THE REGIONAL ARTS NSW NETWORK

THERE ARE 14 REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS IN NSW, EACH PROVIDING STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR SUSTAINABLE ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR REGION.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Champion — Chair
Julie Briggs — Deputy Chair
David Dwyer — Treasurer
Bridget Guthrie
Sharm Jones
Sarah Parsons
Nicholas Pickard
Ben Roche
Paul Scott-Williams

01 Arts Northern Rivers
02 Arts Mid North Coast
03 Arts North West
04 Arts Upper Hunter
05 Grafton Arts
06 Arts OutWest
07 Southern Tablelands Arts
08 South East Arts
09 Eastern Riverina Arts
10 Western Riverina Arts
11 Murray Arts
12 South West Arts
13 Outback Arts
14 West Darling Arts

STAFF

Elizabeth Rogers — Chief Executive Officer
Prudence Tan — Manager, Grants and Projects [returned from maternity leave 4 July, 3 days p/week]
Lexie Reeves — Manager, Grants and Projects (from June)
Katelyn-Jane Dunn — Manager, Communications and Administration
Dr Jane Kreis — Research and Development (Contract)
Company Prophets — Financial Management (Contract)

PROFILE

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;

> Strengthening and supporting the network of Regional Arts Development Organisations in NSW
> Strengthening, developing and maintaining our grants programs
> Fostering and promoting the value of the arts and cultural sector in a local, regional and national context
> Playing a key role in supporting the ongoing development of a vibrant and sustainable regional Aboriginal arts and cultural sector
> Demonstrating leadership in effective governance and sustainable management.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW — 2018
FROM THE CEO

2018 was a year of relative stability for RANSW with our core business objectives being met in an increasingly tight fiscal environment. The new reduced staffing structure implemented the previous year paid dividends with an increased focus on our key priority areas as new team members gained experience and confidence in their areas of responsibility. Moving all the IT to a cloud server enabled both staff and contractors to work more efficiently with remote access that streamlined administrative processes.

FROM THE CHAIR

Artstate Lismore was a magical start and amongst many achievements demonstrated the healing role of the arts in a town ravaged by flood. Artstate Bathurst was a multi-layered event which deeply touched delegates from far and near with the cultural connections between festival and conference themes. Artstate Tamworth will add a much anticipated new level of regional cultural expression building on its two predecessors. Another opportunity seized by Regional Arts NSW is the Create NSW funding for a Regional Aboriginal Cultural Strategic research project. RANSW is partnering with researchers from Charles Sturt University on work which will provide a consolidated base for the future support of Aboriginal Cultural expression. It is an important step towards a strategic approach to cultural support rather than an ad hoc one.

As Chair I have been proud and enormously impressed by the way Elizabeth and her team and RANSW Board have been able to constantly deliver on and exceed expectations especially with the 2018 four-year funding that has led to Artstate. We are now half way through this four-year project to put regional arts practice and discourse front and centre on the state and national agenda. Artstate Lismore was a magical start and amongst many achievements demonstrated the healing role of the arts in a town ravaged by flood. Artstate Bathurst was a multi-layered event which deeply touched delegates from far and near with the cultural connections between festival and conference themes. Artstate Tamworth will add a much anticipated new level of regional cultural expression building on its two predecessors. Another opportunity seized by Regional Arts NSW is the Create NSW funding for a Regional Aboriginal Cultural Strategic research project. RANSW is partnering with researchers from Charles Sturt University on work which will provide a consolidated base for the future support of Aboriginal Cultural expression. It is an important step towards a strategic approach to cultural support rather than an ad hoc one.

While government funding is vital and enormously appreciated, the reality is that there are limited funding options available to service organisations and the annual funding that Regional Arts NSW receives has not been subject to even a CPI increase in 13 years. This has seen the full time staff pool dwindle and many roles such as finance and communications now being outsourced. We hope that the review of multi-year funding currently being undertaken may address this sort of issue because doing more with less does have a definite limit.

