



# ORANA ARTS ANNUAL REPORT 2018

“As Governor of the Macquarie Correctional Facility I have worked closely with Orana Arts to get their Creative and Social Investment program running in our facility and have seen first-hand the positive outcomes of their programs.

The program has improved the life skills, creativity and self-esteem of prisoners through music and visual arts education. In working with prisoners, the Orana Arts team have always demonstrated the utmost respect for culture and for individuals, which has meant an increase in the capacity of our prisoners to communicate, create and collaborate”.

— Brad Peebles, Governor, Macquarie Correctional Centre, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Justice



## CREDITS

Cover image credit: Paris Norton,  
image taken as part of CETA  
Ukerbarley.

Where not otherwise stated, the  
images in this report are credited  
to Orana Arts staff.

Design: Rachel Williams

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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Throughout 2018 the Orana Arts team have been enhancing existing projects, developing new programs, supporting the creative endeavours of groups, promoting events, and creating partnerships that have benefited many communities and artists across our local government areas. The organisation balances support of our region's culture through a mix of grassroots and strategic projects.

Grassroots engagement includes the winter Soup Session program. Soup Sessions are a way to micro-finance small creative projects within a community and in 2018 were held in Mudgee, Wellington and Coonabarabran. These sessions also allow for creative groups to meet and

know what others are doing, providing a community-building networking opportunity.

Strategic programming includes engaging our region with state arts bodies. In mid-2018 Orana Arts was able to showcase our creative region through a Create NSW and Accessible Arts tour. The tour included a visit to the Ukerbarley site with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and attending the opening of The Common Thread — a CETA outcome — at the Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre. Create NSW also visited Macquarie Correctional Centre to witness the success of the 180/CSI program and Accessible Arts held a seminar for local government representatives.

In 2018 Orana Arts completed the move to a skills-based board and adopted an updated constitution, which includes targeted stakeholder engagement and a strong strategic vision.

I wish to thank the Executive Director Alicia Leggett and her staff, who are so passionate about regional arts and always looking for new ways to enhance culture in our region through increased connectivity and partnerships.

Thank you also to the board and stakeholders for their continuing support, guidance and skills, as we look to a bright 2019.

**Anne-Louise Capel**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The inner circle of the Orana Arts team know very well that I refer to the growth of our small organisation as building an empire. With every year that passes, we see ourselves stretching into a larger conversation about our impact as a regional organisation supporting our artistic community and running strategic programs. Our delivery supports the argument that a conscious engagement with the arts is of overall benefit to our communities.

This engagement is made evident by projects such as Staging Stories, where a conscious effort to develop a model for Aboriginal theatre-making in the region, provides an intensive program that focuses on Aboriginal plays by regional Aboriginal playwrights, developed by

Aboriginal actors and has led to the success of the show A Little Piece of Heaven.

New programs like 180: Creative and Social Investment allow our engagement in the arts to have real social capital and explore the challenges of new collaborations and outcomes. Our pilot year saw music and visual art programs running in two NSW Correctional Centres. The immense benefit of these programs is unfolding in line with our vision of social and cultural investment.

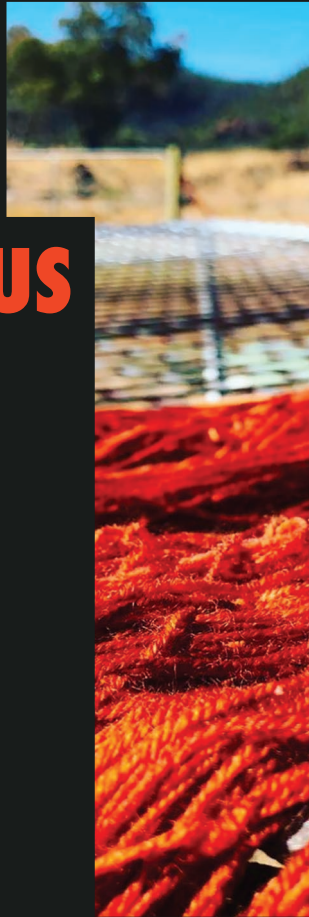
Our vision is to build on the foundations of partnerships and programs we have built over the past three years, providing meaningful engagement with our emerging artists and opportunities for established artists from across the

state. Our creative process offers a deep connection with the communities and individuals we work with and we maintain the integrity of what we do by always placing the artist first.

In 2018 we lost our ATSI Programs Manager Paris Norton — as she moved on to exciting new opportunities — and gained Cultural Projects Officer Danielle Andrews and Digital Projects Officer Shelby Russo-Vooles. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who made 2018 such an exciting year, as well as our Board, cultural and community advisors, Wiradjuri Elders Aunty Ruth and Uncle Dick Carney, and the contributing Councils that make up our dynamic region.

