

FOR ALL THINGS ARTS + CULTURE

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

ARTS NORTHERN
RIVERS



We are part of the Regional Arts Network of NSW and work with individuals, organisations and government to generate, promote and advocate for the arts and creative industries in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

Arts Northern Rivers is supported by Create NSW, Department of Communications and the Arts and the seven local Governments in our region who work with us to ensure access to arts and cultural activity for everyone.

HOW WE SUPPORT COUNCILS

Council's ongoing support and contribution to Arts Northern Rivers ensures:

- // all artists and cultural organisations in each LGA can seek advice and assistance from us
- // our staff can work with council staff to help source funding and deliver dynamic arts and cultural projects
- // access to our expertise in cultural planning, policy development, project development and community consultation
- // the support of creative industry development in each LGA
- // connections to state and nationally-funded cultural programs
- // access to our region-wide projects
- // inclusion in a network that attracts over \$2 million dollars investment from the State Government
- // access to our professional and skills development program

2018 ARTS NORTHERN RIVERS

ANNUAL REPORT

BALUN GILAMAHLA AUDIENCE

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM ACQUISITION



Balun Gilamahla *The River Journey* was first exhibited at the inaugural Artstate Conference Lismore, 2017. The work was created by a collective of Aboriginal weavers and was the outcome of an initiative by Arts Northern Rivers, wherein we brought together ten women weavers living on Bundjalung Country and Quandamooka Country to devise and collaborate on the installation. *Balun Gilamahla* explores the connection of the rivers and sea in the region and how they speak to the Three Brothers Dreaming from a woman's perspective. The canoes are overflowing with women's gathering tools, food, turtles and fish. The intricate work presents insight into different techniques and materials, some of which have been used by practitioners of the Bundjalung Nation and Quandamooka Country for generations.

The Australian Museum acquired the work in 2018. Sharni Jones, Australian Museum Manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Collection wrote: The acquisition aligns with the Australian Museum's objective to build relationships with local, regional and remote communities, and expand the collection of contemporary NSW artworks and cultural objects.

ENGAGEMENT

WORKSHOPS + FORUMS	PRESENTED IN ...	AUDIENCE
NAVA Workshop	Byron Bay	24
NAVA Workshop	Murwillumbah	15
NAVA Workshop	Grafton	18
Big Talks	Lismore	56
Public Art Forum	Mullumbimby	46
Art on Bundjalung Country workshops	Tabulum	75
Your Big Idea - panel	Mullumbimby	65
EXHIBITIONS		
Commonwealth Games	Gold Coast	4500
NRCG/ NAIDOC	Ballina	2108
NORTEC	Tweed	800
Kinship Festival	Tweed	1400
Cranes Gallery	Ballina	600
Centrelink	Lismore	450
Oral Roberts + guests	Byron	900
MARKETING + COMMUNICATIONS		
Subscribers	artsnorthernrivers.com.au	3969
Facebook	facebook.com/artsnorthernrivers	3734
Twitter	twitter.com/arts_nr	1576
Instagram	instagram.com/artsnr	1756
Arts Northern Rivers	sessions with website	15250

TOTAL **37,342**

NAIDOC

BECAUSE OF HER WE CAN!

For NAIDOC 2018 we partnered with Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation and WWF Foundation to produce a series of portraits of female Elders from Cabbage Tree Island. Each portrait was accompanied by stories told by the Elders. The exhibition at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery attracted over 2,000 visitors and was a powerful way to honour the extraordinary Aunties of Cabbage Tree Island.



YOUR BIG IDEA

ART PROJECTS



Early in 2018 Arts Northern Rivers called out to creatives across the region asking for their big ideas. The call was for proposals of ambitious ideas ready to be developed into contemporary arts projects.

Over 75 applications were received outlining innovative projects across a variety of artforms from all parts of the Northern Rivers. Five proposals were shortlisted and assessed by a panel of 3 highly regarded industry leaders including; Lisa Havilah, Director of Carriageworks, the largest and most significant contemporary multi-arts centre of its kind in Australia; Jeff Khan, Artistic Director of Performance Space who works across performance, dance and the visual arts and Roslyn Helper, Director of Underbelly Arts an experimental platform developing and presenting work from the boldest new voices in Australian art.

