



 **orana**
arts inc

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

“ While there were moments where the viewer could see the influence of a mentor, there was more a sense of artists entering a field of practice rather than imitation, and the diversity of the work was testament to the benefits of structured support and creative dialogue. It was exciting to see a local event that so clearly stood out in an abundant program of interesting work from around the nation. ”

Liz Bradshaw, 'Reimagining Regional'
Real Time Arts

Photo credits: Alex Wisser, Amber Hooper, Paris Norton, Portia Lindsay.
Photos throughout report are of both Orana Arts and independent arts projects.
Contact communications@oranaarts.com for individual photo or artwork details; we would be pleased to put you in touch with artists from across the region.



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Another great year for Orana Arts, as projects continue to be rolled out across the region. Weaving, ceramics, wood carving, music and performance were all presented through workshops and events. Project funding has meant the mentoring of artists and groups in gaining experience and grants to support their own ongoing work.

The Artlands conference and festival in Dubbo in October was a huge success with Regional Arts NSW CEO Elizabeth Rogers and team to be congratulated on producing a comprehensive program that involved delegates in seminars, presentations and workshops. The program had integrity and was truly relevant and informative.

In conjunction with Artlands, Orana Arts held the Left Field 2 exhibition, Wala-Gaay, as our last exhibition in the Fire Station space in Dubbo and At the Junction of Two Rivers in Wellington. Both were received with great acclaim.

Executive Officer Alicia Leggett has expanded the scope of Orana Arts' work and in balancing a challenging budget, she has ensured wide delivery of services and sustainability across activities. Alicia has increased youth arts

involvement and continues to strengthen, support and promote young Indigenous artists across the region.

Thank you to the Orana Arts Board, who share their experience and travel over five local government areas (previously six as council amalgamations have seen Wellington join with Dubbo to become Dubbo Regional Council) and report back to their communities about arts initiatives. We are assisted in this work by the financial contributions made by each local government area and with the support of Council staff. This contribution is hugely appreciated.

As we move into 2017, I thank everyone for their time and support.

- Virginia Handmer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Running a small regional arts organisation, you never really know when you are going to get your big wins; when outcomes that you work so hard to achieve with your team and community are presented to a larger audience, when there is the recognition of the work an organisation such as ours provides for artists. But we did have a tangible win during Artlands, the Regional Arts Australia biannual national conference, held in Dubbo in October 2016. During the conference our Left Field Project mentoring program and artist collective exhibited Wala-gaay and the audience was blown away by the sheer brilliance of the works.

It was a humbling experience to receive so much positive feedback for this exhibition. I congratulate the OA team – especially project manager Michelle Hall – for all the hard work. Working with such a diverse group of artists, their skills and love for the arts were always in the forefront of Michelle's support for the program. LFP has been running for the last 18 months thanks to assistance from Arts NSW.

We can only measure our success as an organisation through that of our team and our communities. I'm always grateful for the hard work of those who have supported OA in the

past, and those who are currently sharing their passion for the arts with us.

Our communications delivery is a priority that assists communities and artists through the sharing of information and opportunities. Portia Lindsay has handled our communications for most of 2016 and has proven that engagement across our social media platforms supports the initiatives in our region. Paris Norton enlivens us all with her creative passions, stirs ideas among the team and offers valuable insights into our Aboriginal arts programming. Many of her ideas will be burning into 2017.

With a strong team comes a strong Chairperson and Virginia Handmer has been a trusted confidant and mentor throughout her tenure, for which I'm forever grateful.

I look forward to another year of innovative arts – providing our region with more growth and opportunities.

- Alicia Leggett

ABOUT ORANA ARTS

Orana Arts is the peak body for arts and cultural development in the Orana region of New South Wales. Orana Arts supports and advocates for arts and culture in the region through programs and projects that help communities participate in the arts and provide opportunities for artists.

We are part of a statewide network of 14 regional arts boards, dedicated to building positive futures for regional, rural and remote communities throughout New South Wales through arts and cultural development. An independent not-for-profit organisation formed in

2004, we receive our core funding from Arts NSW and the four local governments of the region – Dubbo (amalgamated with Wellington mid-2016), Gilgandra, Mid-Western, Narromine and Warrumbungle.

Orana Arts board is comprised of representatives from our local governments areas and 3 co-opted members that bring specialised skills to the board. The board meets four times per year, in March, June, September and December.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 18 March 2016.

