REGIONAL ARTS NSW
THE YEAR IN REVIEW
2016

FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES
THAT BUILD POSITIVE FUTURES FOR
REGIONAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS
NEW SOUTH WALES

70TH ANNIVERSARY
1946–2016
Regional Arts NSW is the peak body and service agency for arts and cultural development in regional NSW. Our vision is for a vibrant, dynamic and engaged creative arts and cultural sector that is valued and integral to the development and vitality of regional communities. We aim to achieve this through:

> Supporting the network of Regional Arts Development Organisations in NSW
> Strengthening, developing and maintaining our grants programs
> Promoting the value of the arts and cultural sector
> Developing the regional NSW Aboriginal arts and cultural sector
> Demonstrating leadership in effective governance

There are 14 Regional Arts Development Organisations in NSW, each providing strategic direction for sustainable arts and cultural development in their region.
2016 saw the continuation of the trend of broad impacts and changes to the arts and cultural sector across Australia. It is with a sense of pride that I see an organisation such as Regional Arts NSW (RANSW) continuing to be a strong and agile support agency for arts and cultural development in regional NSW, whilst elevating itself into a national leadership position in these times.

This national leadership role was emphasised to the sector in October, which saw RANSW’s successful delivery of an innovative, thought provoking and challenging Regional Arts Australia biennial conference, ARTLANDS DUBBO 2016. The conference program, which centred across the themes of Regeneration, Connectedness and Emergence, brought together thought leaders and cutting edge practitioners from across Australia and abroad, had a profound impact on those in attendance and this continues to reverberate across the sector. As a Gamilaroi Murri, I am particularly proud that the strength and resilience of Australia’s First Nations cultural and creative outputs and knowledge played a central role within ARTLANDS, illustrating a new approach that should be embedded into the core of all our work. In addition, the ARTLANDS Festival program developed by our Cultural Program Director, Greg Pritchard showcased and celebrated the tremendous and diverse talent that abounds within regional NSW.

But it has been the ongoing core work of RANSW, in addition to the successful delivery of ARTLANDS that has showcased the strength, professionalism and resilience of an organisation whose mission continues “to champion, develop and support the creative arts and cultural sector through the network of regional arts boards in NSW”. During this period, RANSW maintained its core services; providing high level advice, guidance and advocacy for the Regional Arts Development Organisations, delivering funding programs to the regions and undertaking strategic visioning in areas such as the continued sustainable development of regional Aboriginal arts and culture.

To not be overwhelmed by the tsunami of work that was undertaken within 2016, is testament to the calibre of the amazing RANSW team under the exemplary leadership of our CEO Elizabeth Rogers and the strong governance leadership shown by my fellow board members.

On a final note, I once more acknowledge the passion and commitment within the fourteen Regional Arts Development Organisations that make up our network, and their immense contributions to enriching the arts and cultural lives of those living in regional, rural and remote areas.

Peter White, March 2017
Chair

2016 was an enormous year for Regional Arts NSW where our core service delivery was overshadowed by the massive commitment to deliver the Regional Arts Australia National Conference and Arts Festival, ARTLANDS DUBBO (27 – 30 October, 2016). There is a separate full report for this event, but I wanted to note in this Annual Report what an extraordinary achievement this was.

During the two years of planning that went into the event, we recognised that RANSW would not be able to deliver all our core services to this network, particularly in terms of regional travel and field trips, so we increased this activity in 2015 to compensate for our attention being elsewhere in 2016. The challenges to the company and the network were compounded by a number of unforeseeable factors. The majority of the funding for ARTLANDS DUBBO was not received until early 2016, which significantly impacted on the lead time, putting the event delivery team together and all our milestones were compressed. Following the departure of key senior staff members in 2014, we had difficulty recruiting replacements to deliver our financial management and grants programs. We were also required to make a complete change to our Grants Management System (GMS) and the timing of the CASP round as well as providing training to the regional staff on the changed processes and timeline. In addition to this we commenced a new 4 year agreement to deliver the Regional Arts Fund (RAF) which required a full revision of all the grant guidelines.

