



ORANA

arts inc

*Putting artists
at the centre*

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW



I AM NOT HENRY LAWSON'S LOVER
MARY GILMORE

I AM NOT HENRY LAWSON'S HOUSEKEEPER
ISABELLA BYERS

I AM NOT HENRY LAWSON'S DAUGHTER
BARTA LAWSON JAGO

I AM NOT HENRY LAWSON'S FRIEND
LALA FISHER

I AM NOT HENRY LAWSON'S NURSE
A deVILLIERS MacCALLUM

JESUS SAVES

The Dawn Club, works by Fiona MacDonald hanging in the Henry Lawson Centre, 2021/22



CREATING OUR OWN RHYTHM IN 2021

Image: Lynda Hagsteeg, 2021

What an accomplishment 2021 turned out to be for Orana Arts and congratulations to all involved.

Supporting the team to transform itself into a new and exciting regional arts organisation has been very rewarding for the entire Board. Orana Arts, with a new mission and direction to ensure equality and access for the regional arts sector, pressed on despite the many challenges from the pandemic. Thanks to Create NSW initiating a \$50 Million Rescue and Restart package for the sector, which allowed our team to apply for and secure several of the small grants on offer that facilitated opportunities for artists. Residencies, small grant programs, and a diverse series of on-line conversations helped keep artists engaged and connected in 2021.

We recognise the arts is perhaps our truest path to understanding and reflecting on our presence in an ever-changing world, and as we work our way through a post-Covid world we must continue to advocate for maintaining financial support for and recognition of the importance of the arts sector. I thank the team of Orana Arts for their passion, drive, and vision to see through the year and extend my gratitude to the volunteer Board of Directors for their unwavering support and their belief in the value of the arts—especially in the regions. We'd like to acknowledge our funding bodies and the many partners who put their trust in our team to deliver for the sector.

MATT POLL, CHAIR, ORANA ARTS INC.



Artists Inel Date & Tim Winters,
Ironbark Arts Residency, 2021

PUTTING ARTISTS AT THE CENTRE

2021 was about putting artists at the centre of Orana Arts, with a new strategic direction launched into the world on the back of much planning in previous years that aims to reshape our regional arts organisation as one responding to the needs of regional artists across NSW. Those needs were expressed directly to us through artist surveys and consultations, as well as various sector studies. By taking an artist-led approach, we're developing opportunities for regionally-based artists of all ages, artforms, and stages in their career. Many of those implemented in 2021 are outlined in this report.

Supporting the new direction and programs has been a new funding agreement with the NSW Government through Create NSW, that has seen our funding increased. We have been determined to see this increased funding go into our programs, in turn benefiting the artists and organisations we're working with.

Our key focus has been consolidating three platform areas:—The Studio/ Studio Co!Lab, Volunteers Artists

Museums Program (VAMP), and Creative Consultancy, developing opportunities within each platform, and establishing partnerships to deliver them.

A new logo for the organisation, branding key platforms and programs, and a new purpose-built website expresses our commitment to putting artists at the centre and being a hub of information and resources. Our Studio Co!Lab members even have their own members' area on the website, where member-specific opportunities, resources and links are housed.

The team behind the changes includes both our board and staff. They have put a lot of work into advising and guiding the organisation over the past few years. We welcomed new board member, Aunty Ruth Carney through the year as our co-opted board member, Judith James stepped back. Aunty Ruth has long been a supporter of our work with young people, Indigenous story-telling and our performing arts programs.

We could never have made the changes without our staff this past year. There were some movements within the team as we farewelled key members, Michelle Hall and Danielle Andrews. Both were critical to our general operations and the success of our production of *A Little Piece of Heaven*—the Uncle Dick and Aunt Ruth Carney touring stage show about their love and life in regional NSW.

We also welcomed Andrew Glassop into the team in 2021, as Manager of Partnerships and Engagement. Based in Sydney but with intimate knowledge of the regions, Andrew is an enormous asset to Orana Arts as we continue to forge partnerships with governments and peak arts organisations, as well as raising awareness of the strengths of the regional arts sector in the wider conversation.

2021 has been an enormous year for our little organisation, but we do punch above our weight, particularly in the face of adversity. We proved we have the skills and capacity to flex as needed to meet the needs of the creatives we represent.