**Alicia Rodriguez Leggett**

# ABOUT US



**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 Create NSW and the

five local governments of the region – Bogan Shire, Dubbo Region, Gilgandra Shire, Mid-Western Region and Warrumbungle Shire.

In 2018 Orana Arts adopted a new board structure and elected a new executive. As part of our strategic plan, Orana Arts has been working towards a new structure which will maximise skills and allow us to host cultural forums in communities across our region, so that everyone gets a say in arts and culture in the Orana Region. The executive meets four times per year, in March, June, September and December.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 16 March 2018.



Mural: Jack Randell



**SERVICES**



## COMMUNICATIONS

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 and 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 and longer-form interviews – such as our piece featuring Art of Threatened Species artist Kelly Leonard – find a permanent home at [oranaarts.com](http://oranaarts.com)

Since the website's makeover in late 2017, it has received a considerable percentage increase in traffic, with 4,971 unique visitors and 9,199 page views in 2018.

## OA ARTS BLAST

Our e-newsletter goes out monthly – with special bulletins when necessary – to over 1,200 subscribers. It covers events, projects and opportunities. The open rate in 2018 was consistently above the average for the arts industry (26.03%).

### @ORANAARTS

Our Facebook page has attracted 1,466 followers and 1,488 likes. Our Twitter account has 1,206 followers. Orana Arts on Instagram has 1,014 followers.

Our Communications Manager is always eager to hear about events and activities happening across the Orana Region at [communications@oranaarts.com](mailto:communications@oranaarts.com) or on social media.

**@oranaarts**   





## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Orana Arts aims to develop the skills of artists and organisations in our region in a variety of ways. This Business Called Art runs throughout the year, focused on professional development and seed funding for community projects. Country Art Support Program information sessions encourage applications from across the region, and a large volume of calls, emails and one-on-one meetings provide advice, assistance and connections for Orana Region creatives. Just a couple of success stories from this behind-the-scenes support include: support for Nyngan artists Lynn Hodge and Lyn Quinton with their WPCC exhibition or the development of the Gulgong Arts Council members Twisted Sisters' concept and successful application for HomeGround.

## **ADVOCACY**

As part of our advocacy work we ensure that we remain up to date on local, regional and national arts and cultural issues and maintain solid relationships and partnerships to best represent the creative communities across the Orana region. Part of our role as an advocate for arts in the region is to meet regularly with state and national arts bodies and to connect artists in our region with opportunities further afield. In 2018 we hosted representatives from Regional Arts NSW, Create NSW and Accessible Arts in the Orana Region and arranged information sessions and meetings with sector participants in Dubbo, Coonabarabran, Narromine, Trangie and Wellington.

**PROJECTS**



Throughout the year Orana Arts has managed a variety of projects geared towards creative and professional development, mental health and social enterprise outcomes and showcasing the wealth of creative talent across our region to a wider audience.

**A LITTLE PIECE OF**

**H E A V E N**



## STAGING STORIES

After a well-received reading of the play in late 2017, 2018 saw the creative process for Staging Stories continue, with Melbourne theatre-maker John Harvey and regional writer Sam Paine working with Narromine Elders Dick and Ruth Carney and artist Paris Norton to stage a full production. This storytelling extravaganza was a national collaboration, featuring set and audio-visual staging from Sydney-based Annie McKinnon and Brisbane-based Alison Ross. *A Little Piece of Heaven* was performed in Narromine and Dubbo in August 2018 and received rave reviews from audiences. The production will tour the region in 2019, as well as heading to Melbourne as part of the Footscray Community Arts Centre program.





# CREATIVE AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT

*The 180 (Creative and Social Investment) program delivers arts-led training within corrective services.*

Our innovative, creative model — based on national and international learnings — expands opportunities for disenfranchised and disengaged community members to increase life skills and creative skills, and reconnect back with education and community. The program will continue in 2019, with a series of artist residencies complementing the ongoing creative program.

This program feeds back into the community, as Orana Arts continues to support creative and cultural ventures outside the facility — an important factor in reducing the rate of recidivism and reincarceration. Elements of the Orana Arts program directly address these issues and work with individuals to create social entrepreneurs and leaders through imparting knowledge, skills and a strong support system. Even in its early stages, Orana Arts social investment programming has shown immense promise and I look forward to its development, both within our facility and the wider community. ”

— Brad Peebles, Governor, Macquarie Correctional Centre, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Justice



# SOUP SESSIONS

Soup Sessions are community events designed as micro-funding for creative projects. Orana Arts ran three Soup Sessions in 2018.

## **MUDGE**

This Soup Session was a youth focused event, formed in partnership with Mid-Western Regional Youth Council. It was a popular session, receiving terrific interest and feedback from the community and attracting pitches from four young creatives. The winning pitch was for an adventure narrative game run by Jess Nipperess and Orana Arts continues to support her in producing this project for 2019.

