

# CultureLinX

Vol. 2. No 4. December 2010

arts  
**NEXUS**

growing creative people, communities and industries

inside this issue

Editorial	1
Arts Nexus News	2
Partner News	4
Priority Sector News	5
Tropical North Queensland News	6
State News / Arts Nexus Partners	7
Membership and Rewards Partner News	8



Australian Government



Arts Nexus gratefully acknowledges financial assistance in 2010 from Australia Council for the Arts through Community Partnerships; Arts Queensland through Creative Communities; and Queensland Government's Blueprint for the Bush.

CultureLinX is the newsletter of Arts Nexus Inc servicing arts, culture, heritage and the creative industries in Northern Queensland. ISSN 1326-0030

The newsletter is optimised for online distribution and will print at a low resolution.

Arts Nexus Inc  
Front Room, Canopy Artspace  
124 Grafton Street CAIRNS  
PO Box 4995, Cairns QLD 4870  
Office open Mon—Fri 9am—5pm  
Phone: (07) 4051 4433  
ABN: 40821754363  
Email: [admin@artsnexus.com.au](mailto:admin@artsnexus.com.au)  
Web: [www.artsnexus.com.au](http://www.artsnexus.com.au)

## Editorial Tim Grau, President, Arts Nexus Management Committee

### Winding Down Or Gearing Up: Enjoy A Safe Festive Season

As we all wind down or gear up for the Festive Season and New Year, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and friends a happy, safe and enjoyable time.

It has been a busy year for Arts Nexus and particularly the new Board as we refocus our direction and efforts on our core purpose: supporting, connecting and developing artists, creative producers, organisations, communities and the arts and cultural industry.

Our work on this in many respects has only just begun and 2011 promises to an even busier year for us all.

It was pleasing to see so many attend the Festive Season Party at Salt House earlier this month.

It was also great to see so many of our colleagues from the other arts and cultural organisations across the region attend, including representatives from Cairns Regional Council, Arts Queensland, CIAF, JUTE, Little Theatre Group, Visual Arts Association, Paradise Concerts and many more.

Here, I reaffirmed that FNQ has a vibrant, unique and growing arts and cultural sector that is a vital part of our social and economic fabric.

The social and human benefits of arts and culture are well known to us all. But importantly we should recall that the region's creative industries sector involves over 2600 entities and in excess of 6000 people: generating income estimated to be more than \$300 million. It also provides an equivalent of full-time employment approaching 3000 people.

Arts Nexus, as an organisation, has a responsibility to take the lead and grow creative people, communities and industries.

It is important for Arts Nexus to do more to live up to our claim of being the leading arts and cultural development agency in the region.

The past year, and in particular the past six months, have been a very busy and successful time for Arts Nexus. Highlights include:

- The launch of Festlinx.org – a fantastic web portal

for festival and events organisers

- Holding the inaugural Culture Muster – bringing together more than 40 arts and cultural workers to better collaborate across the region
- Conducting a wide range of training workshops across the region in festival and events management
- Auspicing some of the region's most successful events, such as Reggaetown and the Tropical Writers Festival
- Actively supporting and driving the need for the Cairns Cultural Precinct
- Providing hands on assistance to artists and cultural producers on grant applications and other support
- And as a Board refocusing the organisations back on its core purpose – helping artists, cultural developers and communities

So, what is store for 2011? We shall continue our drive to focus Arts Nexus on our core purpose.

Just last month we were granted Arts Queensland funding under its Industry Development Initiative. These funds will be used to deliver a range of arts and cultural development services and programs to improve access to quality experiences.

We are in active discussions with Arts Queensland about further initiatives we are eager pursue.

2011 will also see another Culture Muster – bigger, broader and better.

The Board will expand its program of regional Board meetings with networking events at each, ensuring members have an opportunity to directly interact with the Board and organisation.

A new monthly *Arts Networx* program will be established allow members to meet regularly to display, discuss and develop their work.

We have commenced our national search for an Executive Director – with the key selection criteria being an ability to deliver hands on arts and cultural development services and programs. We are excited about this appointment and the opportunities it brings.

Finally, I again wish you, your families and friends a safe, happy and enjoyable Festive Season and a successful 2011.

## Arts Nexus News

### Lead Far North Queensland's arts, cultural and heritage development

Arts Nexus Inc is Far North Queensland's leading arts and cultural development agency. Its role is to foster an environment in which the arts, culture and heritage can thrive and contribute to more vibrant and liveable communities.

We are seeking an experienced professional to lead the development, growth and delivery of our core arts and cultural programs and services to artists, cultural developers and communities. These services and programs include information and support, networking and facilitation, skills and capacity development, planning and advocacy.

Reporting to the Board, the Executive Officer will have:

- Proven management experience working in an arts and/or cultural organisation with responsibility for the delivery of arts and cultural development services, financial management, marketing and human resources;
- Knowledge of government funding practices and a proven track record in preparation and management of successful funding applications and reports;
- Exceptional communication skills with an ability to build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders at all levels, such as government, industry, business and the community; and
- A passion for arts and culture with strong advocacy skills.

The Executive Officer information pack, including selection criteria and position description can be downloaded from the Arts Nexus website: [www.artsnexus.com.au](http://www.artsnexus.com.au).

