



# **INCITE ARTS**

## **2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Incite Arts: Delivering community arts and culture programs  
in the central desert region since 1998**

## 1. About Us

*We at Incite Arts acknowledge our work is undertaken  
on the land of the **Arrernte** people, the traditional owners of **Mparntwe**.*

*We give our respect to the **Arrernte** people, their culture  
and to the Elders, past, present and future.*

*We are committed to working together with the **Arrernte** people  
to care for this land for our shared future.*

Established in 1998, Incite Arts is Central Australia's own community-led arts company working with young people, people with disability, Aboriginal communities and other diverse communities in Alice Springs and the central desert region.

Incite Arts focuses on 'connecting people and place' throughout all programs.

### Incite Arts

- Responds to community needs and aspirations
- Expresses and celebrates cultural identity
- Designs and delivers targeted arts programs
- Collaborates and builds strong community partnerships

Incite is nationally recognised as the premier community arts company in central Australia sharing our unique stories on the world stage.

Positioned as the key facilitator of community arts in Central Australia, Incite has built strong trust and enduring community partnerships, since 1998, and is a significant contributor to community capacity building through participation in the Arts.

Since 2004, Incite Arts has championed the development of arts and disability practice in the region. Incite uniquely drives innovation through community arts practice to create astonishing art and benchmark new levels of access and inclusion in the region.

Incite is nationally recognised for innovation, quality and ethical work processes with communities.

Incite explores new ideas and creates exceptional art with the community, by the community and for the community.

[www.incitearts.org.au](http://www.incitearts.org.au)

## 2. From the Incite Board

Congratulations to Incite Arts, Central Australia's own community-led arts organisation, on receiving the 2017 NT Human Rights Fitzgerald Diversity Award. This award recognises notable activities in the Northern Territory, or by Territorians, which advance human rights. This award acknowledges Incite's particular commitment to advocacy and leadership in the art and disability space. Access and inclusion, as a fundamental human right, is at the heart of Incite's practice.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in Incite Arts and have utmost respect for your exciting, innovative and inclusive arts practice. I also thank you for your support of and confidence in me over the last couple of years. It has been a tremendous honour to have been part of Incite's journey. Best wishes.

**Chairperson Emma Delahunty (Ringer)**

Incite's commitment to competent and effective governance stands out and is to be highly commended.

This is evidenced by their interesting and vital engagement in the process of the annual Strategic Planning day. Their signature community performance work, 'Unbroken Land' 2018 is set to establish new bench mark for inclusive arts practice in the NT.

Thank you in particular to Ms Jenine Mackay and Ms Virginia Heydon for your clarity and professionalism in supporting the members of the Board whilst consistently delivering a program of activities of which we can all be very proud.

Achieving what you achieve, on limited resources, in one of the most challenging areas of remote Australia, does not go unnoticed and deserves constant recognition. The success of much of Incite's achievements has been the result of your good work. Well done!

**Deputy Chairperson, Andrea Taman**

I am pleased to report Incite Art has a strong and responsible attitude to financial accountability. The staff continually work to improve their procedures and studiously apply themselves in response to the recommendation from the annual audit.

I specifically commend Incite Arts CEO, Ms Jenine Mackay, for her financial literacy and proficient approach to communicating financial matters with the Board.

**Treasurer, Frank Richard Ashe**

Working with Incite Arts has been an enriching and rewarding experience. I have been involved with Incite Arts since 2005 as an artsworker, artist and Board member. Although I am preparing to leave Alice Springs I will continue on in my role on the Board. I am confident and secure in the knowledge that Incite Arts will continue to grow and create new and innovative opportunities in the field of community cultural and arts development. Incite's focus on access and inclusion positions them as leaders in the field. I am proud to have been a part of this and all aspects of Incite programming and governance. **Secretary, Philomena Hali**

### **3. Program Highlights**

#### **3.1 Southern Ngalia Dance Camp Program**

Incite has partnered with the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC - Mt Theo Program) since 2007 for the delivery of a range of arts engagement programs in the Warlpiri region.

WYDAC is nationally recognised for prevention, aftercare and support for petrol sniffers and is repeatedly cited as "the success story" in petrol sniffing intervention.

Southern Ngalia, begun with consultation in 2008 and first piloted in 2010, has progressively evolved with each new engagement to build community capacity and to impact on the lives of those involved.

Southern Ngalia (SN) is a three way intergenerational collaboration between WYDAC, senior Warlpiri women and Incite Arts. Based on trust relationships and direction from the senior women, the program builds a platform to collectively focus on achieving stronger links with traditional song and dance; creating new generations fluent in the ceremonial and cultural knowledge of their parents/grandparents; strengthening of Warlpiri culture; and showcasing Warlpiri culture within and beyond the region.

SN encourages and supports Warlpiri women to undertake leadership roles, engages a comprehensive and ongoing consultation process and works to meet needs directly expressed by Warlpiri women.

These bi-annual camps provide a safe, positive and encouraging environment for young girls and women to not only learn their culture but also to engage and respect Elders. It helps to develop further strength and pride in Warlpiri women.

Strong trust relationships exist between Warlpiri communities and Incite Arts as a result of the long-term investment of collaborating with skilled community artists. Without this trust, it's impossible to achieve this high quality engagement.

In 2017 Incite continued to collaborate with WYDAC and the Warlpiri Women to deliver this intergenerational, community development and culture transmission program. This included the direct delivery of the April camp and support for the delivery of the October camp.