OUR REGION

Dubbo Region
Gilgandra Shire
Mid-Western Region
Narromine Shire
Warrumbungle Shire





SERVICES



We are focused on supporting, advocating and developing cultural activity in our region. As part of this focus we provide services that offer opportunities for artists and encourage participation in the arts. One of the primary functions of Orana Arts is the communication and promotion of arts + cultural activity happening in our region. We achieve this via multiple platforms:

ORANAARTS.COM

The website is geared towards more static content, and interviews and profiles of artists and events from around the region, as well as opportunities and resources. Profile pieces that prove popular on social media – such as the profile of Gulgong artist Denise Faulkner and visit to potter Chester Nealie’s studio – find a permanent home at oranaarts.com

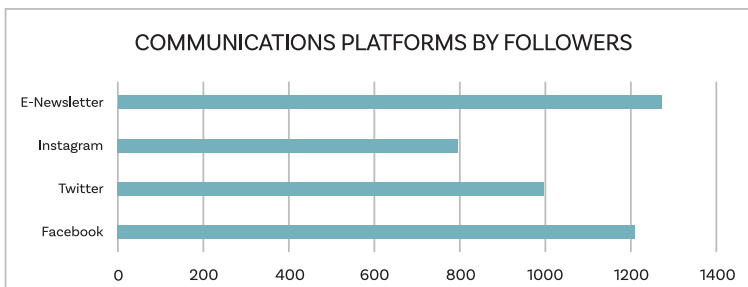
OA NEWS

Our e-newsletter goes out monthly – with special bulletins when necessary – to over 1,200 subscribers. It covers events, projects and opportunities. In mid-2016 we altered the format to take a more conversational approach in line with our social media, a move that garnered positive feedback.

@ORANAARTS

Our Facebook page has attracted 1,208 followers and 1,241 likes, with over 4,000 post likes in the past year. Our Twitter account has 995 followers. Orana Arts on Instagram has 795 followers, with 3,156 likes across 141 posts in 2016.

Follower distribution – with a certain amount of crossover anticipated – is shown through the chart below. Though Instagram has fewer followers than other platforms, it receives the highest level of engagement through likes and comments. Second highest for interactions is Facebook.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT + ADVOCACY

Advocacy and professional development for our artists, arts workers and organisations are important aspects of our work. We ensure that we are up to date on local, regional and national arts and cultural issues. We also maintain good relationships and partnerships so that we can best represent the creative communities of our region.

Orana Arts is also involved with boards and committees across the region, including: the Love Your Life Committee, Western Plains Cultural Centre Advisory Board, Rylstone Sculptures Inc and the Mid-Western Regional Council Cultural Development Committee.

Many aspects of our work happen behind the scenes through countless phone calls and meetings – we provide information, advice and support to our region’s artists, arts workers, organisations and people wanting to be involved in arts and cultural activity.

In 2016 our outreach included Country Arts Support Program advice and assistance, as we took to the road after CASP applications opened, visiting each region to discuss projects and applications directly with artists and

organisations.

Executive Director Alicia Leggett also contributed to regional arts discussion panels at a number of events, including local cultural forums, Artlands in Dubbo and Sculptures in the Garden in Mudgee





PROJECTS




STAGING STORIES

Staging Stories is a development program that aims to develop Aboriginal actors and playwrights and to put regional Aboriginal stories on the stage. This project creates new artistic experiences and partnerships in theatre practice and authentic theatre for Aboriginal people. Through staging stories we are creating theatre with those who are in the main excluded.

With our partner, Moogahlin Performing Arts, we have worked with over 35 young people and seven

emerging playwrights. We have a play from our region currently in development. This play - based on the lives of Aunty Ruth and Uncle Dick Carney - will premiere in Dubbo in a short season at the Black Box Theatre at the Western Plains Cultural Centre.



CARVED UP BY DESIGN

Carved Up By Design is a six week workshop series for people of Aboriginal heritage aged 16 and over. Inspired by dendroglyphs (carved trees), participants create their own personal designs and apply them to surfaces and objects using various contemporary wood and craft techniques.

This program is based on the understanding of the history of the carved design form and its cultural uses. The carved design represents a unique aspect of

Aboriginal cultures in this region and is not widely known outside of the area. Participants gain skills in traditional carving and designing and can implement these skills in contemporary formats such as 3D printing and street art.