Applications close 5.00 pm Friday, 7 January 2011. Candidates wishing to apply should provide a cover letter, curriculum vitae and completed selection criteria.

Applications should be emailed to: [artsnexus@springboard.net.au](mailto:artsnexus@springboard.net.au) or posted to: The President, Arts Nexus, PO Box 4995, Cairns QLD 4870 and marked Private and Confidential.

### ARTS NEXUS RECEIVES COVETED FUNDING

Arts Nexus Inc was one of the 44 organisations from across Queensland to receive funding through Queensland Government's *small to medium* (s2m) program. A grand total of \$10.4 million will be distributed across the successful applicants in 2011. The Queensland Government has been a major investor in the small to medium arts and cultural sector for over 20 years, and recognises the vital importance of the sector as the engine room for innovation and creativity. The small to medium arts sector also plays a key role in fostering community engagement and participation, providing regional access and supporting the professional development and employment of artists and arts workers. The s2m program is the foundation for collaborations with the Australia Council that have leveraged extra federal funding for Queensland arts companies. Arts Nexus will announce their forward program for 2011 in the near future. For more information on s2m, visit [www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/s2m.html](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/s2m.html) (content from Arts Queensland Media Release & website).

### AUSPICE REPORT 2010

This year has seen another massive rollout for the Arts Nexus Auspice Program. Over \$90,000 in granted funds were managed by Arts Nexus on behalf of the applicants. Our major auspice clients for 2010 were the Tropical Writers Festival (through Queensland Arts Council's Regional Arts Fund and Cairns Regional Council's RADF grants) and Reggaetown World Music Festival (through Queensland Events' QERDP grant). Both events were an enormous success, and have added a substantial amount of value to a number of sectors within the TNQ Region. Other significant projects included Liz Dunn's [please give: itamoment] (through Arts Queensland's Development & Presentation Grant) and Cell Art Space's *From Summer to Spring Exhibition Program* (through Arts Queensland's Artist Run Initiatives program) - both of which contributed dramatically to the development and livelihood of creative practitioners in the region. Along with these projects, Arts Nexus also auspiced grants for Nick Mills and Gerry Surha (both through Queensland Arts Council's Regional Arts Fund Quick Response grants), and Mema Edwards

(through Cairns Regional Council's RADF Quick Response grant).

Arts Nexus wishes to extend hearty congratulations to all of our auspice clients on the success of their 2010 projects. Arts Nexus' Auspice Service is available to all current members, is subject to fees and is carried out in line with ATO standards. For more information, contact the Auspice Officer on (07) 4051 4433 or email [admin@artsnexus.com.au](mailto:admin@artsnexus.com.au)

### PROGRAM REPORT 2010

2010 has been a whirlwind of activity for Arts Nexus outside of its regular day-to-day operations and service. Our programming has continued to provide a high standard of opportunities, education and professional development to the arts and cultural sector across Tropical North Queensland, and has solidified a wide breadth of partnerships. Highlights included:

- **Festlinx Across The Regions** initiative saw the delivery of training to the Tablelands, Cassowary Coast, Cook and Torres Strait Regions (see page 3 for full report)
- The development & launch of a **Dance Strategy for Tropical North Queensland**
- Bringing together the key arts and cultural leaders of TNQ for the inaugural **Culture Muster**
- Partnering with **ArtSupport Australia** to bring **Pathways to Philanthropy** sessions to TNQ regional areas
- Partnering with **Arts Law Centre of Australia** to bring **Arts Law Sessions** to Cairns
- Partnering with **Queensland Writers Centre** to bring their **Regional Workshop Series** to Cairns
- Representation at the Arts Queensland **Creative Generators** Conference
- Representation at Queensland Events' **QERDP** Conference

# Executive Officer

## Arts Nexus News - Festival Special

### FESTLIX ACROSS THE REGIONS COMPLETES DELIVERY OF EVENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR 2010

With Mark Both

The ongoing partnership between Arts Nexus, Blueprint for the Bush, and Cassowary Coast, Cook, Tablelands and Thursday Island Councils has delivered a series of Event Management Training workshops in four locations across the FNQ Region in the past three months.

Festlinx consultant, Mark Both presented a range of training modules covering the critical areas of events - Concept Development, Risk Management, Volunteer Recruitment & Retention, Marketing & Publicity, and Event Operations.

According to Mark, Event Operations helped participants with various models of structuring an event management team, and designing the roles and responsibilities of the key volunteers.

He says the Risk Management training brought many relevant and practical instances of managing risk to mind from the participants - including how to deal with the threat of crocodiles during the Cook Landing Re-enactment Ceremony!

Concept Development focused on building a community development model; Marketing and Publicity looked at some twenty avenues of possible promotions; and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention looked at some statistics and the reasons why people volunteer and why they may choose to stay on if they feel valued and rewarded for their efforts.

Mark commented on the enthusiastic response from participants at all locations, which totaled nearly sixty people representing some fifteen FNQ events.

In other news, the Festlinx initiative was honoured to have Bill Hauritz (Executive Director, Queensland Folk Federation) as part of the Festlinx.org website launch in October. In his Skyped presence, he reiterated that the concept of this online resource - and its potential outcomes - could be an invaluable asset to the regional Festivals and Events sector.

