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REGIONAL ARTS AUSTRALIA

Annual Report 2017/2018

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## #1 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Arts and culture makes regional Australia a better place – and that makes Australia a better nation.

Regional Arts Australia promotes culture and creativity that enriches lives and nurtures pride, resilience, empowerment, connectivity and healing in communities. We recognise the importance of regional arts to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of regional communities. I want to dwell for a moment on the notion of community wellbeing. Communities thrive when people come together, building social inclusion, pride and community connectedness. Nothing achieves this better than arts and cultural activity.

I want to particularly thank my fellow board members for welcoming and supporting me in this new role and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the retiring RAA chair Kate Fielding. Kate has left an impressive legacy and a rich and vibrant organisation and I and the Board of Regional Arts Australia wish her every success in her position as Executive Director of A New Approach and look forward to the many industry conversations in the future.

My thanks also to our dedicated staff John Oster, Mary Jane Warfield and Esther Gyorki. I also want to acknowledge the role of regional artists, state-based regional arts organisations and local government organisations whose contributions have been invaluable and will be so important as we continue to build regional arts practice across the states and territory.

I look forward to another wonderful year at Regional Arts Australia.

Simon Spain

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Spain".

## #2 ABOUT REGIONAL ARTS AUSTRALIA

We believe that 25 million Australians are better off when the 8.8 million Australians who live outside of the metropolitan cities are creative, productive and thriving, contributing their unique perspectives to the national identity and making Australia a more culturally diverse nation.

### MISSION:

We provide national reach and national impact to resource and promote regional arts and culture in collaboration with our members, the state-based Regional Arts Organisations.

### MEMBERSHIP:

The following Regional Arts Organisations were the members of Regional Arts Australia in 2017/2018:

- Country Arts SA
- Country Arts WA
- Regional Arts NSW
- Regional Arts Victoria

In addition, Regional Arts Australia partnered with Arts NT, Arts Tasmania and Arts Queensland for the delivery of the Regional Arts Fund in those jurisdictions.

### 2017/2018 DIRECTORS:

Kate Fielding | Chair (to 13 April 2018)  
 Simon Spain | Chair (from 13 April 2018)  
 Martin Paten | Deputy Chair  
 Louise Partos | Secretary  
 Morri Young | Treasurer  
 Jo Duffy  
 Michael Luchich  
 Kay Mays  
 Peter White  
 Natalie Jenkins

## #3 KEY ACTIVITIES

### ADVOCACY:

In 2017/2018 RAA has continued to build on its work raising awareness; growing the profile of regional arts and culture; supporting regional communities and contributing as an active participant in the sector.

#### **Parliamentary Friends of Regional Arts**

This bi-partisan group provide a forum for Members and Senators to meet and interact to gain an understanding of the importance of arts and culture as a driving force in maintaining robust and sustainable communities in regional, remote and rural areas.

The group is coordinated by the Deputy Speaker Mark Coulton MP and Warren Snowdon MP.

In October 2017, The Parliamentary Friends of Regional Arts held a function at Parliament House following the Creative Regions National Summit.

In June 2018, another cocktail function was held at Parliament House, for the Parliamentary Friends of Regional Arts.



*Regional Arts Australia Executive Director John Oster with Jane Prentice MP, Senator Dean Smith and Ann Sudmalis MP at the Creative Regions National Summit*



**Australian Government**  
**Regional Arts Fund**

### REGIONAL ARTS FUND:

The Regional Arts Fund is designed to benefit regional and remote arts practitioners, arts workers, audiences and communities. Regional Arts Australia played a vital role in establishing the Regional Arts Fund twenty one years ago, in 1996. With its member organisations, RAA has managed the fund since 2001 on behalf of the Australian Government. In partnership with the Department of Communications and the Arts, RAA and its member organisations provide resources for hundreds of arts projects each year.

The objectives of the Fund are to support and promote participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture in regional and remote Australia by:

- Encouraging and supporting sustainable economic, social and cultural development in regional communities
- Developing partnerships and networks which leverage support for projects and encourage ongoing collaboration
- Developing audiences and broadening community engagement with the arts
- Increasing employment, professional development opportunities and profile of regional and remote artists.

RAF Community grants are intended to assist cultural development projects that meet the objectives and eligibility criteria of the Regional Arts Fund.

Quick Response Grants are intended to assist regional artists, arts organisations and communities to take up professional or skills development or small project opportunities.

The Regional Arts Fund is a competitive fund that consistently provides resources towards sustainable cultural development projects and practice across regional Australia. In the 2017-18 period a total of 364 projects were awarded a total funding pool of \$3,111,147.20.

Of this funding 76% was for Community Grants and Quick Response Grants, which are competitive programs, open for applications. 24% of the funding was awarded to 'other' programs, including strategic projects and cultural worker positions.