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REGIONAL ARTS NSW

THE YEAR IN REVIEW—2018

Elizabeth Rogers
Chief Executive Officer
Regional Arts Development Organisations are independent incorporated associations with:

- Paid professional staff
- Multiple stakeholders
- Diverse funding sources
- Projects and program delivery

OUR SERVICES

- Networking meetings
- Professional development
- Human Resource Management advice
- Arts Management advice
- General information on all arts grants
- Management of devolved funding programs
- Funding/Grant writing workshops
- Online grants management systems
- Research
- Group insurance services
- Aboriginal arts development

OUR SKILLS

- Governance + Funding program knowledge + Grant writing + Grant program management + Media + Communication practices
- Aboriginal arts development + Financial administration + Human resource management + Arts administration
- Strategic planning + Project management + Event management + Research

SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

Growing our Sector

- Aboriginal arts development
- Human resource management
- Arts administration
- Strategic planning + Project management + Event management + Research

STRUCTURE

Regional Arts NSW Advisory Council

- 14 Chairs of Regional Arts Development Organisations (RADOs) representing the ordinary members of the company
- Meets once a year prior to the AGM
- Elects 5 Directors depending on vacancies in the cycle from nominations submitted
- Reviews the Company’s strategic directions

Regional Arts NSW Board of Directors

- 9 member board, meets 5 times per year
- 5 regional & 4 co-opted Directors
- 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

RANSW Executive

- 3 members
- Meet as required

Regional Arts NSW

- Non-profit state peak body and service agency
- Staff

14 Regional Arts Development Organisations

- Body corporate members of the Company (Regional Arts NSW Ltd)
- Committees of management

14 Regional Arts Development Organisations

- Non-profit regional arts and cultural development entities servicing a group of adjoining Local Government Areas (LGAs)
- Executive Directors and Staff

14 Regional Arts Development Organisations
Regional Travel
Field trips and regional travel are an integral support service for the RADOs and EDs undertaken by the CEO. Trips cover an itinerary developed by the ED according to their region’s needs.

The CEO spent 90 days travelling in 2018. Eight regions were visited in this period. Artstate Bathurst was the major event of 2018. Eighteen percent of CEO travel was to Bathurst and the Central West. Seven trips were made to Bathurst for a total of 27 days including travel days scheduled around significant milestones including the local launch of Artstate, meetings with local stakeholders, production and site visits and the event itself. Seven other regions were visited during the period including Arts North West, Eastern Riverina Arts, Orana Arts, South West Arts, Western Riverina Arts, South East Arts and Murray Arts.

The CEO travelled interstate to attend Artlands Bendigo, VIC and the NAVA Conference, Canberra. Activities took place in 95 localities and 57 regional centres. Seven other regions were visited during the period including Arts North West, Eastern Riverina Arts, Orana Arts, South West Arts, Western Riverina Arts, South East Arts and Murray Arts.

The CEO travelled interstate to attend Artlands Bendigo, VIC and the NAVA Conference, Canberra. Activities took place in 95 localities and 57 regional centres.

Summary
- 22 trips
- 90 days on the road
- Visited 8 regions
- 13 regional towns visited (Wagga, Wagga Twice, Tamworth Four times and Bathurst seven)
- Attended 3 RADO board meetings (Eastern Riverina Arts (AGM), South West Arts, Arts and Southern Tablelands Arts) and met with other board members during regional travel.
- Drove around 35,000kms.

Group insurance
- Broadform Liability or ‘Public Liability’ Insurance (RADOs and LAOs)
- Voluntary Workers Personal Accident Insurance (RADOs and LAOs)
- Association Liability Insurance (RADOs)
- Business Package (RADOs)
- Journey Insurance (RADOs)
- Motor Vehicle Insurance (8 RADOs covering 10 vehicles)
- Cyber insurance (new 10 RADOs)

In 2018 there were 129 affiliate members. At the AGM in April the constitution was amended to enable affiliate membership applications from regional arts organisations based in regional Australia.

RANSW partners with Artsure by Inssure to provide an insurance package tailored to insures the risks of individual artists who are not covered by the group insurance policies. The growing number of participants in this new policy is leading to a reduction in premiums. There are currently 169 active policies for individual artists.

