




# TUGGERANONG ARTS CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



The Tuggeranong Community Arts Association acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and work, the Ngunnawal people. We also acknowledge the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from surrounding areas who gather on this Country and who call Canberra home.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and recognise that this is Country upon which language, arts and culture has been shared and practised for thousands of years.

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Image: *Behind Dat Face*, TAC Theatre. Photo Martin Ollman, 2022

## OUR VISION | OUR MISSION

### Tuggeranong Community Arts Association

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The Tuggeranong Community Arts Association (TCAA) has successfully delivered artistic programs to the Tuggeranong community for more than 30 years. Focusing on participation and accessibility, the Tuggeranong Arts Centre (TAC) offers free exhibitions across three gallery spaces, a live performance program, community engagement activities and a range of workshops and classes.

#### **Our Vision**

To be a vibrant, connected and creative Tuggeranong Community.

#### **Our Mission**

To be a dynamic and innovative arts organisation that is essential to the Tuggeranong region and the ACT

#### **2022 Board**

**Don Cumming** (President)

**Jenny Hargreaves** (Vice President)

**Karl Maftoum** (Treasurer)

**Marina Talevski** (Secretary)

**Cath Day** (from 27 October 2022)

**John Hargreaves** (to 17 November 2022)

**Lorena Quinlivan** (to February 2022)

**Annika Romeyn**

**Hamish Sinclair**

**Bec Selleck** (to April 2022)

**Bindie Stewart-Fitzpatrick** (from 15 June 2022)

**James Tylor** (to March 2022)

**Ray Watt** (from 15 June 2022)

#### **2022 Patron**

**Aunty Agnes Shea**, Ngunnawal Elder



Image: Fresh Faced Funk, TAC Theatre. Photo by Martin Ollman, 2022

## WHO WE ARE | OUR PEOPLE

### Tuggeranong Arts Centre

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#### 2022 Staff

**Caroline Downer**

Chief Executive Officer *from 14 June 2022*

**Karena Keys**

Chief Executive Officer *to June 2022*

Visual Arts Manager *to 24 November 2022*

**Cassidy Richens**

Communications Manager

**Caroline Wall**

Fresh Funk Director

**Roger Jillard**

Messengers Program Manager

**Kelsey van der Tuin**

Messengers Support Worker

**Blaide Lallemand**

Woden Arts Officer

**Lily Platts**

Public Programs Officer

**Rebecca Drew**

Communications Assistant

**Peter Jordan**

Finance Officer

**Leah Blankendaal**

Operations Manager *to 10 May 2022*

**Dana Castle**

Front of House Coordinator *to 15 September 2022*

**Kristy Griffin**

CACD Manager *to 3 December 2022*

# CHAIR'S REPORT

## It's been a year of change for the Tuggeranong Community Arts Association (TCAA).

There was considerable turnover on the Board in 2022. Lorena Quinlivan, Bec Selleck and James Tylor resigned early in the year. Long-standing Board member John Hargreaves, and Secretary Marina Talevski left the Board at the end of the year. Ray Watt and Bindie Stewart-Fitzpatrick were appointed to the Board at the AGM on 15 June, and Cath Day came onto the Board at the end of October. I recognise the contributions of all Board members for their participation and support of TCAA. John Hargreaves, in particular, contributed greatly over many years as Treasurer.

Following an extensive recruitment campaign with applicants from Canberra, interstate and overseas, the Board appointed Caroline Downer, OAM as Chief Executive Officer from mid-June. Caroline brought to the position over 30 years' experience in the arts sector – most recently as Executive Director of Arts North West and as Director of the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale. It's been a delight working with Caroline to strengthen the Tuggeranong Arts Centre (TAC) team and broaden our place in the local community. Thanks also to Karena Keys for acting as CEO before Caroline's appointment.

Following Caroline's appointment, the focus was on the preparation of a successful five-year funding application to artsACT for the operations of the organisation. This included the development of a new strategic plan which gave the Board the opportunity to reflect on the values underpinning the organisation, and articulate its purpose.