## **WELLINGTON**

This event was a partnership between OA and Ignite Dubbo Region with the aim of invigorating Fong Lees Lane in Wellington. It was incredibly well supported by Wellington Arts and Hermitage Hill Function Centre, with pitches from seven local artists/groups and four winning pitches selected to paint murals in Fong Lee Lane. Pitches from the Wellington Buddhist Centre, Wellington High School, Sue Byrne and Sue Towney all received \$500 and the project fed directly into the hugely popular Fong Lees Lane community event that took place at the end of 2018.

## **COONABARABRAN**

Our first Soup Session in Coonabarabran was held at the Youth Drop-In Centre and allowed the community to discuss ideas and plans openly. As well as Warrumbungle Shire Council representatives, 22 people attended, with proxy votes and donations from 25 additional community members (gathered by one very motivated pitcher). The proud winner of the \$635 raised was Vivian Evans, who continued fundraising and successfully completed the Festival of the Stars mural community project.



**OF THREATENED SPECIES**

**The Art of Threatened Species** is a collaboration between the Office of Environment & Heritage and Orana Arts, in recognition of the Saving Our Species program. Artists from across NSW are working in a variety of mediums to engage in a self-directed residency program for the development of a public exhibition. The residency program provides artists and science and environment professionals with time, space and resources to work – individually and/or collectively – on significant areas dictated within the Saving Our Species program. Residencies enable participants to do fieldwork and to work on-site with local partners, to map out, collect, research and generate new perspectives around selected species. This kind of ‘embedded research’ will contribute to public and professional awareness and provide the means for a public outcome for future exhibition.





## UKERBARLEY AND WELLINGTON

The CETA pilot program Ukerbarley — in the Warrumbungle region — was completed in 2018 with creative outcome *The Common Thread*. Inspired by the diverse ecological communities at Aboriginal area Ukerbarley, the CETA team saw the potential of interaction with these environments connecting with Aboriginal traditions of fibre craft. A group of local

women with interest in the environment and arts were invited to an eight week program to learn textile skills across forms, such as natural fabric dyeing, Indigenous weaving and looming.

Each week 15—20 women took part in these workshops, with guest artists Tijanara Talbot (weaver/

photographer from Wellington NSW) and Kelly Leonard (loomng and textile artist from Mudgee NSW) sharing their skills and experiences. These workshops, although covering a diverse range of techniques, always came back to the message of remembering the language of design, shape and pattern. With focus on Aboriginal Australia's ability to communicate through this form of language, the group shared stories with Indigenous artists and each other, forming works of art that are rich in knowledge of the landscape and its mixed history.

These workshops invested in the skills development of the group and to create a unique collaborative artwork at the end of the process using the natural plants and materials from Ukerbarley. This artwork was exhibited at the Pilliga Discovery Centre in Baradine in May 2018,

with representatives from Create NSW and National Parks and Wildlife Service NSW in attendance.

Coming into these workshops it was anticipated that this artwork would be a direct reflection of the landscape. I have seen though, as this project progresses, that it reflects more so how we see ourselves within this landscape. The group is diverse in age and experience, creating a beautiful atmosphere of mother and sisterhood. Each week another person will reveal their hidden talents and bring another powerful element to the work. It was the first time in my life that I had seen my Indigenous grandmother harvesting on country — her country — to create fibre craft that she was always meant to create. In that moment I had succeeded with this process regardless of the outcome.





# **COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM**

*In 2018 the Country Arts Support Program brought \$14,714 into the region through five community projects, which enabled professional development and creative expression to our communities. These were:*

### **CREATIVES COLLECTIVE**

*Develop, Support, Display:*

*Artists with Disability in Coonabarabran*

Creatives Collective will create a 12-month project to develop local artists with disability through a series of workshops with professional artists with disability. The project culminated in an exhibition exploring what it is to create art with disability.

### **KANDOS MUSEUM INC**

*Creative Fundraising: Practical Workshop Series*

Kandos Museum will host two workshops to teach skills in designing and hand-printing souvenir tea towels and tote bags. The workshops will focus on building capacity for community groups, with participants learning how to produce authentic, local artwork as a sustainable means of funding and promoting their group.