Local government reform (council mergers) was another unexpected issue in 2016 as the regional network grappled with changing boundaries, local opposition to the mergers and uncertainty around council contributions to the program. Dubbo, our local government partner for ARTLANDS, had three different names and logos during the year, yet their commitment to the event remained unwavering. That we were able to deliver all our core program areas (grants, network support, communications, Aboriginal arts development and leadership) as well as a highly successful combined national conference and showcase festival of the very best of the arts in regional NSW is an extraordinary testament to the determination and dedication of everyone involved. In particular I’d like to acknowledge the contribution of four very special people. Pru Tan started the year expecting to provide administration support for ARTLANDS and ended up managing all the grants programs and the GMS changeover; Peter White made our vision for an integrated Aboriginal presence in the conference and festival programs a reality; Jane Kress provided amazing support with grants and artists’ contracts with an ever-changing budget; and Greg Pritchard, who put together an outstanding festival program; travelled the length and breadth of the state to source artists, performers and regional companies, and relocated to Dubbo to ensure the community was included in the program. Col Burk and his team from Swell Design Group did a magnificent job creating and producing all the collateral for the event.

We had a wonderful team of people including contractors, volunteers, RANSW board members and all the people from the regional network who worked extremely hard both in the lead up and delivery of the event. And to cap it all off, Regional Arts NSW celebrated its 70th Anniversary! I am extremely proud to have had the privilege of leading this amazing organisation for the past 10 of its 70 years.

Elizabeth Rogers
— Chief Executive Officer
The current organisational structure of RANSW (as per diagram below) has been in place since 2009 and a major review of the governance structure led to a revision of the Constitution and shifted the RANSW Board from a representative to a skills-based model. Prior to this time, directors of the Board were delegates (usually the Chair) of each of the Regional Arts Development Organisations (RADOs) but as the number of RADOs grew, effective governance was impacted by the subsequent size of the Board. The frequent turnover of board members, the financial costs of bringing the Board together and the difficulties in maintaining a spread of skills and knowledge. After the restructure, representation from all the RADOs continued through an Advisory Council that meets annually prior to the AGM. Strategic and operational issues are discussed at the bi-annual two-day meetings of regional Executive Directors and staff and RANSW staff.

**Regional Arts NSW Advisory Council**
- 14 Chairs of Regional Arts Development Organisations representing the ordinary members of the Company
- Meets 1 day per year prior to AGM
- Elects up to 5 Directors depending on vacancies in the cycle from nominations submitted, professional development and workshops, reviews the Company’s strategic directions

**Regional Arts NSW Ltd Board of Directors**
- 9 member board, meets 5 times per year
- Directors appointed for 2 year terms with a maximum of 3 terms.
- Appointment of Directors is based on their skills as contained in the Constitution.

**Regional Arts NSW**
- Non-profit state peak body and service agency
- Staff

**RANSW Executive**
- 3 members, meet as required

**14 RADO Boards**
- Body Corporate members of the Company
- Regional Arts NSW Ltd
- Committees of management

**14 Regional Arts Development Organisations**
- Non-profit, regional arts & cultural development entities servicing a group of LGAs
- EDs and Staff
GROUP INSURANCE
Regional Arts NSW offers group insurance policies for its members (RADOs) and affiliated members (local arts organisations). These group policies offer participants considerable savings on their insurance costs and a premium product.
- Voluntary Workers Personal Accident Insurance (RADOs and LAOs)
- Broadform Liability or ‘Public Liability’ Insurance (RADOs and LAOs)
- Association Liability Insurance (RADOs)
- Business Package (RADOs)
- Journey Insurance (RADOs)
- Motor Vehicle Insurance (8 RADOs)

In 2015 RANSW partnered with Artsure by Finsura to develop an insurance package tailored to insure the risks of individual artists who are not covered by the group insurance policies for Regional Arts NSW affiliated members and Regional Arts Boards. An online resource has been developed to address the large volume of insurance inquiries fielded by RANSW, and can be accessed via the website.

DEVOLVED GRANTS PROGRAMS

RESPONSE TO FUNDING ENQUIRIES

- 95 phone calls + 8%
- 2234 emails

2016 COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM (CASP) ON BEHALF OF ARTS NSW:
The maximum amount for a CASP grant is $5000. For the 2016 CASP funding round:
- 154 applications were received, requesting a total of $281,034
- 86 successful applications were funded a total of $252,307
- Activities took place in 80 localities and 56 local government areas
- Approximately 287 artists were employed with CASP funds on a temporary or contract basis
- An estimated 3890 people actively participated in projects
- An estimated 29,186 people attended project outcomes such as performances or exhibitions
- Approximately $309,280 in cash contributions and $308,888 in ‘in-kind’ support for projects means that a total of $1,237,120 was leveraged by CASP funding - 4.9 times the amount of CASP funding.