We appreciate the support from artsACT, as well as the Community Services Directorate which funds the Messengers program.

The emphasis of the second half of the year

was on continuing to build the foundations of good governance including realigning the budget, risk management analysis, a full policy audit, maintaining and developing stakeholder relationships and re-engaging with our community.

I acknowledge and thank the TAC team for the expertise, passion and innovative manner in which they delivered a range of arts activities for our community.

I've been honoured to be President and Chair of TCAA. However as this has been my fifth year in those roles, under the Constitution, I must now step aside. I wish all associated with TCAA and TAC the best for the future. I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report which provides information on the arts programs delivered in 2022.

Don Cumming  
Chair, TCAA

### 2023-2027

#### OUR VISION:

A vibrant connected and creative Tuggeranong community.

#### OUR MISSION:

To be an inclusive and welcoming organisation which promotes and fosters diverse creative opportunities, connecting and engaging our community and visitors with the arts.

#### VALUES

Ethical | Inclusive | Respectful | Collaborative



LOVE

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Tuggeranong Community Arts Association 2022 Financial Year.

There were a number of staffing changes including the appointment of a new CEO, Caroline Downer, halfway through the year. The appointment gave stability to the position itself, and to the organisation in general, which in turn made it possible to implement a shift in various business structures of the Arts Centre in the second half of the year. These transitions brought new cohesion to the Association which started to increase revenue again (although still impacted by COVID-19) and decrease expenditure which led to an increase in reserves.

While 2022 saw a deficit in the accounts, the organisation is looking towards a surplus for the end of the 2023 year following the

consolidation of changes made in the second half of 2022. The new five-year funding agreement with artsACT is now in place adding stability and security to the Association's financial position.

The Board would like to acknowledge the continued community support patronage, along with ongoing government funding, which has allowed the Arts Centre to operate for the last couple of uncertain years.

Ray Watt,  
Treasurer, TCAA

***For financial statements please go to:  
[www.tuggeranongarts.com](http://www.tuggeranongarts.com)***





# YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 was an opportunity to provide a solid foundation for TCAA's future.

2022 provided challenges for the Tuggeranong Community Arts Association. COVID-19 continues to impact our audiences - a pattern that is consistent across the ACT, and the Australian performing arts industry. There were considerable changes in staffing at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre (TAC). Karena Keys ably filled the position of acting CEO until June, when Caroline Downer was appointed as the new CEO. Staff have taken up new opportunities with key arts organisations in the ACT and we farewelled Karena Keys and Kristy Griffith at the end of the year. Our Front-of-House coordinator Dana Castle also resigned in October.

Despite these changes, the TAC team has focused on re-activating the Arts Centre – Fresh Funk classes were back in full swing, a suite of art classes was bedded down including monthly life-drawing, and our

special drama workshop for primary students, *Funky Fairytales* was brought back.

The emphasis post June has been on placing the organisation on a firmer financial footing, rebuilding the TAC team, and reengaging with our community south of the Lake. New and exciting partnerships have been developed with ANU School of Music, Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Canberra Potters Society, Historic Houses (Lanyon Art Prize), and the Canberra Youth Theatre.

This year was also an opportunity to plan for future operations and consider new ideas for the Arts Centre with a new Strategic Plan developed for 2023-2027, and a five-year funding application to artsACT. TAC is a space where everyone is welcome, delivering a diverse range of multi artform activities which place TAC at the heart of the



Tuggeranong community. We have identified four key priorities:

**CREATE:** Develop inclusive, engaging and quality programs for the whole community.

**CONNECT:** Foster and strengthen TAC's community relationships, networks and partnerships.

**SUPPORT:** Invigorate ACT artists and arts workers through promotion, creative collaboration and skills development.

**GOVERN:** Provide sound and effective corporate governance to ensure a sustainable and fiscally responsible organisation.