Run in Kandos in 2016, Carved Up will be popping up in various locations across the region in 2017, continuing the dialogue between contemporary and traditional Australian art and culture.

LOVE YOUR LIFE

In partnership with the Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Service, as part of the Love Your Life program, Orana Arts delivered a series of workshops within the region aimed at promoting health and wellbeing through the arts.

Weaving Connections was a program led by contemporary textile artist Nicole Barakat, with sessions taking place over six weeks in Dubbo, Wellington and Narromine. Participants explored the concepts of traditional weaving and crocheting and could develop their own free-form styles. An outcome of this project was the creation of three separate outdoor crochet sculptures inspired by the natural landscape surrounding each community, on display for ARTLANDS Dubbo.

It was inspiring to see participants create unique, beautiful and symbolic representations of their towns with only string and a hook. The project fostered a sense of belonging and social inclusion over the six weeks of meetings.



Pinch + Press was a series of one-off ceramics workshops held in Gilgandra, Gulgong and Coolah. Mudgee-based artist Toni Behrens guided participants through the process of creating pinch pots and shared basic ceramics techniques in a warm and encouraging environment. Participants had a great time creating practical items with a beautiful handmade touch. By the end of each session we had a collection of unique and eclectic items ready for firing: wind chimes, olive pots, mugs, vases, sculptures and more.





LEFT FIELD PROJECT 2 + WALA-GAAY

Orana Arts was successful with Arts NSW regional partnerships funding for the second stage of The Left Field Project (LFP2), working in collaboration with Blacktown Arts Centre and Casula Powerhouse to extend the conversations of our artists.

LFP2 was an intensive 18-month program for artists, working individually and as a collective, to explore and challenge their artistic practice. The artists were

supported by leading Aboriginal contemporary artists Blak Douglas, Nicole and Chico Monks, Jason Wing, Jonathon Jones and co-curators Emily McDaniel and Khaled Sabsabi. Our artists found the exchange both challenging and rewarding through the shared process of creating and developing work for the final exhibition, Wala-gaay.

Wala-gaay in the Wiradjuri language refers to the bare part

of the tree where bark has been stripped off. Wala-gaay was an evolution of trust, conversations, unique stories and experiences that evolved into the creation of new contemporary works that provoked and challenged the notion of contemporary art, Aboriginal art and art produced by regional artists in regional settings.

Wala-gaay's audience response was beyond expectations, with positively glowing reviews from the local audience and leading arts magazines, from major institutions and fellow artists. The final pieces were so significant that several artists initiated future exhibition opportunities.





“ The Left Field Project 2 is a visionary, essential, critical, holistic, long-term and ongoing mentorship program, which has significantly increased the quality and professionalism of contemporary artists in regional Australia ... I wish that I had received such a valuable boost to my career as an emerging artist that the LFP2 has provided. ”

- Jason Wing

“ The Left Field Project is more than an arts program. It creates true connections and a platform for continuing our cultural practices ... The lived experience of Left Field is helping shape the NSW Aboriginal arts community. ”

- Nicole Monks



“ The project's approach and process has been an open one, with artist development critical to the project's final outcome - making the modelling for this project a significant structure for applicable contemporary Australian cultural production. ”

- Khaled Sabsabi





AT THE JUNCTION OF TWO RIVERS

At the Junction of Two Rivers ran over 22 October - 12 November 2016 at the Old Western Stores in Wellington - as the product of a partnership between Orana Arts and The Curator's Department. It featured a number of artists working across mediums: Karla Dickens (Wiradjuri, Lismore); Asher Milgate (Wellington, Sydney); Raquel Ormella (Sydney); The Ronalds (Ganmain); Liane Rossler (Sydney); Simon Yates (Sydney).

'Confluence' is the term used to describe the meeting of two bodies of water. It is also an apt term to describe the aims of At the Junction of Two Rivers - the creative and social exchange of ideas. Set in the historically significant town of Wellington NSW, at the junction of the Macquarie and Bell Rivers, this exhibition brought together regional and metropolitan artists who engaged with Wellington's social, cultural and



physical landscape during an artist-in-residence earlier in the year. Each of the artists spent time exchanging ideas with the community and exploring culturally important places - the Burrendong Botanic Garden and Arboretum, the Wellington Caves and Oxley Museum - At the Junction of Two Rivers is the outcome of this experience.