Trends remain reasonably consistent from the 2016-7 period. The most notable change being artform, with a shift from visual arts as the most funded artform to 'cross art form' now receiving the most support. The general community continues to be the beneficiary group that receives the most funding and the largest number of projects are targeted towards this group. Audience and participant numbers and leveraged

income are reasonably consistent with the patterns of the previous year. Overall, the fund remains a competitive, but reliable source of funding for high quality, community engaged outputs across communities in regional, rural and remote Australia.

In early 2018, Regional Arts Australia published *Impact 1458*, an online and printed publication which showcased the impact that the Regional Arts Fund had nationally from 2012-2016.



### REGIONAL ARTS FUND DELIVERY:

In June 2018, Flying Arts Alliance and Darwin Community Arts were announced as the new Regional Program Administrators of the Regional Arts Fund in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Executive Director of Regional Arts Australia John Oster welcomed the announcement of the two new Regional Program Administrators, “we look forward to working together with both Flying Arts Alliance and Darwin Community Arts to further nurture the arts sector in both Queensland and the Northern Territory and to present regional, remote and rural artists and arts organisations with the support they require when applying for the Regional Arts Fund”.

Both Flying Arts Alliance and Darwin Community Arts will commence as Regional Program Administrators on 1 July 2018.



Former RAA Chair Kate Fielding welcoming attendees to the Creative Regions National Summit, October 2017



*Gawurra performing at the Creative Regions National Summit Cocktail Event, October 2017*

### CREATIVE REGIONS NATIONAL SUMMIT:

Presented by Regional Arts Australia and the Regional Australia Institute, the Creative Regions National Summit explored liveable, sustainable and healthy regional communities and the vital role that arts and culture play within this. The Summit aimed to contribute to the discourse around the wellbeing of regional communities and the vibrancy of regional Australia.

The Creative Regions National Summit was held on 16 October 2017 at Parliament House, Canberra.

**Key Themes:** Arts & Health and Regional Development

**Attendees:** The Summit was attended by 96 people from diverse sectors including the arts, health and regional development.

### WEBINAR SERIES:

In April 2018, a webinar series was held focusing on digital marketing and presence. The webinar series included four webinars, two public webinars and two private webinars specifically for the Regional Arts Promoter Network.

The themes of the webinars were:

- 1) An Introduction to Google Analytics
- 2) An Introduction to Google AdWords

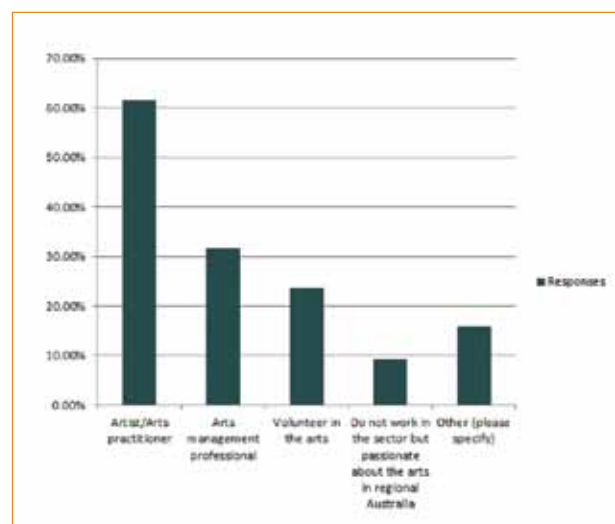
Both webinars were run by Scout Digital Marketing.

The webinar series was very successful with strong attendance from across regional, remote, rural and metropolitan areas.

### RAA ENGAGEMENT SURVEY:

Regional Arts Australia disseminated a survey to learn more about artists and arts organisations in regional Australia and gain insight into the wants and needs of regional artists and arts organisations. The survey also enabled RAA to gain insight into how it is perceived in the sector and what more can be done.

The survey received 516 responses, including from every state and territory. Respondents included:







Mary Jane Warfield at the RAA stand Melbourne Art Book Fair 2018

## LAUNCH OF REGIONAL ARTS NETWORK:

*Professional Development + Connectivity through networking and support*

Following on from feedback received in the Engagement Survey, Regional Arts Australia launched the Regional Arts Network, offering regional, remote and rural artists and arts professionals' professional development and connectivity through networking and support.

The network launched with strong support. The initial suite of Regional Arts Network programs are planned for 2018/2019.

## MELBOURNE ART BOOK FAIR PARTICIPATION:

Regional Arts Australia held a stall at the Melbourne Art Book Fair to showcase the high calibre of artists, writers and designers in Regional Australia. 12 artists and arts organisations from across Australia were showcased. The annual Melbourne Art Book Fair is the most visited publishing event in the Asia-Pacific region. The fourth Melbourne Art Book Fair in 2018 brought together international and local publishers and practitioners in a weekend of free talks, book launches, performances, and stalls.