I would like to thank the TAC team – Leena Wall, Rebecca Drew, Cassidy Richens, Peter Jordan, Roger Jillard, Kelsey van der Tuin and Lily Platts for welcoming me to this

wonderful organisation. Their commitment and enthusiasm in a year full of challenges has been very much appreciated. I am very excited about what we can achieve together, and with the arts programs we are delivering to our community into the future. The outlook for TAC is bright and it is well positioned to make a substantial contribution to the arts and cultural landscape of Tuggeranong and the ACT in the years ahead.

Caroline Downer, OAM  
CEO

# VISUAL ARTS

2022 was a diverse program for the whole community.

Beginning the year February to April the Tuggeranong Arts Centre exhibition program responded to COVID-19. *Memento Vivere* by Christina Lowry was a fascinating collection of classically composed *memento mori*, still life arrangements with flowers, objects, live and taxidermised insect and wildlife specimens. In the manner of the Dutch masters responding to the bubonic plague, Lowry similarly reflects on mortality in the face of the pandemic. Changing the wall colours in the foyer gallery created special interest and supported strong sales. *Walking in Isolation* by Dr James T Farley, photographer, artist and teacher based in Wagga Wagga in collaboration with Dr Lachlan Brown, poet and tutor of creative writing at Charles Sturt University responded to lockdown restrictions. Installations of framed black and white images taken on daily walks were combined with printed poetry texts in Gallery 1. Elspeth Rowel and Elizabeth Crocker of Puffy Pottery Gallery showed ceramics in *Secure Escape* with a 'more is more' aesthetic in Gallery 2. A variety of functional pieces were displayed with furniture from the Lodge to refer to confinement to domestic spaces during lockdowns.

With a contemporary leaning, April to May focussed on cutting edge practices, with Karri McPherson, in the Foyer Gallery with *More than Meets the Eye*, three immersive paintings on canvases and using wall vinyl to extend the colour so that it spilled onto the walls of the Foyer Gallery. In *Ventre*, highly regarded

artist and teacher Ellis Hutch (aka Kate Murphy) and Slipper George (Carolyn Eccles), presented performance and photomedia installation. The artists invited viewers to perform to subvert conventional divisions between the artist, audience and the works. Natalie Quan Yau Tso, also an installation and performance artist, showed *I have arrived at Yellow*, video works referencing the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong.

A suite of exhibitions by Indigenous artists during May to July coincided with NAIDOC celebrations. Incorporating Wiradyuri language, a delightful series of framed collages of native animals by Rechelle Turner was particularly well received with solid sales. In Gallery 2, weavings from Jessika Spencer, a proud Wiradjuri woman, explored symbolism referencing her country. A recent graduate of the ANU Sculpture workshop and alumni of the Westfarmers Indigenous Leadership Program, Aidan Hartshorn presented *Ngunyguilia Murunwiginya*, a stunning installation of contemporary shield-like wall sculptures in Gallery 1.

July to September exhibitions focussed on social inclusion with shows by artists living with disability. Michael Bryl's, *Personal and Famous* was a series of portraits, and *Wibbly Wobbly Windfarms* paintings by Michael Clarke, depicted wind turbines in the landscape. In contrast *Adorned* by multi-cultural women's art workshop, *Adorned*





Images: Jemima Campey, *Saint Belle*, 2022, Inkjet print, 59.4 x 84.1cm (right)  
Button workshop participants as part of *Adorned*, Adorned Collective, installation view, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, 2022 (above)

Collective, based at Parramatta Studios in Western Sydney presented vibrant textiles and wearable works including colourful head pieces and masks.