There will be more Festlinx events in 2011, details of which will be announced following the holiday break.

Meanwhile, you can make sure your event is registered on the website, keep in touch with other event organisers, and find training notes by visiting [www.festlinx.org](http://www.festlinx.org)

### FESTIVAL ROUND-UP FOR TNQ'S YAMP RECIPIENT

With Melissa (Mema) Edwards

Arts Nexus staff member Melissa Edwards set out in April 2010 as an eager Mentee in Youth Arts Queensland's (YAQ) Young Artworkers Mentoring Program (YAMP). Working with Michelle Sellton, Founder and Producer of the Reggaetown World Music Festival in Art Event Management, Melissa designed herself a jam-packed nine-month program. We revisit some of the experiences, learning curves and accomplishments and she has accumulated over the last 9 months:

**Navigation Arts Business Training** - Melissa participated in this YAQ initiative that provides business training to young, emerging creative people. *"Navigation is a fantastic introductory program that provides under 30s with the skills and knowledge that will provide a solid foundation to build their arts careers on,"* says Melissa.

**Cairns Blues Festival** - Melissa assisted in the Green Room and with Drink Ticket Sales for this relatively new event. *"The festival has great potential if the attendance and support grows. It has everything else going for it."*

**Groovin' The Moo** - In an observation role at the Townsville GTM, Melissa enjoyed the diverse program of artists and the energy of the young crowd. *"There was no shortage of costumes or dancing, however there was a rubbish problem and I would suggest an increase in the provision of shade - especially at the entry gate where excited patrons waited for up to 30 minutes to gain entry."*

**The Dreaming Festival** - Acting in the role of Department Head of Galleries Sales, Melissa noted this event as one of her favourite. *"All the events the Queensland Folk Federation put on seem to be a raging success. The Dreaming showcases wonderfully talented artists bringing different cultures, traditions*

*and stories into the spotlight."*

**TimeOUT Day in the Park** - Melissa was a member of the Street Team, through which she provided Marketing and Event Support. *"The event now held at Fogarty Park on the Cairns Esplanade had an effective layout this year with two stages and multiple pathways between them."*

**Splendour in the Grass** - *"With approximately 32,000 patrons the 2010 SITG was big, bold and boasted its extensive programme full of classy acts. Being the first time SITG was held at Woodfordia, attendee arrival was topsy-turvy. I was amongst a team of Campground Coordinators whom stood rain or shine on the grounds ushering in the crowd."*

**Reggaetown World Music Festival** - The RTWMF ran over the second week in September. During this time Melissa was in full swing in her festival role as Volunteers Coordinator. She also worked as a Casual Event Assistant in the year leading up to the event and beyond. Melissa coordinated over 70 volunteers. Melissa hosted the Volunteers Induction Meeting three days prior to the big gig. *"There was so much interest this year from volunteers. At induction I recruited a handful of late applicants which came in handy as the event more than doubled this year!"* Melissa put in an amazing effort during the festival - working around 40 hours over the two days. *"I had an absolute blast! The Reggaetown team was so friendly and approachable. I received excellent feedback on my input and a job offer for 2011."*

**Tablelands Folk Festival** - Melissa had a stint as Assistant Volunteers Coordinator at this year's TFF. *"In its 30th year TFF's community support is evident. Local businesses open their venues for musicians, creating an interesting adventure for the patrons navigating up and down the small streets of Yungaburra. Mark Both, the previous Festival Director, has certainly set the festival on the right track over recent years with Jason Donnelly stepping into his shoes nicely at the 2010 event."*

**Woodford Folk Festival** - In the coming month, Melissa will volunteer in a major role as the Art-on-Site Department Head. She eagerly anticipates her arrival on site for the 25<sup>th</sup> WFF, which she has been working on in the lead-up to the event.

### TROPICAL WRITERS FESTIVAL SETS QUEENSLAND WRITERS WEEK ON FIRE

With Oonagh Prettejohn

"We said we'd set imaginations on fire - and we did!" A team of 74 writers and volunteers with a united passion to make it all happen worked with Event Coordinator Diane Finlay to present twenty three events in one of the most extensive free event programs offered at a writers festival.

TWF was well attended with some 450 to 500 people flowing through over the period. This is a great result for a festival that is still cutting its teeth and only on its second biennial event.

We were privileged to have Queensland Premier Anna Bligh launch the Festival as part of the opening event. Her encouragement was balm to the soul of the Far Northern arts community.

There were many highlights from the informative to the entertaining: The Tropical Writers put a focus on their latest anthology *Cracks in the Canopy; Science Rhymes* brought in a group of children from a local school - who were then entertained by a surprise visit by author Michael Salmon; An outstanding performance of Helen Ramoutsaki's poetry set to music and dance was presented by the Douglas Arts Community; and *The Biggest Book Club* resulted in standing room only with a panel comprising of the mayor and two local media celebrities - with more than a dash of sparkle from Gretel Killeen.

Publishers Dan Kelly from Boolarong and David Reiter of Interactive Publications had authors fired up to send in their manuscripts and go for arts funding. Susan Hayes and Vera Ding were on hand to give some direction to those wanting to approach the Australia Council and Arts Queensland, and Queensland Writers Centre was well represented by Julie Beverage.