2016 REGIONAL ARTS FUND (RAF) ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS:
- 53 applications were received, requesting a total of $1,527,228
- 21 successful projects were funded a total of $402,156

2016 QUICK RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS:
- 31 applications were received, requesting a total of $41,730
- 26 Successful projects were funded a total $30,360

COMBINED RAF AND QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS:
- Approximately 232 artists were employed with RAF funds on a temporary or contract basis
- An estimated 14,193 people actively participated in projects
- An estimated $508,500 in cash contributions and $180,840 in ‘in-kind’ support for projects means that a total of $689,340 was leveraged by RAF funding.

NETWORK SUPPORT
RANSW host 3 face to face, two-day meetings in Sydney per year for our network of the Executive Directors of Regional Arts Development Organisations. The Aboriginal Arts Officers and Communications Officers join these meetings once per year respectively to access specific professional development and networking opportunities.
- Executive Directors [14] – February, July and November
- Aboriginal Arts Officers – 8 officers from 6 regions – February
- Communications Officers [14] – July

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- Training session in Sydney in July on the new GMS System, SmartyGrants attended by 18 regional personnel and 4 from RANSW.
- Aboriginal Arts Officers travelled to Cairns Indigenous Art Fair to develop knowledge and networks.

REGIONAL TRAVEL
Field trips and regional travel are an integral support service for the RADOs and EDs undertaken by the CEO to cover an itinerary developed by the ED according to their region’s needs. CEO undertook 4 week long field trips, one to South East Arts and three to Orana Arts and Dubbo for ARTLANDS.
- 7 meetings with local councils
- Attended 6 regional events and new infrastructure openings
- 9 regional towns visited, 2 twice and 1 four times
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- Attended 1 RADO board meetings (South East Arts)
- Supported 1 regional Executive Director recruitment (Murray Arts)
ARTLANDS DUBBO 2016 was delivered 27 – 30 October 2016. It was an iteration of the biennial Regional Arts Australia national conference and Arts Festival. The conference themes were Regeneration, Connection and Emergence. The program consisted of keynote and panel presentations in the mornings addressing these themes, together with a large number of parallel sessions in the afternoon consisting of panels, presentations, workshops and forums. Surrounding the conference was a multi-genre arts festival showcasing the best from regional NSW.

Over 500 delegates and 600 artists participated in the event. The event was supported by funding from Arts NSW, Destination NSW, Australia Council for the Arts, the Regional Arts Fund, Catalyst, Indigenous Arts Language Fund, Dubbo Regional Council, British Council and Accessible Arts as along with significant in-kind support. The delivery of ARTLANDS involved the entire team of Regional Arts NSW as well as a separate team of specialist contractors. The CEO was the Executive Producer. A separate report will detail this event.
The Regional Arts NSW website www.regionalartsnsw.com.au continues to be our main platform for promoting, informing and communicating the work of the Regional Arts NSW network. The website is updated on a regular basis with a mix of events, funding news, regional news and news from kindred organisations, personnel changes and employment opportunities. Case studies of CASP and RAF projects are prioritised and the website is a platform to broadcast many of the major projects of our RADOs. Throughout 2016 a total of 22 CASP and 9 RAF related news and event items were published.

- 34,000+ unique visitors to the RANSW website
- 3,054+ subscribers to the RANSW monthly e-newsletter
- @RegionalArtsNSW twitter account has 6,002 followers, increased by 526 from 2015

A second website for ARTLANDS www.artlands.com.au together with social media platforms Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were managed externally. ARTLANDS news was promoted through the RANSW website and social media platforms driving traffic to the ARTLANDS website. A prominent ARTLANDS slider was featured on the website, with a permanent logo link on the home page.