Gender diversity flavoured the September to October suite of exhibitions with EASS Award winner Jemima Campey in Foyer Gallery with digital video installation and prints. Danny Jarret's, *Neo Glitch City 2* combined painting and gaming in an exploration of queer identity. *Gorgeous Shadow Bent Dreams* by Tom Campbell, Joanne Leong, Jacquie Meng and Genie Stuart brought together installations and new media works by a collective of young contemporary gender diverse artists

A mood of celebration was created in November and December with exciting and diverse group exhibitions. Works on paper, paintings and ceramics from young artists in TAC's Messengers program showed in Gallery 1. *Swoon! We Are Dizzy With Joy!*, paintings, mixed media and objects from Hands on Studio artists, was by Hands On Manager Tilly Davey, showed in the Foyer Gallery. *All that Glitters* with textiles, painting, photography and

installation from Michele Grimston, Tiffany Cole, Romany Fairall, Emma Rani Hodges and Helen Braund was presented in Gallery 2.

Public programs held in the Arts Centre also had a wider audience. One of the most popular public programs was *Stone Axe Making* delivered by Walgalu man Aidan Hartshorn and his father Shane Herrington on 11 June. Stone axe making was one of the first cultural lessons Aidan experienced as a child. He says, "The technique is transferable when culturally making other tools and grinding seeds for dampers." Aidan and Shane demonstrated how to form flake knives from shards of stone that binds together with tree grass resin. Participants used sandstone and collected river stones and were shown grinding techniques while they were forming their own axe.

*Maggies Nest* was a wonderful exploratory workshop using found and reused materials facilitated by *All that Glitters* artists. A variety of other gallery programs derived from and presented in support of the shows attracted over 350 additional



Image: James Farley, *Walking in Isolation*, installation view, TAC Gallery 1, 2022. Photo Brenton McGeachie

attendances over the course of the year. Outstanding among these activities were artists floor talks, including the *Memento Vivere* discussion by Christina Lowry, which attracted an audience of approximately 60 persons; making workshops such as *Wine and Weave* with Rechelle Turner and *Adorned Brooch-making* by the emerging CACD collective supported by Parramatta Studios with attendances of 40 and 60 respectively. Well attended experimental interactive sessions by Slipper George and Ellis Hutch and *Gossip ASMR* by the *Gorgeous Shadow Bent Dream* artists facilitated participation by audience members, who then became collaborators in the exhibition outcomes.

Visual artist Emma Rani Hodges ran a series of free weekend craft circles during March. Working collaboratively to create a large-scale artwork for installation at the National Folk Festival, participants enjoyed the opportunity to tell stories using textiles and connect with the local community. People of all ages and abilities came together to share stories, find common interests, and take care of each other. The work was installed in Central Park as part of the 2022 festival at EPIC.

Finally, TCAA acknowledges the support of its hospitality sponsors – Lerida Estate and Capital Brewing Company.







# TAC WORKSHOPS

New workshops bring the community into the Arts Centre.

2022 saw a significant new initiative for the Tuggeranong Arts Centre with the introduction of the program, *Make Art at TAC*. This program offered term-based and casual art classes in the newly renovated workshop delivered by professional artists.

Four weekly art classes were delivered in the first half of the year, catering to a broad demographic. By the second half of the year, these were refined to two regular classes - one seniors class, and one kids, based on community interest. The Seniors Class, *Making Time*, provided an opportunity for people to come together, make art and have a chat. With an emphasis on painting and drawing, participants also explored other media such as print, ceramics, mosaics and collage. The kids class, *Make a Mess* focussed on experimentation, play and fun, while learning about colour theory, form,

perspective, negative space, and composition. Highly interactive and tactile, this proved a popular class and will expand to offer two classes for different age ranges in 2023.

Adding to these weekly classes, were a series of short courses and casual workshops including two series *Introduction to Painting*, and *Beginners Ceramics*. *Make Art at TAC* also developed key partnerships - with Carers ACT, Tuggeranong Library and with various schools in the Tuggeranong area, delivering inclusive and accessible art workshops for a range of ages.