ALICIA RODRIGUEZ LEGGETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

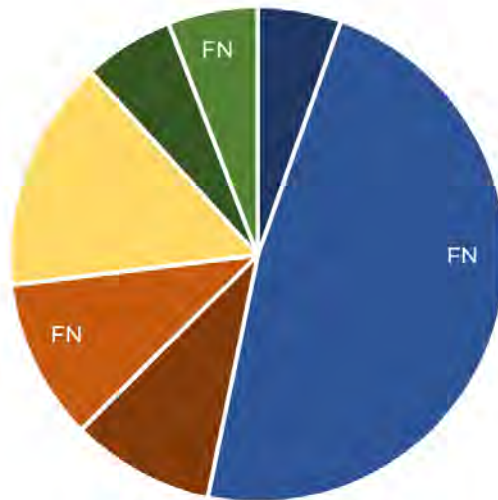


GRANT FUND DISTRIBUTION IN 2021

\$431,240

[For more information on strategy + finance](#)

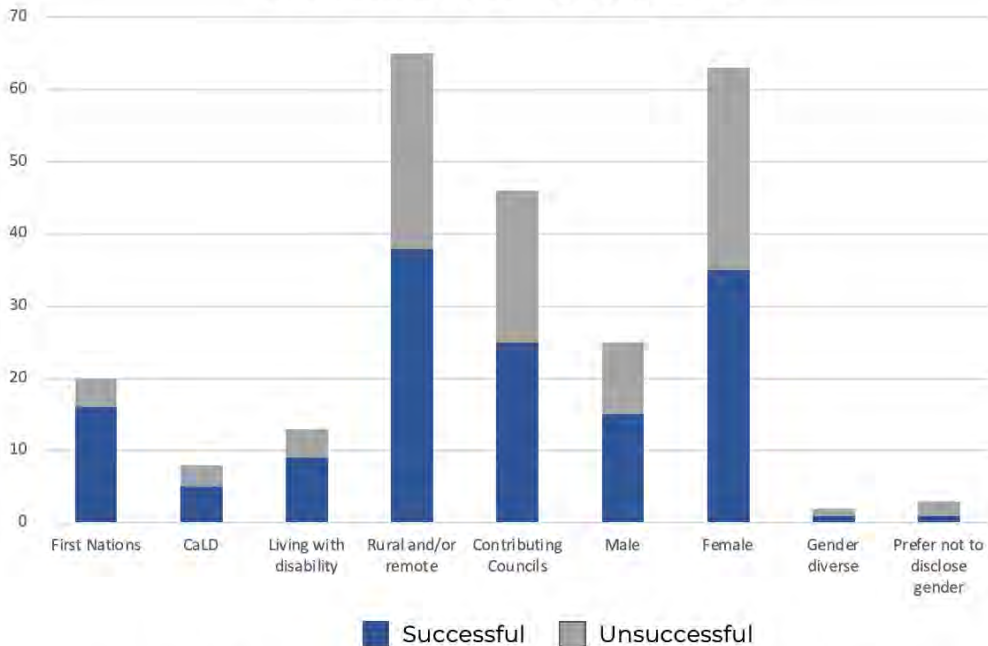
Our support across the arts (as a percentage of project funding)



- Visual Art
- Visual Art (FN)
- Performing Arts
- Performing Arts (FN)
- Writing
- Volunteer Museums
- Volunteer Museums (FN)

First Nations funding (noted as FN in the pie chart) reflects a new partnership with Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Applications by demographic group



Note: Each applicant will appear in more than one demographic group

THE STUDIO



IMAGES SUPPLIED



THE STUDIO is our **artist-centred platform**, where we connect with regionally based artists of all ages, stages and art forms. Content developed through The Studio includes creative and professional development opportunities and resources. It also includes an events program and the membership platform, **Studio Co!Lab**, focused on delivering member-exclusive opportunities, funding, information, and support for collaborations between members.

In 2021, The Studio supported and showcased projects funded through **Arts Restart** grants from Create NSW, one of the three residency programs offered to non-member artists, along with a place to non-members interested within the **Mudgee Art House** giclée print offer. Also part of The Studio was the **Studio Co!Lab Talks** program rolled out between April and December 2021, delivering 19 artist talks, and the opening of the **Orana Arts online shop**.