The Young Writers Program delivered twenty fresh faced and enthusiastic young writers into the masterful hands of Dr Sylvia Kelso, who took them journeying to iconic worlds peopled by characters ripe from their own fecund imaginations.

Workshops by James Phelan, Barbara Hannay, Angela Murphy and Dr Sylvia Kelso ran hot. Those attending the workshops found it hard to make choices and many managed to squeeze in two workshops along with the Literary Dinner later that night.

Gretel Killeen was a joy to work with and kept

diners at the Literary Dinner enthralled with her intimate style of public engagement. Her honesty, wit and wide experience in journalism - along with her prolific list of books geared to entertain adults and children - made her the ideal speaker for a good mix of writers and readers.

From across the region, writers pooled their considerable creative talents - and their stories - with those of the Tropical Writers to deliver a truly memorable experience. We'll be ready to ignite again in 2012!

*Supporting us with funding and sponsorship was the Regional Arts Fund, the Regional Arts and Development Fund, Cairns Regional Council, and the QWC who sponsored and partnered this festival along with Arts Nexus.*

### YOUTH ARTS QUEENSLAND 2011 PROGRAM

Over the past twelve months, YAQ has seen an unchanged, high demand from people seeking support with their projects, career development and professional advice. The Brisbane-based organisation has concentrated more of their activities on regional Queensland this year, and will continue to do so in 2011. Practitioners and artworkers in the Far North can look forward to the following programs:

The nationally accredited *Navigation* arts business training program traveled as far as Cairns, Mackay, Blackall and Longreach and saw almost half of their participants coming from these regions. New destinations for *Navigation* will be added in 2011.

Arts Queensland's *Starburst* regional mentoring program has been a huge success in its first year with over 20 young people from across Queensland - including Cairns - benefiting from the program. Each artist and artworker was awarded up to \$2,000 towards their creative practice and encouraged to publicly showcase their work. *Starburst* will return in 2011.

*JUMP*, Australia Council's national mentoring program for young and emerging artists, kicked off in January 2010, managed nationally by YAQ in collaboration with state delivery partners. *JUMP* will support 50 artists around Australia to undertake a one-on-one mentorship with a leading professional of their choice, focused on a funded creative project in 2011.

*Creating Impact* will also return with at least one delivery open to both metropolitan and regional creative practitioners. The pilot delivery of this

new development initiative for emerging cultural leaders - in partnership with Volunteering Qld - was hugely successful and confirmed that there is a need for personal skills development opportunities.

For professionals and community organisations working with young people in the arts and creative industries, YAQ will be providing targeted workshops and forums in regional areas throughout the year. The *Industry Development Program* is being finalised and will be launched in February 2011.

To address the ongoing need for career development opportunities for emerging practitioners in the industry and with the support of industry partners, a new program will be created to provide paid industry placement opportunities for young people within the arts industry in 2011. More details to follow.

Early February 2011 will also see the long anticipated launch of the *new YAQ website*. The site will be the new online platform for arts practitioners, young artists and anyone interested in young people in the arts in Queensland. You will have the opportunity to actively shape the content of the site and contribute your own news, opportunities and events.

For more information, contact (07) 3252 5115, email [info@yaq.org.au](mailto:info@yaq.org.au) or visit [www.yaq.org.au](http://www.yaq.org.au) (*content taken from YAQ Announcement*).

*continued from page 3*

Other Festival experience accumulated by Melissa in 2010 included:

**Cairns Winter Solstice Festival** - Volunteer: Front Gate/Volunteer Supervisors

**Kuranda Roots Festival** - Volunteer: Artist/VIP Gate

**Cairns Indigenous Art Fair** - Observation; Arts Nexus Information Stall

**Cairns Festival** - Volunteer: Event Crew (Front of house, surveys and promotion)

**Creating Impact** - Attendee: Development initiative for emerging cultural leaders

**Tropical Writers Festival** - Volunteer: Prepared Event Evaluation Survey

**2high Festival** - Observation

**Australasian World Music Expo** - Delegate from RTWMF; Backstage hand for Femi Kuti & The Positive Force show at the Hifi

**Wallaby Creek Festival** - Volunteer: Independent Event Evaluation

## Priority Sector News

*Arts Nexus progressively identifies and supports a number of priority sectors within the creative industries. These sectors are in need of extra sustenance, guidance and nurturing in the Tropical North Queensland region. In 2010, Arts Nexus has focussed on Dance, Writing, Festivals and Public Art. Here is a roundup of what developments have unfolded this year in these sectors:*

### DANCE

#### New Move Network 2011

The Centre of Contemporary Art (CoCA) will become a repository for new dance work through MOVE - dance tnq and its ground breaking initiative the *New Move Network*, a program of five, two-week choreographic residencies throughout 2011.