A new drop-in life drawing class was also developed in 2022. This is now a permanent monthly fixture in the TAC calendar. *Every Body* is facilitated by a local artist, and is inclusive of all bodies, weight, gender and race, celebrating all expressions of self. Held



Image: Funky Fairytales tutor Daniel Streatfield and the class participants, 2022

in the Lodge with wonderful views over the lake, it is a safe space to sketch a diverse range of models in a friendly atmosphere.

Finally, in Term Four, the much-loved *Funky Fairytales* returned to TAC after some years of absence. This kids' drama program is a fun term-based class where participants play theatre sports, work on improvisation, and create short spins-offs of well-known fairytales, culminating in a short performance in the TAC theatre at the end of term.

TAC is also a venue for a number of community-based organisations which rehearse weekly at the Art Centre. We are delighted to support these activities which are inclusive, accessible and provide a connection to a broad and welcoming community. *Xtreme Stars* is a group of

young adult dancers with a disability who love to dance and socialise with their peers. *Bellyup Bellydance* is a family friendly group that shares the joy of belly dance with women of all ages – mothers, daughters, grandmothers, family and friends. *Zest: Dance with Wellbeing* is a weekly class for people with Parkinson's. They are designed for adults who want to experience the joy of dancing and keep their body and brain active and healthy, regardless of their mobility, skill or age.

# LIVE PERFORMANCE

An interesting mix of old and new were presented in 2022.

Tried-and-true programs *The Children's Musical* and *Deadly Funny* returned. COVID-19 postponed projects *After the Glitz & Glam*, *Valley of the Molls* and Jazz concerts by the *Fringe of Squaredom* were presented and new creative ventures were staged.

Tim & Nathalie Bevitt worked with fourteen children to devise, produce, and stage *The Age of the Pinedemic – the Musical*, an original musical created under the banner of Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Now in its fourth year, the program ran over three holiday intensives and on-going weekly sessions, with support from Dan Streatfield, Rebecca Drew, Tom Buckland, Chelsea Heaney, Noah Gorrell, Tobias Cole, and Michael Knight. The musical featured eight original songs, with lyrics by the cast and music written and recorded by Tim and Nath in their home studio. Two sold out shows were performed on 18 and 19 November.

A collaboration with *Enlightened* created an opportunity for more than 60 people to take part in the Art Centre's *Unwine-d* art and music program in Commonwealth Park, as part of the ACT Government's annual Canberra Day celebrations in March. Led by artist Lily Platts, with music by Damon Mudge, participants were taught visual art skills to create an artwork responding to the Canberra community. Taking inspiration from a work created by Lily during the class, participants were guided through the process of painting the iconic Braddon Rainbow Round-about, receiving step-by-step demonstrations along the way.

The toe-tapping energy of Flamenco came to Tuggeranong on 28 May. *Flamenco for Everybody* by award-winning dancer Annalouise Paul featured some of the country's finest musicians and dancers. Organically grown during imposed lockdowns, Annalouise Paul delivered a story







Images: *The Acacia Quartet*, TAC Theatre, 2022 (above)  
*The Age of the Pinedemic*, TAC Theatre, 2022 (left)

of resilience from regional communities facing the adverse effects of COVID-19.

Tom Molyneux starred in *The Mission*, presenting a story that follows the journey of “Fighting Gunditjmara” man, Allan McDonald – one of the first Aboriginal soldiers from Victoria to enlist for war. Produced by *The Space Company*, this moving theatre piece reproduced true stories from Australian history in two shows on 4 and 5 May.

Critically acclaimed musical theatre and cabaret artist, Michaela Burger brought her award-winning show - *A Migrant's Son* to TAC shortly after, presenting a story that captured the spirit of the Greek migrant experience. This unique collaboration offered an opportunity for local participation through the development of a Tuggeranong choir. Emerging musical theatre performers including Chelsea Heaney, Hayden Crowweller, Lachlan Elderton, Meaghan Stewart, Lara Clement, Luke Ferdinands, David Collins and Andre Le worked under the direction of Tijana

Kovac to perform alongside Burger in two shows on 17 and 18 June.