Curated by Holly Williams and

Glenn Barkley from The Curators' Department, with Kent Buchanan from the Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo

At the Junction of Two Rivers was supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW and ran with the support of the Wellington community, Western Plains Cultural Centre, the Keirle Family, the Oxley Museum, Binjang Community Radio, Burrendong Botanic Garden and Arboretum.



Regional Arts Australia (RAA) holds a national biennial conference around Australia and 2016 marked the return of the RAA conference to NSW host city Dubbo for the first time in 14 years. Artlands was held 27 - 30 October and showcased great art, interesting ideas and new concepts for a local and national audience.

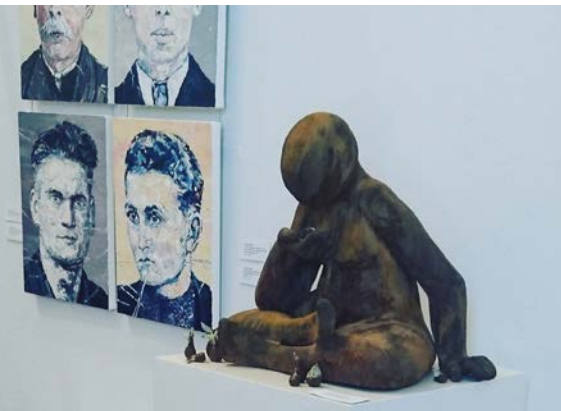
While we were dazzled by visiting performers such as FLiNG Physical Theatre, Branch Nebula and Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen, our focus was on the display of Orana Region talent, as artists, performers and craftspeople showed off their work to a national audience.

The spectacular opening act - under the creative direction of Greg Pritchard - featured many Dubbo locals and the Artlands Art Fair included

representatives and wares from the Kandos Museum and Mudgee's Artisan on Lewis. Other highlights included:

Stage show Biding Time saw Mudgee theatre-maker Sam Paine take up Pippa Bailey's challenge to reinterpret her play. Sharing the story via an unfinished text and encouraging local artists in different places to freely interpret it to suit their context, Bailey's objective is to create sustainable, fair-trade theatre. Productions have already been seen in Scotland, England, France, Brazil and Adelaide and the Mudgee troupe's interpretation received rave reviews at Artlands.

artworks@ARTLANDS was curated by Caroline Downer and Nicci Parry-Jones as a celebration of twelve regional artists, highlighting their creativity and diversity of expression across media. Inspired not only by the landscape,





but by their own personal stories, this exhibition explored texture and form, flow of line, shape and colour to create a fascinating snapshot of the work of artists in the mid-west of regional NSW. Artists included Chris Kunko, Kelly Leonard, Nicole Hutchinson, Sooty Welsh and Jack Randell.

Inspired by the symbolism and sentinel role of birds, Volucres took participants on an immersive ride

upon the currents of chaos, despair and hope. With her creative team, Dubbo artist Kim Goldsmith extended her storytelling capabilities and presented a powerful and immersive experience through soundscape and video projection.

We are still seeing the effects of such a big arts event in our region, as conversations and collaborations continue into 2017.

COUNTRY ART SUPPORT PROGRAM

In 2016 the Country Art Support Program enabled seven projects across the region, which brought information and development across art forms and townships. These were:

LUST FOR LIVE

Massive Music

A monthly, community driven, live music event with a focus on Dubbo's original music artists.

WRITING YOUR WAY TO WELLNESS

Outback Writers' Centre

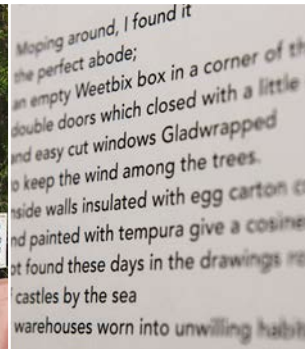
Author David Roland presented two writing for wellness workshops in

Dubbo. Post workshop, participants were mentored by a local writer/ editor to produce stories to a publishable standard, edited, photocopied, collated and sold for cost.

WEAVING CONNECTIONS

Western NSW Local Health District Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Service

Expanding the "weaving connections" project by bringing to Dubbo a contemporary crochet artist for an artist in residence program.