The shortlisted creatives were invited to pitch their ideas to the panel members, who had the unenviable task of declaring a winner. At a gala event hosted by regional arts specialist Dr Jane Kreis and with a surprise twist the selection panel decided to award two projects by creating an emerging and established category. Ballina based arts worker Caroline Wales took the emerging category for her proposal for a Pop-Up Festival of The Arts titled 'Ballinale'; converting self-storage units in the Ballina Industrial Estate into immersive interdisciplinary spaces. The established category went to NORPA (Northern Rivers Performing Arts) whose proposal outlined a durational multi-artform project that would run for twelve months along the 132 km length of the abandoned railway line from Casino to Murwillumbah via Byron Bay.

The prize for the inaugural 'Your Big Idea' project was a tailored Project Development Package; a unique opportunity to work closely with Arts Northern Rivers to hone their project and develop a funding application for mid 2018.

CHAIRS REPORT

Our 2018 Annual Report provides a snapshot of key activity and services delivered by Arts Northern Rivers (ANR) across the region. ANR continued to secure significant project funding from multiple sources to support arts and cultural development across the Northern Rivers. 2018 funding sources included; Create NSW, Local Governments of the Northern Rivers, Department for Communication and the Arts (Federal), North Coast Primary Health Network, Indigenous Languages and Arts program (ILA), Indigenous Visual Arts and Industry Support (IVAIS). In addition, we continued to attract significant support through sponsorship and donations including our ongoing partnership with accountancy firm Thomas Noble Russell. These multiple funding sources ensure ANRs' sustainability and demonstrates our role in amplifying funding for the region – with all of our project funding invested back into the community through the services and programs we offer.

In 2018 we developed an exciting partnership with the North Coast Primary Health Network that included funding to employ a Senior Indigenous Arts Project Manager. Sarah Bolt joined the team in June and was responsible for managing the Art on Bundjalung Country project - an art and health initiative that features a workshop program for Aboriginal artists in our region, that will culminate in a major art market opportunity in 2019. Our work in advocacy and policy development saw the ANR Executive Director continue to support our local councils through participation on various cultural committees, input into cultural plans and presentations to council staff and councillors supporting arts and cultural development across the region. In addition, our Executive Director was invited to present at the 13th International Conference for the Arts in Society in Vancouver, Canada. This was a wonderful opportunity to share our highly successful project 'If These Halls Could Talk' to an international audience. Participation in the opportunity was supported through Create NSW and Regional Arts NSW and has resulted in a number of on-going connections with international arts workers and organisations. 2018 was another productive year for the organisation delivering opportunities across the region for arts practitioners, organisations and audiences. I extend my thanks to the hard-working staff, my fellow Board members, our funding partners and of course the wider Northern Rivers creative community - we love what we do because of what you do!

Cr. Elly Bird, Arts Northern Rivers Chair

BOARD // Ballina Shire / Representative : Cr. Sharon Parry / Alternate : Lee Mathers // Byron Shire / Representative : Cr. Jan Hackett / Alternate : Cr. Jeannette Martin // Clarence Valley / Representative : Cr. Deb Novak Kyogle // Representative : Ms Ruth Tstimbinis (Deputy Chair) / Alternate : Chris White // Lismore / Representative : Cr. Elly Bird (Chair) // Richmond Valley / Representative : Ms Hayley Hancock / Alternate : Cr. Jill Lyons // Tweed Valley / Representative : Cr. Warren Polglase / Alternate : Ms Robyn Grigg & Cr. Reece Byrne // Co-opted Members / Wayne Halcrow (Treasurer)
STAFF // Executive Director : Peter Wood / Indigenous Arts Development Officer : Mark Cora / Indigenous Project Manager : Sarah Bolt / Communications Manager : Zoë Robinson-Kennedy
Project Manager : Natalie Bull / Administration Coordinator : Phoebe-Rose Hall / Finance Manager : Grant Binns