### **NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL**

*Trangie Water Tower Art*

*The Trangie Action Group identified suitable buildings in the area and worked with a selected artist to install a series of murals across the town.*

### **OUR PLACE OUR SPACES**

*Nyngan Arts Council*

*Our Places, Our Spaces was an exhibition of new work created by two Nyngan artists, exploring the concept of places and spaces within the Bogan Shire. This exhibition was curatorially supported by the Western Plains Cultural Centre and exhibited at the WPCC.*

### **OUR STORIES:**

#### **CULTURAL WALKING TOURS OF DUBBO**

*Western Plains Cultural Centre*

*Using the development of a walking tour of the public art of central Dubbo as a foundation of this project, digital media artist Kim V. Goldsmith delivered two community workshops in 2018 to encourage individuals and community groups of the region to tell their stories as tours.*

## OUR STAFF

Alicia Rodriguez Leggett  
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## PARTNER PROJECTS

In 2018 Orana Arts partnered with a number of organisations and events across the region and beyond, to showcase our projects and connect with audiences. To name a few:

- NEON PARTY with the Galaxy Girls and Signal Creative
- Obsolete? Artist, Object, Small Museum: exhibition talk at the Western Plains Cultural Centre
- Hack to the Future arts workshops with Cementa
- The Narrative panel at Mudgee Readers' Festival
- Art of Threatened Species presentation for ArtState
- Homeground with Western Plains Cultural Centre
- Art Unlimited in Dunedoo

Thank you to ATISA Programs Manager Paris Norton, who greatly contributed to Orana Arts in 2018 before moving on to pursue new opportunities.



# OUR BOARD

Orana Arts is a not-for-profit organisation governed by a skills-based board. The board – in consultation with Orana Arts staff – fulfil their primary role of overseeing the strategic direction of the organisation.

## **Executive**

Chairperson: Clr. Anne-Louise Capel, Warrumbungle Shire

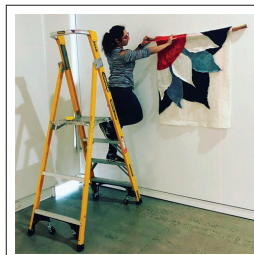
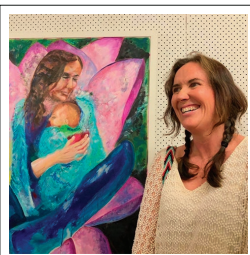
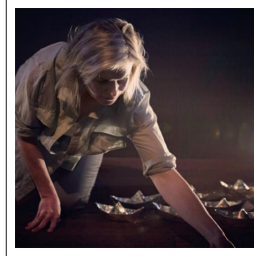
Deputy chairperson: Virginia Handmer, Mid Western Regional

Secretary: Danielle Littlewood, Dubbo Region

Treasurer: Jessica Moore, Dubbo Region

In 2018 Orana Arts transitioned to a skills-based board, complemented by community and Council stakeholder forums.

# INSTAGRAM



# PARTNERS

## Program funding partners:



## Local government partners:

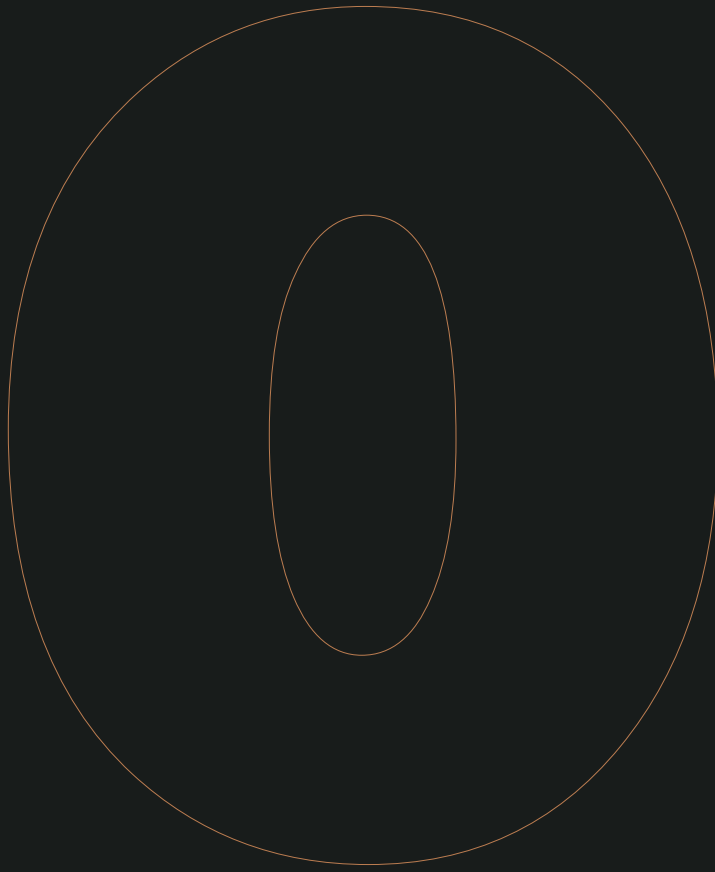


## Our partners:



## Member of:





[www.oranaarts.com](http://www.oranaarts.com)