator	Phoebe Rose Hall
Finance Manager	Grant Binns
Media Intern	Mercy Baynard

board

Ballina Shire Representative	Cr. Sharon Parry (from Sept)
Byron Shire Representative	Cr. Jan Hackett
Alternate	Cr. Jeanette Martin
Clarence Valley Representative	Cr. Deb Novak
Alternate	Jude McLean
Kyogle Shire Representative	Ms Ruth Tsitsimbini
Lismore Representative	Cr. Elly Bird
Richmond Valley Representative	Hayley Hancock
Alternate	Cr. Jill Lyons
Tweed Shire Representative	Cr. Warren Polglase
Alternate	Robyn Grigg
	Cr. Reece Byrne
Co-opted member	Wayne Halcrow



ARTS NORTHERN RIVERS

info@artsnorthernrivers.com.au

artsnorthernrivers.com.au

11 Rural Street, Lismore NSW 2480

+61 2 6621 4433



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture



Australian Government
Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support



clarence
VALLEY COUNCIL



Richmond
Valley
Council



TWEED
SHIRE COUNCIL

x
A
N
N
R