TWO DAY WORKSHOP IN MENDORAN

Mendoran + District Development Group Inc

Two day artist workshop under the tutelage of Pamela Delves Thomson, who works in drawing and watercolours.

ART FOR POETRY'S SAKE EXHIBITION

Mudgee Readers' Festival

An exhibition where local artists interpreted the work of poets in their chosen medium, leading into poetry readings during the main festival.

HEALING LANTERNS

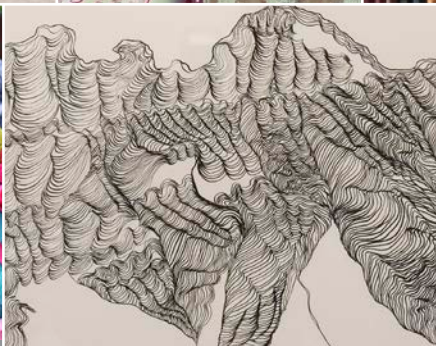
Wellington Arts

Chinese lanterns were made by schools, day care students and seniors, in the lead up to the Arts & Cultural Festival in April 2016. Workshops also took place in the park to ensure wide spread participation.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Wellington Development Inc

Bringing contemporary arts to Wellington community through an engaged and extended residency program with internationally recognised artist Adam Norton.





1919

FIRE STATION

ARTLANDS

DUBBO 2016

←
Kulanyi Park
Dubbo Regional Council
Dubbo Regional Theatre
& Convention Centre (DRTC)

↑
Fire Station Arts Centre
Dubbo City Bowling Club (Pavilion Club)
Western Plains Cultural Centre (WPCO)

→
Fire Station Arts Centre
Dubbo City Bowling Club (Pavilion Club)
Western Plains Cultural Centre (WPCO)

↑
Museum Cafe

←
Dubbo RSL Club

FIRE STATION ARTS CENTRE

At the end of 2016 we farewelled the Fire Station Arts Centre, after an exciting few years working with local artists and groups to invigorate the space. Throughout 2016 we ran a variety of events at the Fire Station Arts Centre (FSAC), including exhibitions, pop-up shops and film screenings.

Greg Pritchard held his exhibition - complete with dismantling party - of his gaffa tape graphic novel *Tatiana and the Ruby Wombat*; So Stella used the space as a pop-up shop; Sally Hopkins screened the

premiere of her film *The Station* to a full house, political art project *The Daily Diminish* was developed, Chris Kunko created award-winning art upstairs and the *Left Field Project* collective made use of every nook and cranny.

We have very much enjoyed developing and hosting a whole range of exciting events over our FSAC tenure and we look forward to seeing what comes next for this space, as we move to a more mobile professional practice in 2017.



STAFF + BOARD

Orana Arts is a not-for profit organisation governed by a board made up of representatives from our contributing LGAs and communities. The board – in consultation with Orana Arts Staff – fulfil their primary role of overseeing the strategic direction of the organisation.

EXECUTIVE

Chairperson Virginia Handmer
Deputy Chairperson Les Lambert
Treasurer Anne-Louise Capel

BOARD MEMBERS

Eleanor Cook, Sam Paine, Deidra Naden, Jessica Moore, David Dwyer, Susan Atkinson

STAFF

Alicia Leggett Executive Director rado@oranaarts.com

Portia Lindsay Communications Officer communications@oranaarts.com

Paris Norton Administration Officer info@oranaarts.com

Michelle Hall Project Manager projects@oranaarts.com

Thank you to those staff who greatly contributed to Orana Arts before moving on in 2016 to pursue new creative goals: Paige Williams, Melissa Ryan.

THANK YOU

Pandora Gallery, Artisan on Lewis, Narromine Museum, Coonabarabran Library, Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre, Old Western Stores, Gallery 47, Gilgandra Gallery, Gulgong CWA Hall, Western Plains Cultural Centre, Hub Space, Fire Station Arts Centre, Coolah Youth & Community Centre, Warbehr Design + Make.

Orana Region cultural map



Sentaine

CORE FUNDING PARTNERS



LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



MEMBER OF



REGIONAL ARTS
NSW

2016 PROJECT PARTNERS

**CASULA
POWERHOUSE
ARTS CENTRE**



M Moogahlin
Performing
Arts INC



WESTERN PLAINS CULTURAL CENTRE





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