A concrete outcome of visioning policy from the TNQ Dance Strategy 2010-2015, and the Australia Councils Dance Sector Plan 2010 - 2012, the *New Move Network* combines key practitioners and partnerships to support independent artists in their practice through a CoCA Studio Season:

14 – 27 February: Raymond Blanco  
11 – 24 April: Bonemap (Rebecca Youdell and Russell Milledge)  
27 June – 10 July: Monica Stevens  
5 – 18 September: Sarah Collins  
7 – 20 November: Jess Jones

Creatively the choreographers will have the ability to share their experiences and explore themes of Indigenous, non-Indigenous and shared identity, personal histories and collective knowledge with peers and public through engagement in forums, artist talks, masterclasses, workshops and choreographic showings.

The work the artists create will be made through a series of peer-reviewed processes, which will be kinaesthetic, innovative and challenging. Residencies might incorporate dramaturgy, physicality, composition, scribing, storytelling, media and creating context for new dance in Queensland.

MOVE - dance tnq is a motivated network of key dance practitioners who represent diverse interests and experiences within the Dance sector, expert industry members, and key stakeholders. In the spirit of reconciliation and tolerance, the vision of the MOVE - dance tnq network is to advocate sector sustainability through dance - evolution,

ecology and engagement. The *New Move Network* aims to cultivate sector well-being by investing in new work that is emotionally and intellectually stimulating and engaging for a diverse audience.

The *New Move Network* is supported by JCU School of Creative Arts, Kick Arts Contemporary Arts, Jute Theatre, Arts Nexus, Centre for Contemporary Art Cairns, Cairns Civic Theatre, Regional Arts Development Fund, Cairns Regional Council, Arts Queensland, and the Australia Council for the Arts. For more on the *New Move Network*, contact [admin@movedancetnq.com](mailto:admin@movedancetnq.com)

### WRITING

#### Tropical Writers

With Diane Finlay

The Tropical Writers have had another massive year, with their second Tropical Writers Festival taking place in October and the launch of their 2010 Anthology, *Cracks in the Canopy* in September. Personal highlights of the Festival included the endorsement of Arts Queensland's Vera Ding and Australia Council's Susan Hayes, as well as Premier Anna Bligh's opening of the event. Special Guest Author Gretel Killeen was also a fun and valuable addition to the line-up. In terms of content, almost every writing genre was covered in a broad range of seminars, workshops and events.

The grant application for the 2011 Anthology was also recently submitted. A successful outcome will allow us to engage external editors - giving regional writers a more "real-world" experience. We have extended the invitation for Anthology submissions to ALL regional writers - whether they belong to a writers group or not.

The group is delighted with our new meeting premises at La Porchetta, and we continue to attract interest from new writers. The core of the group remains strong and vibrant whilst people come and go. The Festival and other publicity have helped enormously to raise the profile of the group and stimulate people to make contact. *See page 4 for a full report on the Tropical Writers Festival with Oonagh Prettejohn.* [www.tropicalwriters.com](http://www.tropicalwriters.com)

#### Book Creators Circle

With Letizia DeRosa

Book Creators Circle EXPO 2010 attracted 250 people, 30 exhibitors and 150 book sales in less than 3 hours. *Who said books are obsolete?* This

year, our exhibitors ranged from proof readers, printers, magazine editors to writers launching new books. Our international speaker Star Staubach and Brisbane writer/guest speaker Helen Ross spoke about the importance of passion in our lives and in creating books. Each year we celebrate our passion for books immediately after the UNESCO day for peace. We believe most writers find their peace through writing and most readers find peace in reading. Next year's Book Creators Circle EXPO is set for September 24 at Mercure Cairns Harbourside. For more information, contact [admin@bookcreatorscircle.com.au](mailto:admin@bookcreatorscircle.com.au)

### PUBLIC ART

#### Queensland Government's Public Art Fund

TNQ has benefited this year from initiatives derived from the State Government's Public Art Fund. *art+place* has allocated \$12 million to public art in Queensland since 2007, and is used for projects in different phases of development - from design to implementation, as well as the early concept stage. The funding is available to local councils, not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations, festivals, private developers, and other Queensland Government departments.

Round 7 of the *art+place* initiative saw over \$1.5 million in funds distributed towards public art projects across Queensland, including \$50,000 for the Cairns Indigenous Art Trail. This Cairns Regional Council project consisted of a series of temporary public art works to activate the area of the Botanical Gardens between the Tanks and Djumbunji Press, coinciding with the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and Cairns Festival.

The Indigenous Tilt Train project is the result of a partnership between the Public Art Fund and Queensland Rail. Renowned Torres Strait Islander artist Alick Tipoti was one of the two artists selected to adorn the first of two unique Indigenous Tilt Trains running from Brisbane to Cairns. For more information on *art+place*, visit [www.artplace.arts.qld.gov.au/home](http://www.artplace.arts.qld.gov.au/home)

### FESTIVALS

#### Festlinx Across The Regions

2010 saw another stellar year for the region's Festival Sector, with major events arts and cultural festivals being held right across the region. *See page 3 for a full report on the outcomes of Arts Nexus' Festlinx initiative with Mark Both.*

## Tropical North Queensland News

### Etheridge Special

#### OPERA IN THE OUTBACK WINS AGAIN

With Sarah Collins  
Artistic Director - *Opera In The Outback*

At the recent Tropical North Queensland Tourism Awards Undara Experience won – for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year – the Festivals and Events category for their highly acclaimed event, *Opera in the Outback*.