The Studio also offers support for our performing arts for young people program, **Not a Dress Rehearsal (NaDR)**, sharing resources and talks with NaDR members when relevant.

STUDIO CO!LAB members get access to even more from The Studio for their annual fee (paid monthly in 2021). By the end of the year we had about **65 members** of Studio Co!Lab from across the performing arts, writing and visual arts, working from the Northern Tablelands, Mid North Coast, Newcastle/Hunter, Shoalhaven, Central West and Riverina. As well as having access to quarterly creative development grants exclusive to members, they also had access to all three residency programs — **inScribe** (for writers), **Co!Lab @ CORRIDOR AIR** (for a writer, performing artist and visual artist), and the **Ironbark Artist Residency** (visual artists).

Along with these opportunities, Studio Co!Lab members get exclusive resources including video and audio recordings of the **Studio Co!Lab Talks**, grant writing and marketing assistance, and speaking opportunities. The group is supported by a dedicated Facebook Group and monthly e-bulletins, as well as e-blasts as needed.

The development of programs for The Studio has seen partnerships developed with **Mudgee Art House**, **Writing NSW**, the **CORRIDOR** project, and **Stuart Town Advancement Association**.

[WATCH THE RESIDENCY VIDEOS ON THE STUDIO PAGE OF THE WEBSITE](#)





This was **NOT A DRESS REHEARSAL's** (NaDR) first full year of operations, and we had young people join us from Scotts Head to Sussex Inlet, Coonabarabran to Wagga Wagga, and Nyngan to Goulburn, taking a major step in fulfilling their passion for the performing arts. It was a difficult year, and yet those who stayed with the program picked up opportunities to develop leadership skills through our **Ambassador Program**, learn more about the industry from those working in it, as well as craft skills that will not only help them in the performing arts, but in whatever they pursue in life.

The experience and care our delivery partners, **Australian Theatre for Young People** (ATYP) and **Taikoz** have shown, has been outstanding. It's been a partnership that has brought enormous benefit to all involved.

- Our Taiko Ensemble, who rehearsed together online, won the percussion section of the **Dubbo Eisteddfod** in their first public performance.
- Jezikiah Brown was awarded the inaugural **Richard Carney Scholarship for Aboriginal Youth** in the program.
- We supported several young people with auditions and HSC performances
- International dancer/choreographer and Dubbo local, **Charlie Bartley** dropped into the program a couple of times to talk with our Ambassadors and offer some insights into the performing arts.

[NOT A DRESS REHEARSAL REPORT CARD](#) (or scan the QR code above)



vamp

VOLUNTEERS. ARTISTS. MUSEUMS. PROGRAM

VOLUNTEERS. ARTISTS. MUSEUMS. PROGRAM (VAMP) seeks to find new ways to build connections and audiences for volunteer museums. An audit of resources, needs and opportunities helps guide the direction of the museum program.

The program has a strong focus on encouraging creative producers to find ways to engage with audiences and provide avenues of interaction for the community. It also builds partnerships with local government agencies in restoring community confidence and resilience.

VAMP took centre stage at Gulgong at the end of the year after the first **Heritage Artist Residency** (HARd) was completed over winter at the **Henry Lawson Centre** by artist, **Fiona MacDonald** (Ilford). Fiona (pictured right) spent time delving into the archives of the Centre to unearth the stories of the women who surrounded the iconic Australian bush writer, Henry Lawson. The work took shape in an exhibition called *The Dawn Club* that was exhibited at the Henry Lawson Centre until the end of January 2022.

[WATCH THE VIDEOS ABOUT VAMP ON THE WEBSITE](#)



CREATIVE CONSULTANCY



Orana Arts continued to work in partnership with **Sydney Trains (Transport for NSW)** into 2021, in a collaboration between artists, Sydney Trains and Orana Arts, to celebrate the 140-year history of the **Stuart Town Railway Station** and the special heritage of the station. This project included commissioning a public artwork on the railway station site, and video documentation of the project, paid for by Sydney Trains.