RANSW surveyed all the RADOs to determine the combined reach of the network. Figures at the end of January were as follows:

- 15,026 E-newsletter Subscribers
- 18,194 Facebook Followers
- 17,100 Twitter Followers
- 7,531 Instagram Followers

ADVOCACY

ARTLANDS provided the greatest advocacy opportunity for Regional Arts NSW and its members. The rigorous national conference program combined with the showcase of artistic excellence from NSW focussed the attention of decision makers from the major arts funding bodies and the event was well attended by senior representatives of state and federal arts agencies and peak organisations. The NSW Deputy Premier, the Hon Troy Grant MP, was particularly supportive and spoke at the media launch for ARTLANDS in the Sydney Opera House on 10 March 2016 and at the public launch of the ARTLANDS festival on 16 August in Dubbo. The Deputy Premier also spoke on behalf of the NSW government during the opening formalities of ARTLANDS DUBBO 27 October and announced the recipients of the Regional Fellowships and the new Regional Excellence program at the ARTLANDS dinner 29 October that included the 70th anniversary celebration for RANSW. He also attended a number of the festival events.

The Minister for Communications and the Arts Sen Mitch Fifield and the CEO of the Australia Council for the Arts, Tony Grabinowsky also spoke as part of the opening formalities.

Following advocacy and consultations during 2015, NSW Health and the Arts Framework was launched at NSW Parliament House by the Minister for Health and the Deputy Premier and attended by the RANSW CEO and the Arts OutWest ED, Tracey Callinan.

Photo Credits: Alex Wisser
ABORIGINAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT

This program is a major priority for RANSW. Travel assistance and skills development projects are funded as part of a four year National Strategic Project, Building Networks, under the RAF framework. 2016 was the final year of this funding which was completed 30 June. The next round due to start 1 July is still being negotiated. Successful ARTLANDS grants enabled RANSW to continue Aboriginal engagement and arts development during this period and were critical to the development of the Aboriginal programs at ARTLANDS.

In 2016 supported activities included:

- Aboriginal Arts Officers Network meeting, February 2016 included attending the NSW Aboriginal Arts Strategy launch at Carriageworks and a site visit to the Murruwaygur exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW
- Seven AAOs attended a field trip to the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair
- An additional follow up session to the “Making Money Business” workshops was held in Dubbo as part of ARTLANDS for the artists participating in the ARTLANDS Art Fair
- Assistance for travel and accommodation costs was provided for Aboriginal artists and groups participating in the ARTLANDS Art Fair
- The number of regional stall holders participating in the new iteration of the Black Arts Market at Carriageworks in November increased significantly.

Additional Aboriginal projects developed as part of ARTLANDS included the commissioning of a new exhibition of regional NSW regional artists, Old Land New Marks curated by Ron Mundine OAM, and a collaborative weaving/ workshop program with NSW weavers from across the state sharing skills and techniques with weavers from Tasmania and the Torres Strait.

LEADERSHIP AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

BOARD

- The RANSW Board meets five times per year to oversee the effective governance of the organisation

FINANCIAL

- The RANSW Public Fund was administered according to the regulations of the Register of Cultural Organisations. Directors of the Board, Naomi Messenger, Ben Roche and David Dwyer were appointed the Trustees of the Public Fund at the Board meeting, 14 April 2016. Lindy Hume and Lani Houston completed their terms as Directors and Jennifer Turner resigned. New directors, Paul Scott-Williams, Sandra McMahon and Julie Briggs were appointed to the Board.
- The annual full year audit was undertaken in January by Stephen J Miller and Co. A further mid-year audit was undertaken in July, 2016 to acquit federal government grants.
- RANSW acquitted the fourth year and commenced a new 2016 to 2018 funding agreement with Arts NSW for core operations.

FUNDING

- All devolved grants to RANSW have now moved across to an on-line grants Management System, Smartygrants. Both CASP and RAF are now managed through this system. Regional staff were provided training in July prior to this year’s rounds being opened.
- 30 June, 2016, RANSW completed the fourth year of its four-year agreement of the Regional Arts Fund on behalf of the Department of Communications and the Arts together with the additional funding through the National Strategic Project. The Department now has a single deed with Regional Arts Australia, but the RAF is still administered in this state by RANSW. The NSP funding program had not been agreed by the end of 2016.
- RANSW was successful in obtaining grants from the following for the delivery of ARTLANDS or individual projects within the event:

  - Dubbo Regional Council
  - Destination NSW
  - Arts NSW
  - Australia Council for the Arts
  - Indigenous Languages Arts
  - Festivals Australia
  - Catalyst
  - British Council
  - Accessible Arts
THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONAL ARTS NSW IN 2016. FOR THE FULL ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS VISIT WWW.REGIONALARTSNSW.COM.AU

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