*Opera in the Outback* celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010 but an event like this does not happen overnight. Just consider you are a remote Outback tourism resort whose reason for being is to promote a natural geological formation of lava tubes. So what do you do to increase visitation during the low season? Put on an Opera event of course! As crazy as it seemed at the time that was the conclusion Undara Management came to in 2000. Surprisingly there were those who did not share in the validity of this idea, some even going so far as to claim they would eat their sweat-stained cowboy hat if the idea worked! The passage of time is a wonderful thing and 10 years later Undara celebrated a milestone that, without a large dose of daring, would never have happened.

*Opera in the Outback* Artistic Director, Sarah Collins, points out that “we have been truly fortunate to have so many amazingly talented artists over the last decade that has made this event so popular.”

Sarah jokes “people have risked life, limb and artistic integrity to venture Outback for our event never quite knowing what to expect ‘til they arrive.”

“Through their dazzling performances we have built an award winning event and developed a product that is so popular that we have a 70% return rate with audiences.”

Over the years, *Opera in the Outback* artists have included the companies:

- Operatif
- Opera Queensland
- Pot Pourri
- The Ten Sopranos
- IOpera
- Opera Bites

as well as:

- local singer Peter Axford,
- local singer Julia Brant
- violinist Kirtley Paine

For 2010 Cairns State High school students and brothers, Mat and Alec Steedman, came on board after Sarah heard them performing at Rusty’s markets. Both very accomplished musicians, Mat a saxophonist and Alec a violinist with an extraordinary singing voice, wowed the audience with their youthful talents. “It’s great to bring to people’s attention the fantastic talent that is right here in our region as well as give local and emerging artists the opportunity to perform,” says Sarah.

Sarah goes on to add “with an event like this and due to such a high number of audience members returning each year, we can’t afford to be complacent with our programming.”

It was decided in 2009 to grow the event from the traditional two different Opera performances on the Friday and Saturday nights, by adding a Thursday night Theatre performance. “We were proud to sponsor, promote and present the world premiere of the play *When the Wheels Fall off the World* written by local playwright Avril Duck.” This play was recently repeated at the Botanical Gardens in Cairns as part of Cairns Festival 2010. This year a local theatre group from Charters Towers, The Towers Players, presented two One Act Plays on the Thursday evening.

“We felt it imperative to invite back Peter Axford, our first ever Opera artist, to kick off our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and he was accompanied by local lyrical soprano Julia Brant,” says Sarah. From further a-field came the recently formed Sydney-based

Opera Bites Company. They performed condensed, fully costumed performances of Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly* and Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus*, the latter being the highlight of the weekend with their effervescent and brilliantly funny portrayal of this Opera classic. The characterisations were beautifully larger than life. Of particular brilliance was Soprano Rae Levien as Rosalinda and Eisenstein, Rosalinda’s husband, played and sung by Tenor Benjamin Loomes. All the cast exceeded audience expectations with strong clear voices, animation and energy that made it a joy to experience.

Adding another artistic layer to the weekend was an exhibition by Artist in Residence, Scott Wilmot Bennett. Earlier in 2010 expressions of interest were sought for an Artist in Residence, another initiative to value-add to the Opera in the Outback weekend. As the successful recipient, Scott spent 6 weeks at Undara, throughout the year, exploring and capturing the dry eucalypt forest of the granite country to the lava tube roof collapses in the basalt country. This diversity of the landscapes coupled with the seasonal changes Scott experienced resulted in 15 exceptional paintings. Scott’s keen eye and attention to detail smoothly transfers to the canvas with almost photographic precision.

Preparations for Opera in the Outback 2011, to be held from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of October, are well underway with Opera Bites returning to present another fantastic operatic programme. Expressions of interest are currently being sought from theatre companies/practitioners for the Thursday night programme and a visual/sculptural artist for the 2011 Artist in Residence. For more information please contact marketing@undara.com.au

*Undara is located within the Etheridge Shire constituency. The Undara Experience will also feature their Outback Country, Rock and Blues event from 9-11 April 2011. For more information on these events and more at Undara, visit <http://undara.com.au>. For more information on Etheridge Shire Council, visit [www.etheridge.qld.gov.au](http://www.etheridge.qld.gov.au)*

## State News / Arts Nexus Partners

### IRADF FUNDS ANNOUNCED

Queensland Government announced \$250,000 in funding to support arts and cultural activities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in 2010-2011. The *Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund* (IRADF) is a partnership between Arts Queensland and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland, ensuring that all residents have access to quality arts and cultural services. \$155,000 has been distributed to regions within Tropical North Queensland alone. IRADF is offered annually and managed by the Arts Queensland office in Cairns, with officers working with host organisations to support program delivery on the ground in each Indigenous community. Funding has been allocated to the following organisations and councils in Tropical North Queensland:

- **Aurukun Shire Council (Wik & Kugu Art Centre) - \$15,000**
- **Hope Vale Community Learning Centre - \$10,000**
- **Lockhart River Arts & Cultural Centre - \$10,000**
- **Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council - \$10,000**
- **Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - \$20,000**
- **Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council - \$15,000**
- **Torres Strait Regional Authority - \$50,000**
- **Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council - \$15,000**
- **Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council - \$10,000**

For more information on IRADF, visit [www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/iradf.html](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/iradf.html) (content from *Arts Queensland Media Statement*).