The public artwork, titled *On the Night Train*, by Stuart Town's resident artist, **Tim Winters** was unveiled in a ceremony in June 2021, along with interpretive signage that recognises the Indigenous connection and history to the area and design work by Wellington-based graphic designer, **Louise Austin**. A QR coded link to the video produced by content producer, **Kim V. Goldsmith** was also accessible on the signage.



This project is an example of how Orana Arts can oversee creative solutions for organisations like Sydney Trains, utilising the creative skills of artists within the region to deliver an outcome.

The organisation continues to work with Government and other agencies to deliver projects that celebrate the talent and creativity of regionally-based artists, yet meets the needs of the client organisation.

[WATCH THE VIDEO ON THE CONSULTANCY PAGE OF THE WEBSITE](#)





WHAT THEY SAID

I joined Studio Co!Lab to support and be part of a wider creative community, to meet and connect with other creatives, access opportunities, and to push my own practice further. In just a few months, I've achieved all this.

TINA PECH, FIBRE/TEXTILE ARTIST + BOOKBINDER, BARADINE

The process of having a space away from your normal life is really, really useful. The colleagues I've been working with come from a whole lot of different practices, different processes and it's been amazing to get their expertise and help.

CATHERINE MOFFAT, WRITER, LAKE MUNMORAH ON THE INSCRIBE RESIDENCY

The process of having fine art quality reproductions done was more challenging than I had anticipated. However, it provoked a great dialogue between Mudgee Arthouse, Orana Arts and myself. It changed my perception of what value reproductions could have in my art practice.

SHANI NOTTINGHAM, VISUAL ARTIST, COWRA ON THE MUDGEE ART HOUSE OPPORTUNITY

...this feels like the first film where my vision is actually able to become a reality.

JESSICA NIPPERESS, FILMMAKER, MUDGEE ON HER ARTS RESTART GRANT PROJECT

This component of the project has strengthened my industry relationships and allowed me to build my professional network.

TIM MOXEY, MUSICIAN, HELENSBURGH ON HIS ARTS RESTART GRANT PROJECT

NaDR is a fantastic program that educates you on the different areas of the entertainment industry and offers an amazing support system. It's an encouraging environment that built my confidence to pursue a career in the performing arts.

ASHLEIGH CHANDLER, NADR AMBASSADOR, DUBBO

ATYP's experience with the NaDR program was extremely positive. By working collaboratively, ATYP and Orana Arts can engage young people in Regional NSW with an interest in the performing arts and connect them with a broader professional arts community State-wide and nationally.

FRASER CORFIELD, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ATYP



inScribe artists in residence at the CORRIDOR project, 2021

PARTNERS+ INVESTORS

NSW GOVERNMENT

CREATE NSW

DEPT. OF INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
& COMMUNICATIONS (OFFICE OF THE ARTS)

SYDNEY TRAINS, TRANSPORT NSW

AUSTRALIAN THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SYNERGY & TAIKOZ LTD

MACQUARIE CONSERVATORIUM

STUDIO 138

DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL

WARRUMBUNGL SHIRE COUNCIL

WESTERN PLAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

WRITING NSW

THE CORRIDOR PROJECT

MUDGEES ART HOUSE

MUDGEES MUSEUM

HENRY LAWSON SOCIETY

STUART TOWN ADVANCEMENT ASSOC.

WELLINGTON LOCAL ABORIGINAL LANDS COUNCIL

OUR BOARD + TEAM

MATT POLL
CHAIRPERSON

ALICIA LEGGETT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNE LOUISE CAPEL
DEPUTY CHAIR

ANDREW GLASSOP
MANAGER STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

DANIELLE LITTLEWOOD
TREASURER

AMANDA DONOHUE
OPERATIONS

VIRGINIA HANDMER
DIRECTOR

MICHELLE HALL
MANAGER STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

ALAN FLOWER
DIRECTOR

DANIELLE ANDREWS
EMERGING PRODUCER, NADR

DIANE MCARTHUR
DIRECTOR

CAMILLA WARD
INTERIM NADR MANAGER

JUDITH JAMES
DIRECTOR (until April 2021)

GEORGIE SAUNDERS
EMERGING PRODUCER, TAIKO

AUNTY RUTH CARNEY
DIRECTOR

KIM V. GOLDSMITH
CONTENT PRODUCTION & MARCOMS

GREG VAUGHAN
BOOK-KEEPING

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