Exhibited publications include *Tjungunutja*, a book published to complement the ground-breaking exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory that explores a collection of paintings that marked the beginnings of the Western Desert art movement and provides an extraordinary insight into the genesis of the contemporary Aboriginal art movement. Other publications include *From This Place – Inspiring Women Artists of the Upper Yarra Valley* by Lindy Schneider and Angela

Rivas, *Tjanpi Desert Weavers* and a range of children's publications including *The Laugh That Shook the World* by Craig Dent and *The Kunwinjku Counting Book* by Injalak Arts. Regional Arts Australia also distributed its new publication, *Impact 1458*, showcasing the community and artistic impact of the Regional Arts Fund as a national regional program.

In addition to the stall, Regional Arts Australia also presented a wide ranging public discussion, *RAW | Regional Arts Words*, at the Melbourne Art Book Fair. Artists Deborah Klein, Lindy Schneider and Angela Rivas were in conversation with Mary Jane Warfield, Regional Arts Fund Manager, discussing artistic practice and publications, connection to place, and the benefits and challenges of working regionally.

### NATIONAL TOURING:

RAA is a member of the Performing Arts Touring Alliance (PATA) Council.

PATA is the key agency monitoring progress on the National Performing Arts Touring Action Plan 2013-2016.

RAA also coordinates the Regional and Remote Touring Advisory Group (RRTAG) set up to assist and advise the RAA Board on matters relating to its role as a national advocate for performing arts touring in regional and remote Australia.

### BLOG LAUNCH:

In 2018, Regional Arts Australia launched a blog on their website as a way to showcase the breadth of arts programs happening in regional, remote and rural Australia as well as share relevant information, research and programs to a wider audience. Blog posts include articles, professional development, research, articles and interviews.



## #4 FINANCIAL REPORT



Morri Young



### Summary from the Treasurer

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to present the financial statements for the 2017/2018 financial year.

Members will note that we are reporting a deficit this year of \$130,767. This represents 11% of annual turnover. This is the second year in which we have felt the effect of losing \$140,000 operational support from the Australia Council having reported a loss of \$31,730 in 2016 /2017.

Generating new income streams is our most pressing challenge. The Board has embarked on this challenge with renewed vigour by working assiduously to establish a sound organisational platform to underpin new development and fundraising capacity.

We express thanks to the financial management team at Clarity NT for their work on the financial reporting to the Board and to acknowledge the work of Deloitte as the company auditor.

I commend the financial report to members.

Morri Young

## INCOME STATEMENT

**Arts Council of Australia Ltd  
Trading As  
Regional Arts Australia**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Revenue	2	<u>3,667,464</u>	<u>3,532,562</u>
		3,667,464	3,532,562
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Depreciation & amortisation		429	643
Salaries & Related Costs		230,252	206,785
Project Expenses		3,443,547	3,181,515
All Other Expenses		<u>162,499</u>	<u>202,020</u>
	3	<u>3,836,727</u>	<u>3,590,963</u>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) for the year</b>		<u>(169,263)</u>	<u>(58,401)</u>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>			
Net fair value gains/(losses) on available-for-sale financial assets		<u>38,496</u>	<u>26,671</u>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>		<u><b>(130,767)</b></u>	<u><b>(31,730)</b></u>

## BALANCE SHEET

**Arts Council of Australia Ltd  
Trading As  
Regional Arts Australia**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	330,263	269,774
Trade and other receivables	5	2,560	223,214
Other Current Assets	6	15,348	17,918
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>348,171</u>	<u>510,906</u>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Financial assets	7	722,164	681,918
Plant and Equipment	8	102	1,285
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>722,266</u>	<u>683,203</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>1,070,437</u>	<u>1,194,109</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	477,445	482,421
Provisions	10	21,239	9,168
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>498,684</u>	<u>491,589</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>498,684</u>	<u>491,589</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>571,753</u>	<u>702,520</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings	11	702,520	734,250
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		(130,767)	(31,730)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>571,753</u>	<u>702,520</u>

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

**Arts Council of Australia Ltd  
Trading As  
Regional Arts Australia**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Grants		4,656,610	3,252,640
Other Receipts		56,492	60,411
Payments to suppliers and employees		(4,654,118)	(3,368,732)
Interest received		1,976	2,394
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	12	<u>60,960</u>	<u>(53,287)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for available-for-sale financial assets		(417,724)	(375,463)
Proceeds from sale of available-for-sale financial assets		418,085	360,338
Other receipts/(payments) from investing activities		(832)	-
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		<u>(471)</u>	<u>(15,125)</u>
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in cash held		60,489	(68,412)
Cash at beginning of the year		269,774	338,186
<b>Cash at end of the year</b>	4	<u>330,263</u>	<u>269,774</u>

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