Response to funding enquiries
- 1046 phone calls
- 1727 emails

2018 Country Arts Support Program (CASP) on behalf of Create NSW:
- The maximum amount for a CASP grant is $5000. For the 2018 CASP funding round 130 applications were received requesting a total of $468,664
- 76 successful applications were funded a total of $248,927
- Activities took place in 95 localities and 51 local government areas
- Approximately 312 artists were employed with CASP funds on a temporary or contract basis
- An estimated 3423 people actively participated in projects
- An estimated 4182 people attended project outcomes such as performances or exhibitions
- Approximately $347,923 in cash contributions and $840,792 in in-kind support for projects means that a total of $1,188,715 was leveraged by CASP funding - 4.5 times the amount of CASP funding

2018 Regional Arts Fund (RAF) on behalf of the Department of Communications and the Arts through Regional Arts Australia

Community Grants
- 50 applications were received, requesting a total of $1,134,793.69
- 13 successful projects were funded amounting to $306,560

Quick Response Grants
- 55 applications were received, requesting a total of $167,375
- 30 successful projects were funded amounting to $35,243

Combined RAF and Quick Response Grants:
- Approximately 162 artists were employed with RAF funds on a temporary or contract basis
- An estimated 5,626 people actively participated in projects
- An estimated 139,437 people attended project outcomes such as performances or exhibitions
- Approximately $493,745 in cash contributions and $305,983 in in-kind support for projects was leveraged through RAF projects

Network Support
RANSW has developed ongoing relationships with a number of Sydney based arts organisations providing a significant conduit between metropolitan and regional organisations.

RANSW partners with the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) in its annual Regional Stateholders Forum.

RANSW also partnered with the Theatre Network NSW and supported the EDs to attend the TNHH Gathering at The Eternity Theatre, Darlinghurst. As well as networking with this allied sector, the EDs were able to bring a regional perspective to the facilitated sessions.

Artsure provides an excellent opportunity for metro-regional engagement. RANSW again partnered with the Australian Museum for support for the Sydney launch of Artstate Bathurst in July. Following on from their successful pre-event forum in Lismore, Arts on Tour presented Salon in Bathurst. A number of metropolitan and national organisations took up the opportunity to present at Artstate Bathurst including Create NSW, MusicNSW, Regional Australia Institute and the National Association for the Visual Arts.

The CEO continues to sit on the Regional Conservatoriums Advisory Group hosted by the Department of Education.
Following the success of ARTLANDS DUBBO 27 – 30 October, 2016, an iteration of the biennial Regional Arts Australia national conference and Arts Festival, RANSW recognised a need to continue a state-based version due to the high number of NSW delegates (57%) attending the Dubbo event, and to build on the opportunity to showcase excellence in regional arts practice in NSW. A four-year proposal was developed for a shorter conference program and a multi-genre regional arts festival in four different regions of NSW. In 2018 the second Artstate conference and festival was delivered in Bathurst 1 – 4 November, 2018.

The two day conference addressed the themes of A Sense of Pace – regional arts practice that responds to culture and landscapes and Robust Regions – exploring the contribution of the arts to regional communities. In developing these themes we referred to the feedback and reports from Artstate Lismore and thinking about the different strengths of each region in NSW. The accompanying arts festival featured a diverse program of performances, exhibitions and film screenings featuring the artists of the Central West region.

Artstate was presented in partnership with Arts OutWest with funding from Create NSW, Bathurst Regional Council and Destination NSW. Local stakeholders contributing to the program included Mitchell Conservatorium, Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre, Bathurst Regional Gallery, Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum, Chifley Home, National Motor Racing Museum and Tremain’s Mill.

258 delegates attended Artstate Bathurst, 84 from regional NSW, 84 from Greater Sydney and the Illawarra, 8 from interstate and 2 international. Overall, the high attendance from Sydney demonstrated the value of the event in bringing metropolitan and regional arts practitioners and administrators together to focus on excellence in regional arts practice.

(A separate report details this event.)
ABORIGINAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT

This program is a major priority for RANSW, but as forecast last year, the LA contract that RANSW had been managing on behalf of the network ended 30 June, 2018. RADIs were encouraged to apply individually to this fund under guidelines that did make any provision for employment. Applications had to be project based. Two AAOs in the network are supported on triennial agreements through the IANS program and queries have been made to DuCA to encourage two further applications from the network in 2019. Other RADIs have applied to various programs such as Creative Koore (Create NSW) but these are annual programs that don’t provide ongoing sustainability for these posts.

The work that was done the previous year in beginning to develop a new regional NSW Aboriginal Arts Development Strategy moved slowly forward in 2018. RANSW received strategic funding to undertake this work and have partnered with Charles Sturt University to commence early in 2019 for completion by 30 June.