### BIA FUNDS ANNOUNCED

In another boost to the sector, a further \$145,000 injection to the Indigenous arts industry has been announced. *Backing Indigenous Arts* (BIA) is a \$11.93 million investment over 4 years to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, performers and arts workers in Far North Queensland and expand the Indigenous arts and cultural sector in the region. This round of recipients include:

- **Lockhart River Arts Indigenous**

- **Corporation - \$5,000**
- **UMI Arts (Cairns) - \$15,000**
- **Charles Street (Weipa & Cairns) - \$10,000**
- **Roy McIvor (Hope Vale & Melbourne) - \$5,000**
- **Lisa Michl (Cairns, Melbourne & Los Angeles) - \$5,000**
- **NEWFlames Foundation Inc (Cairns) - \$10,000**
- **Black Ink Press (Townsville) - \$10,000**
- **Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Qld (Cape York) - \$15,000**
- **Theo Tremblay (Cairns) - \$10,000**
- **Girringun Aboriginal Corporation (Cardwell) - \$10,000**
- **REACH Arts (Cairns & Weipa) - \$10,000**
- **Cairns Regional Council - \$10,000**
- **Michelle Sellton (Cairns) - \$5,000**
- **Reggae Bliss (Cairns) - \$10,000**
- **Carbon Media (Cairns & Brisbane) - \$15,000**

For more information on BIA, visit [www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/backing-indig-arts.html](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/backing-indig-arts.html) (content from *Arts Queensland Media Statement*).

### ARTS QUEENSLAND NAMES 2011 CIAF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Indigenous artist and curator Avril Quail will take the helm of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair as Artistic Director in 2011. Ms Quail is a Nunukul woman with clan associations to the Goenpul and Nuigi people of Moreton Bay (Quandamooka) in south-east Queensland. She established herself as an artist in the early 1980s and is a founding member of the renowned Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative in Sydney. Her most recent position was at the Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing & Export Agency (QIAMEA), which promotes Queensland's Indigenous arts industry at a state, national and international level. Ms Quail said her focus in 2011 will be to bolster CIAF's reputation as a world class event where collectors and members of the public can view and purchase new artwork from Queensland's leading and emerging Indigenous artists, while developing new skills and opportunities for Indigenous artists to build professional careers. Premier Anna Bligh acknowledged the work of founding CIAF Artistic Director Michael Snelling, who oversaw the first two events. CIAF 2011 will

run from August 19-21, and work has already begun on securing key artists for the event. For more information on CIAF, visit [www.ciaf.com.au](http://www.ciaf.com.au) (content from *Arts Queensland Media Statement*).

### ARTS NEXUS SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNERS

**Arts Queensland:** [www.arts.qld.gov.au](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au)

**Australia Council for the Arts:** [www.australiacouncil.gov.au](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au)

**Blueprint for the Bush - Queensland Government:** [www.regions.qld.gov.au/dsdweb/v4/apps/web/content.cfm?id=13343](http://www.regions.qld.gov.au/dsdweb/v4/apps/web/content.cfm?id=13343)

### ARTS NEXUS PROGRAM PARTNERS

**Tropical Writers:** [www.tropicalwriters.com](http://www.tropicalwriters.com)

**Queensland Writers Centre:** [www.qwc.asn.au](http://www.qwc.asn.au)

**Cairns Regional Council - Community Partnerships Unit:** [www.cairns.qld.gov.au](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au)

**FNQ Volunteers:** [www.fnqvolunteers.org](http://www.fnqvolunteers.org)

**Arts Law Centre of Australia:** [www.artslaw.com.au](http://www.artslaw.com.au)

**Youth Arts Queensland:** [www.yaq.org.au](http://www.yaq.org.au)

**Move Dance TNQ:** [info@movedancetnq.com](mailto:info@movedancetnq.com)

**Cairns Indigenous Art Fair:** [www.ciaf.com.au](http://www.ciaf.com.au)

### ARTS NEXUS ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

**Access Arts:** [www.accessarts.org.au](http://www.accessarts.org.au)

**Artsupport Australia:** [www.australiacouncil.gov.au/philanthropy/artsupport\\_australia](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/philanthropy/artsupport_australia)

**Ausdance Queensland:** [www.ausdance.org.au/qld/index.html](http://www.ausdance.org.au/qld/index.html)

**Australian Art Print Network:** [www.aboriginalartprints.com.au/](http://www.aboriginalartprints.com.au/)

**Canopy Artspace:** [www.canopyarts.com/](http://www.canopyarts.com/)

**Cassowary Coast Shire Council:** [www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/](http://www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/)

**Cook Shire Council:** [www.cook.qld.gov.au](http://www.cook.qld.gov.au)

**Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation - Queensland Government:** [www.deedi.qld.gov.au/](http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au/)

**Entertainment Cairns:** [www.entertainmentcairns.com/](http://www.entertainmentcairns.com/)

**On Edge Festival:** [www.onedgeart.com/](http://www.onedgeart.com/)

**Tablelands Regional Council:** [www.trc.qld.gov.au](http://www.trc.qld.gov.au)

**Torres Shire Council:** [www.torres.qld.gov.au](http://www.torres.qld.gov.au)

## A TOAST TO...

*Each issue of Culturelinx will feature a profile of members and cultural organisations providing services to TNQ - their work, whereabouts, and relationship with Arts Nexus.*

### ANNALIESE CIEL WALKER

Since completing a Bachelor of Media Arts in 1999, Annaliese Ciel Walker has worked as a freelance filmmaker and animator, creating a number of award winning short films and animations for public display, advertising, promotion, installation and entertainment. Her work often leans towards environmental and existential themes, though more recently has become more experimental and abstract, involving rotoscoping and site-specific projection works.