*Behind Dat Face* explored the intersection of two worlds, as experienced by some of Australia’s finest First Nations drag performers: the glorified “Glitz and Glam” of life on stage versus what happens after the make-up comes off. Audiences were invited to experience the delights of cabaret before joining the cast for an intimate discussion as they unpacked the ‘other side’ of life. The 9 July lineup included Sydney’s Miss Josie and Chel Torres, Hobart-based Anna’Mal Tuckerbox and Canberra’s very own MadB and Ashtray Moonias, delivering a show oozing with naughtiness, comedy and plenty of razzle dazzle.

Twenty lucky participants snapped up the chance to spend two weeks with Queenie van de Zandt devising, producing, and performing their own cabaret show, in the *Cabaret Winter Workshop*. Accompanied by Robyn Womersley on piano, course participants delivered two sold out

performances of *Come to The Cabaret*, in the TAC theatre on 28 August. Queenie also performed her latest work, *Choose Your Own Adventure* for Canberra audience in the TAC Theatre on 27 August.

*The Fringe of Squaredom* (FOS) returned in March to perform their latest creation *In Blue*. In September, to concluded a 2021 musical collaboration with Rachael Thoms and Tom Fell, FOH returned to perform *West Coast Cool* which was postponed due to lockdowns. Music lovers also delighted in the return of the Acacia Quartet in May. Regular monthly live music in the Lodge also returned in November with the *Wayne Kelly Trio* marking the occasion.

Hundreds of families attended performances of *Roald Dahl and the Imagination Seekers* in early October.

Internationally regarded comedian Kevin Kropinyeri worked with an enthusiastic group of aspiring First Nations comedians – helping them refine and polish an original comedy skit. The routines were performed in front of the *Deadly Funny* Canberra heat judges and a small audience at the Arts Centre on 26 November as part of the national comedy competition.

To wind up the year, Finucane & Smith's *Travelling Dance Hall* swept Tuggeranong into macarena madness. Local artists Creme de la Crop, Ravi Oli, Tahalianna Sowward-Mahanga and Venus Mantrap joined the national touring party on the Tuggeranong stage. Decked out in satin and velvet drapes, glowing lanterns, and disco dazzle, the cabaret cast performed an eclectic mix of music, magic, comedy, hula-hooping, dance and drag on 30 November and 3 December.







# FRESH FUNK

## Returning to strength post COVID-19

2022 was the year Fresh Funk climbed back out of the COVID-19 slump, with a big growth in participant numbers, audience numbers, and in overall atmosphere. Things began to return to normal and the sense of appreciation was high.

The year began with a well-attended Holiday Intensive in January, followed by another installment of the *BeYOUtiful Dance Development Initiative* led by Fresh Funk tutor, Melissa Markos, which culminated in a professionally filmed dance video.

When term started, the renewed interest in dance was apparent immediately, with a large burst of new enrolments – our Jnr Intro class for example literally doubled in size! Our Littlies program also filled back up, with many classes at capacity (which remained across the year) and lots of new faces and families joining us.

We took advantage of the growth to bring in a few exciting guest choreographers and alumni over the year to teach workshops and work with crews and other projects. Fresh Funk originals Shannon Hanrahan, Dave McLean and Isaiah Chadwick were a pleasure to have back in the studio, as well as Max Burgess (our New Zealand School of Dance graduate and professional contemporary dance artist) who ran a specialised contemporary dance course and project. We also welcomed Hana Morris (NZ), Winston Sky (Syd), Alysha Percy (Syd), Tiana Canterbury (Syd), Toshi Maruyama (Japan) and Neale Whittaker (Syd) to the studio, and our biggest name visitor was the incredible world-famous Kirsten Dodgen, all of whom were extremely inspiring and kept things vibrant and exciting!

Fresh Funk ran a new line of merchandise mid-year, with hundreds of orders for Fresh Funk branded clothing, meaning big logos on the front, back, and legs of many dancers out and about across Canberra!