The annual joint network meeting with the regional Aboriginal Arts Officers was held in Sydney on 20 & 21 February 2018. They met with Aboriginal staff from Create NSW, were briefed on the Valun Festival and had a site visit to the Australian Museum facilitated by RANSW director and Senior Manager for Indigenous Collections, Sharni Jones. AAOs are employed by Arts North West, Arts Northern Rivers, Murray Arts, Arts OutWest, Orana Arts, Outback Arts, South East Arts and West Darling Arts. Saltwater Freshwater Alliance GM is included in this network for the Mid North Coast region.

RANSW developed a strong Aboriginal program as part of Artstate Lismore 2017 that continued and grew in Bathurst in 2018 with speakers, presenters and performers taking part in all aspects of the event, including the opening ceremony, the handover to the next host city and the year the Bathurst Elders conducted a moving farewell from their country.

Create NSW used Artstate Bathurst as a focus to conduct their own Aboriginal Engagement program as part of the process of developing a new strategy. As part of this program a number of the participants were supported to attend the first day of Artstate Bathurst.

Sharni Jones, RANSW Director, continues to provide advice and connections for RANSW and the regional network. Lexie Reeves, Manager Grants and Projects continues to attend the RAA CEO phone meetings when they did not clash with pre-existing RANSW meetings.

The CEO participated in the reference group for Artaid’s Victoria and attended this event in Bendigo in October.

The Chair and the Deputy Chair met with RAA Chair during Artstate Bathurst.

Regional Arts Australia (RAA) continued to administer the RAF as a devolved fund.

The CEO and the regional network. Lexie Reeves, Manager Grants and Projects continues to attend the RAA CEO phone meetings when they did not clash with pre-existing RANSW meetings.

The CEO participated in the reference group for Artaid’s Victoria and attended this event in Bendigo in October.

The Chair and the Deputy Chair met with RAA Chair during Artstate Bathurst.

The Regional Arts NSW website (regionalartsnsw.com.au) continues to be the 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, grants, news from regional and kindred organisations, personnel changes and employment opportunities. Case studies of CASP and RAF projects are prioritised and the website is used to broadcast many of the major projects of the RADIs. Throughout 2018, a total of 6 CASP and 13 RAF-related news and event items were published, as well as a Tips for 2019 Funding article.

44,365 visitors to the RANSW website
3,216 e-newsletter subscribers
19 e-newsletters were distributed for core business, including special edition e-news for festivals. 7 media releases were distributed throughout the year for RANSW’s grants programs, 2018 Board of Directors and Artstate Tamworth 2019 announcement.

Twitter 6,766 followers +3% 1
Instagram 1,383 followers +23%
Facebook 794 followers +60%

Combined Network Reach

RANSW surveyed all the RADIs to determine the combined reach of the network. Figures at December 2018 were as follows:

6,238 E-newsletter subscribers
23,107 Facebook followers
19,670 Twitter followers
14,450 Instagram followers

Advocacy

Meetings and communication with members of parliament.

Ongoing communications throughout the year with the office of the Hon. Don Harwin, MLC regarding Artstate. The Minister spoke at:

> The Sydney launch of Artstate

> The opening ceremony, the commencement of the Speakers program and the Artstate dinner as well as attending the entire event.

Further communication with the office of the Member for Bathurst, the Hon Paul Toole MP who launched Artstate at the local launch in Bathurst, spoke at the Sydney launch and attended the opening.

The RANSW 2017 Year in Review was inserted into all delegates bags at Artstate Bathurst and distributed to key partners.

Agency meetings

Create NSW

Create NSW underwent a further re-structure in 2018. Key meetings included:

> Presentations at all Network meetings and the RANSW Advisory Council meeting by various staff members from Create NSW and CAPA (now Create Infrastructure) including Communications team and Aboriginal team for those specific meetings.

> Ongoing requests for information regarding the status of CASP for 2019 that was excluded from the rollover contract agreement.

> Report on meetings regarding Shoalhaven Council’s options for joining the regional Network.

> Regular meetings withorraine Brunsdon including her participation on the Artstate Speakers Program planning committee and other matters regarding Create NSW involvement in Artstate.

> Meetings with the Partnerships and Strategy team sourcing funding for the RANSW Aboriginal Arts and Culture Research project.

RANSW participated in the following reviews:

> Review of funding programs

> Youth Arts strategy consultation

> 2025 Summit in Narragarmah

> Aboriginal Arts and Cultural policy development

> Social impact research

> Arts and Disability consultation

Department of Communications and the Arts (DoCA)

RANSW continued to meet with DuCA during the year regarding the RAF and the Aboriginal Grants programs (ILA and NAIS).