2010 was a big year for Annaliese as she completed her animated scratch film: a 3 ½ minute music video that took two years to create (around 600 hours of animating). *Scary on the Radio* screened at the Cairns Regional Gallery along with several other of her animations through the Loft Emerging Artists' Program (LEAP).

Working with the Cairns Historical Society's 16mm & 8mm film collection, Annaliese recently put together an exhibition at Circa 1907 Contemporary Artspace. The 1960s lounge room installation featured an old television playing a loop of Far North films, local photographs on the wall and a continuous projection of local slides, all from the '60s and '70s. Lunchtime screenings of local super 8mm vintage home movies were a great success. This project is set to continue as oral histories recorded in response to the images, and presented in Cairns CBD in 2011.

Annaliese's animated feature film screenplay has recently been shortlisted in the international Marza Story Circus competition.

*"Arts Nexus is an energetic wealth of information and support, and a great resource for the community. Their free workshops with Arts Law this year were particularly valuable for me."*

For any freelance filmmaking, video editing and camera operating please email Annaliese at [me@annaliesecielwalker.com](mailto:me@annaliesecielwalker.com). Past films and TVCs are available on [www.annaliesecielwalker.com](http://www.annaliesecielwalker.com)

## ARTS NEXUS MEMBERSHIP REWARDS

Join Arts Nexus now to receive the following discounts and offers:

- Cairns Civic Theatre - two free tickets to selected house shows. [www.cairnscivictheatre.com.au](http://www.cairnscivictheatre.com.au)
- Tanks Arts Centre - buy 1 get 1 free voucher for selected live performances (purchases through Ticketlink only). [www.tanksartscentre.com](http://www.tanksartscentre.com)
- JUTE Theatre - buy 1 get 1 free to all in-house productions showing Wednesday to Saturday. [www.jute.com.au](http://www.jute.com.au)
- KickArts Contemporary Arts - 5% discount at the Gift Shop (conditions apply). [www.kickarts.org.au](http://www.kickarts.org.au)
- Cairns Regional Gallery - free double entry pass. [www.cairnsregionalgallery.com.au](http://www.cairnsregionalgallery.com.au)
- Cell Art Space - 10% discount on exhibition fee. [www.cellartspace.com](http://www.cellartspace.com)
- End Credits Film Club - screenings at discounted member prices. [www.endcredits.org.au](http://www.endcredits.org.au)
- Artworkers - 50% discount on joining fee. [www.artworkers.org](http://www.artworkers.org)
- Rebecca Claire Photography - 10% discount on photographic services and documentation of 2D and 3D artworks. [www.rebeccaclaire.com.au](http://www.rebeccaclaire.com.au)
- Queensland Writers Centre - discounts on regional workshop fees. [www.qwc.asn.au](http://www.qwc.asn.au)
- Twelve Bar Café - six free coffees. [twelvecairns@hotmail.com](mailto:twelvecairns@hotmail.com)

## REWARDS PARTNER NEWS

### JUTE THEATRE OPPORTUNITIES

JUTE has a plethora of programs coming up for theatre makers, performers and spectators alike:

### JUTE Young Ambassadors Program

Deadline 13 January 2011. Applications now open for six young people with a passion for theatre to form JUTE's 2011 Young Ambassadors Program. The group will have the chance to gain special insights into the workings of the professional theatre company and the creative process of a theatre production.

### Enter Stage Write Program

Deadline 25 February 2011. JUTE's regional script writing development program.

### Focus Forums

Now seeking participants who have NOT been to the theatre in 5 years to see each JUTE production for FREE in exchange for feedback.

For more information on all of these programs, contact (07) 4050 9444, email [info@jute.com.au](mailto:info@jute.com.au) or visit [www.jute.com.au](http://www.jute.com.au)

### TANKS' RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

29 January 2011

The second in a series of two music industry workshops - designed and delivered by FNQ music industry professionals for aspiring, emerging and established musicians. Write your biography, get your photo taken AND set some career goals. Measure your ingredients and present your best to Music Industry of Australia. Registrations close 22 January. Contact Roz Pappalardo on 0408 730 551 or [R.Pappalardo@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:R.Pappalardo@cairns.qld.gov.au)

**The Arts Nexus Office will be closed from 5.00pm on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, and will re-open again on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2011. The Staff and Board of Arts Nexus would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

CHRISTMAS CLOSING DATES

**We extend our sincere thanks to all 2010 members, partners, supporters and peers.**

Arts Nexus acknowledges and thanks our key funding partners for 2010: Arts Queensland, the Australia Council for the Arts, and Blueprint for the Bush. We wish you all an enjoyable holiday season and a very creative and fruitful 2011.