Images: *Fresh Faced Funk*, TAC Theatre. Photo by Martin Ollman, 2022 (above)  
*Fresh Funk's The Glass Slipper*, Erindale Theatre. Photo: Martin Ollman, 2022 (right)

The June show was a big one. *The Glass Slipper* was our modern remake of Cinderella, with a heroine who wants more than to just be married to a Prince. The show was fun and had almost 700 people in the audience at Erindale Theatre, such a wonderful testament to what a great semester it was.

After another successful *Holiday Intensive* in July, the second half of the year proved just as big!

We did two school outreach programs, with Melrose High School and with Isabella Plains Primary.

Our respected *Young Choreographers Initiative* had its annual two seasons, in May and October, but the October season featured the highest number of choreographers in the project's 18-year history, with 15 new creators! This meant an additional show was added and was another example of the growth occurring at Fresh Funk across the board.

Fresh Funk also did a number of public performances, such as the *Canberra Street Fest* (city), the Ausdance ACT *Dance*

*Week Launch* and media call (Gorman House), a video shoot for a local performer (city), and the *Canberra Fair* (Canberra showgrounds). Some of our teen dancers were also asked to be the face of the St John Ambulance Service *new drivers* campaign, photographed and splashed all over the place.

We took part (and placed at the top) in two major ACT crew competitions in 2023, as well as a National final. *The Australian Dance Crew Championships* were held in the ACT in May, followed by *Battlegrounds* in July. We then we took 30 dancers to Sydney on a trip to perform at the Nationals which was a very exciting time for them! Seeing all the other top Australian teams was hugely inspiring. Special mention must also be made of the fact that our tutor and dancer Noah Gorrell received the award as the *Best Male Dancer in Australia!* (And well-deserved!)

The final show for 2022 was Fresh Funk's version of *West Side Story*, *West Side Rumble*. This December show had another 700 people in attendance and received some of the best feedback we've ever had.



# MESSENGERS

A successful year adapting to participants needs.

While navigating 2022 has been a challenge for Messengers, the program has gradually returned to a semblance of normal operation during the year. The program worked within COVID-19 safe principles with an added layer of protection, given the engagement with schools and vulnerable young people.

Throughout 2022, Messengers has been proactive in promoting the program and widening the base from which referrals are secured. We have noted a more diverse range of sources than previously seen including: Headspace, CAMHS, DVCS, A Gender Agenda, CYPS, Woden Community Service, YWCA amongst others. Referrals have also been received from a wide range of schools across the ACT including from schools that are a significant distance from the Tuggeranong Arts Centre including: Copland College, Melba High, Harrison School, Amaroo School, Forest Primary, Maribyrnong Primary, and Campbell High. The bulk of referrals from schools has of course come from the Woden, Molonglo and Tuggeranong areas. Strong relationships with schools were continued throughout lockdown and further built upon in the uncertain times following the lessening of restrictions.

Messengers maintained the standard groups throughout the year with a range of outreach groups conducted in schools, youth groups in partnership with A Gender Agenda, holiday program in partnership with the Multicultural Hub and for Youth Week. The *Studio M* group (18-25 year-olds), piloted in 2021, became a permanent fixture in 2022. This filled a gap in programming and was able to further define groups for a particular cohort needs and to continue support for those that had completed other groups. Messengers ran a pilot in partnership with Charles Weston School on-site to engage with people in the Molonglo region.

Attendance levels were very good and completion levels have been high throughout all the groups. Numbers quickly returned to normal levels once schools were able to re-engage. This has allowed the principles of the program guidelines to work effectively and has had a positive impact on group dynamics and socialisation. Maintaining a solid core of participants is essential in providing the best model of support for the young people and has been achieved as the year progressed. Messengers has again provided a program which has alternated between playing to



Image: Messengers: *Eclectic Eccentricities*, installation view, TAC Gallery 1, 2022.

participant strengths and challenging them with new artistic mediums and processes. Of note was the increase in the complexity of participants regarding mental health and problems within the school environment. On review 2022 has been an incredibly successful year for the program which has adapted and changed both in response to COVID-19, and in relation to needs of participants and program management.