Regional Arts Australia (RAA)

> RAA continued to administer the RAF as a devolved fund

> The CEO and the regional network. Lexie Reeves, Manager Grants and Projects continues to attend the RAA CEO phone meetings when they did not clash with pre-existing RANSW meetings.

> The CEO participated in the reference group for Artaid’s Victoria and attended this event in Bendigo in October.

> The Chair and the Deputy Chair met with RAA Chair during Artstate Bathurst.

Elevation

The Beast

Showcase of the Mid North Coast region.

Create NSW used Artstate Bathurst as a focus to conduct their own Aboriginal Engagement program as part of the process of developing a new strategy. As part of this program a number of the participants were supported to attend the first day of Artstate Bathurst.

Sharni Jones, RANSW Director, continues to provide advice and connections for RANSW and the regional network. Lexie Reeves, Manager Grants and Projects, continues to be responsible for coordinating the AAD network as part of her broader role.

The year in Review—2018
LEADERSHIP AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Board Matters
The RANSW board is a skills-based board and met five times during the year to oversee the governance of the organisation. At the AGM on 19 April, Sarah Parsons and Bridget Gilmore were welcomed to the board, replacing retiring members, Gavin Findlay and Sandra McMahon.
Stephen Champion was re-elected Chair, Julie Briggs was elected Deputy Chair and David Dever continued as Treasurer. Additional appointments were Ben Roche as Board representative on the RAF panel and Sharni Jones as Chair of the CASP panel. Julie Briggs agreed to represent RANSW on the RAA Board.

Regional Arts NSW Public Fund
The Public Fund was administered according to the regulations of the Register of Cultural Organisations. Julie Briggs, Ben Roche and David Dever were appointed the Trustees of the Public Fund at the board meeting on 19 April, 2018.

Audit
The annual full year audit was undertaken in January by Stephen J. Miller and Co. A further mid-year audit was undertaken in July, 2018 to acquit Federal government grants.

Funding Matters
1. Create NSW
   RANSW entered the third year of its current triennial agreement with Arts NSW 2016 – 2018 for core operations including the administration of CASP. We have been advised that the current contract will be extended to 2020.
   Create NSW also funded as a strategic project, Artstate NSW, a four year project combining a speakers and arts program in four different regions of NSW to showcase excellence in arts practice in regional NSW. The first event, Artstate Lismore, was held 30 November – 3 December, 2017. The second Artstate Bathurst, was held 1 – 4 November, 2018, and moves to Tamworth in 2019.
   RANSW received funding to undertake a research project investigating Aboriginal and Cultural Development in regional NSW. This report is due 30 June, 2019.

2. Department of Communications and the Arts (DoCA) – Arts Division
2.1 RAF
   Since July 2016, the RAF has been administered by RAA on behalf of the Department and managed in NSW through Smarty Grants. The RAF Grants (Community Grants and Quick Response) continued to be administered according to the guidelines (See full report Section 2 Grants).

2.2 ILA
   This funding ended 30 June, 2018 and has been fully acquitted.

3. Artstate Funding
   RANSW was successful in obtaining additional project funding for Artstate Bathurst from Destination NSW’s Meet in NSW program and from Bathurst City Council.

Staffing Matters
In January, 2017 all part-time positions were abolished and two new full time positions were created; Manager, Communications and Administration and Manager, Grants and Projects. Kathleen-Jane Dunn was recruited to fill the new Communications and Administration role, and Pru Tan, previously the Administration Officer, took up the new Grants and Projects role. Pru took 12 months maternity leave in July and her position was filled by Lexie Reeves. As Pru returned to part-time work, Lexie was confirmed in the Grants and Projects role. Pru was appointed Manager, Programs to support RANSW core business. The financial management continues to be contracted out to Company Prophets and Dr. Jane Kreis is contracted for Research and Development support.
All Artstate personnel are contractors brought in as required to deliver the project. All are based regionally.
All RANSW IT is now cloud-based, enabling regional contractors and core staff to operate remotely.
THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONAL ARTS NSW IN 2018. FOR THE FULL ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS VISIT WWW.REGIONALARTSNSW.COM.AU

REGIONAL ARTS NSW IS A MEMBER OF REGIONAL ARTS AUSTRALIA

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