We celebrated the end of year with another very successful exhibition at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. A great deal of exceptional work was showcased from all the age groups ranging from 9 to 24 years old. There were two full walls of drawings, paintings and prints; a wall covered in wooden shields adorned with glazed pottery works; a selection of painted cardboard pigeons and other birds; an installation of a cardboard city scape and castle creations; and a beautiful selection of small hand drawn paper strips depicting a series of scenes reminiscent of cuts of film. An amazing achievement for all involved.







# WODEN ARTS

## Tuggeranong Arts Centre provides a broad range of activities to the Woden Community

Woden Arts continued to engage, entertain and enable members of the community to participate in community building and cultural identity affirming activities and events in 2022. The Woden Arts register established in 2021 continues to expand and it has enabled the delivery of art market stalls, with the support of registered artists, at the Woden Farmers Market and a variety of other events.

Events that were delivered in partnership with local community groups and artists included: *Farrerdisse* (Farrer Neighbour Day), *Music by the Ponds*, *Meet me at Mawson*, *Woden Arts and Crafts markets*, *Urban Sketching with Leonie Andrews*, *ACT Community Sector Heal Country NAIDOC WEEK*, *Heal Country with Dale Huddleston for NAIDOC WEEK*, *Vessel Weaving with Angela J. Pisciotta (Firebrace)*, the launch of a community mural at Farrer shops and the *Graffiti Time Warp: a self guided site specific exhibition* at the Woden drains.

Twenty-three individual workshops and series, engaged many artists, increasing their incomes, profiles and professional skills. 338 workshop participants learned new skills, connected with their creativity

and formed stronger bonds and networks within the community. Nine live music performances, delivered by Woden Arts, entertained new audiences and raised the profile of the artists. With a variety of programs, Woden Arts has made arts accessible to the community and made the arts visible in the Woden space.

Partnerships have underpinned much of Woden Arts offerings and we particularly acknowledge collaborations with Woden Community Services, and Woden Valley Community Council, as well as with Farrer, Lyons, Chifley, Mawson and Swinger Hill community groups.

Presented as a school holiday program at the Chifley district playground, *Escape From Plastika* was developed by Australian Dance Party. With collaboration from a diverse range of partners, the event attracted strong local audiences and empowered young audience members to participate.

In addition to a Woden Library event, NAIDOC also came to Mawson shops in 2022 with Dale Huddleston and Gugan Gulwan musicians providing live music, drop in art workshops, Tukka by the Bush







Images: A participant enjoying a *No Place Like Home* session, 2022 (above).  
Performers at the Woden's 60th Birthday celebrations, 2022 (left)

Food stall and a Burunju Gallery Art Stall. Woden Arts was a key collaborator along with Woden Community Services and Woden Community Council for the 60th birthday celebration on 16 October at Eddison Park. This was developed with a wide range of partners, from conservation groups, to sporting associations and clubs, Bunnings, Coffee Loco. Individual artists, stallholders, arts facilitators and musicians were featured including *The Devine Devilles* and *Pachamama*.

Building on the success of the 2019 mural, John Hart was again commissioned by Woden Arts and the Farrer resident association to facilitate and paint a mural on a concrete tunnel in the Farrer Park in

collaboration with kindergarten students. Over a week John worked with 37 Farrer Kindergarten students to create designs responding to a 'Special Places' theme. The concrete tunnel in the Farrer Nature Park was painted by the children over three days. With support from ACT Government Graffiti Co-ordinator Lisa Petheram, the project reclaimed the tunnel (which had been vandalised) for and by those that loved it best, Farrer's smallest residents.

# FUNDING SUPPORT

Tuggeranong Community Arts Association acknowledges  
its funding partners for 2022:

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