In 2017 the SN program focus included:

- Supporting learning by the young girls with leadership from the Cultural Custodians
- Maintaining strong engagement by community stakeholders including Yuendumu Women's Centre and Yuendumu Old Peoples' Centre.
- Strong leadership undertaken by SN Cultural Custodian Team as demonstrated in:
  - Processes for meetings, evaluation and reflections
  - Logistics/preparation for camp
  - Women's ceremonial/work roles and responsibilities and how money story relate to this and to other parts of program

### **3.2 'stArts with D' Performance Ensemble**

For over a decade Incite Arts has produced Arts & Disability Programs, with a focus on the performing arts since 2011, nurturing and supporting relationships between mentoring artists, people with disability and disability groups and service providers. The quality and quantity of time spent together has forged strong bonds of trust, creating a space in which to share stories and connect deeply with others.

At the beginning of 2013 Incite initiated the formation of 'stArts with D' (SWD) Performance Ensemble, a group made up of a core of eleven people with intellectual disability, female, male, aboriginal and non-aboriginal from 18 to 52 years old. The group was formed as a response to feedback from the highly acclaimed 2011 production 'Close to Me'. Some performers wanted to continue as a group to build skills, create and perform self-devised performance theatre. This has been possible with numerous programs and presentations of new work since then. SWD members have participated in activities and events across the artforms of film, dance and outdoor theatrical performance.

The broad exposure to the arts through these experiences and opportunities continues to nourish the members of the ensemble. Incite maintains the commitment to work with these emerging artists to develop individual skills and create meaningful arts experiences for each individual ensemble member and their audiences.

In 2017 members of the SWD were invited to be a part of a program offering new skills development opportunities with the Desert Song Festival's guest

performers: internationally acclaimed 'Poco Tutti Choir' and 'The Sisters of Invention' singing group from South Australia.

The Desert Song Festival 2017, themed 'Celebrating Diversity – Holiday hands together' demonstrated a commitment to inclusion and accessibility. The aim was to develop new skills in singing, songwriting and chorale work in the Alice Springs Disability community. Also to educate, inform and challenge people's perceptions of the artistic and performance capacity of people with a disability.

The program engaged members of the SWD Ensemble providing new opportunities to learn new skills in signing and choral work and the rare opportunity to collaborate with a nationally acclaimed, dedicated arts and disability performance group.

The program was managed and delivered by Incite in collaboration with our community partners in the disability sector including Acacia Hill School, Life Without Barriers, Life Style Solutions and NT Department of Health, Office of Public Guardian.

Local artist Stephanie Harrison, long- time collaborator with the Ensemble was also involved.

The workshop program of singing and song writing resulted in the creation of as original song by the SWD ensemble in collaboration with the Sisters of Invention and their collaborator, artist/mentor, Michael Ross. Singings workshops also engaged members of the Sadadeen School Choir and the Acacia Hill community.

Digital and video work previously created by the 'stArts with D' Performance Ensemble was also included in an Exhibition 'Having a Voice: The 1967 Referendum', at the Residency.

### **3.3 2017 NT Arts Access Awards**

The 2017 NT Arts Access Awards recognise the contributions of individuals, groups and organisations in the NT who have been working to improve accessibility in the creative arts for people with disability, across all genres of creative endeavour. The awards are a joint project of Arts Access Darwin and Incite Arts and have been running since 2009. The awards aim to acknowledge NT based artists with disability, arts workers, support worker, community groups and organisations who have made an outstanding contribution through their creative practice.

In 2017 we named the Individual Arts Award 'The Michele Castagna Award'. From 2017 onwards this category will be named in memory of Michele Castagna, 1944-2016.<sup>[1]</sup> The naming of this memorial award will honour Michele's memory

for years to come and her outstanding contribution to Incite Arts in her role as Chairperson 2007- 2014. Along with Incite Arts, Michele was also instrumental in founding Arts Access Central Australia (AACA) with the aim to: develop an independent community organisation with an inclusive, holistic and cross-cultural membership; to progress opportunities for people with disability to explore creative arts and to promote broader community participation and integration. Under Michele's leadership AACA joined with Incite Youth Arts to become Incite Arts: an inclusive community arts organisation.

NT Arts Access Award recipients are judged on: artistic merit and high-quality artistic outcomes; community engagement and long service and ongoing contributions to accessibility in the NT. This year's awards were judged by Meagan Shand, CEO of Arts Access Australia (AAA), the national peak body for arts and disability and works to increase opportunities and access for people with disability as artists, arts-workers, participants and audiences.

The public announcements of the awards were made by the Minister for Culture and Tourism, the Honourable Lauren Moss, at Malak Markets, Darwin, June 24. The 2017 Award Categories & Alice Springs recipients were:

- The Michele Castagna Individual Artist Award – Recognising an outstanding NT artist.
  - Highly Commended: Lizzy Trew. Lizzie is a young indigenous performing artist from central Australia, we would like to congratulate Lizzie on the high artistic standard of her performance in Unbroken Land 2016, Lizzie was commended for singing in her language and bringing the Pitjantjatjara culture to life on stage. Lizzie is also commended as an outstanding emerging performing artist and for her creative vision which we anticipate will blossom into exciting future performances.
- Individual Arts Workers and Disability Support Workers – recognizing individuals who have been instrumental in supporting the creative practices of artists with disability.
  - Winner: Miriam Nicholls. Miriam has shown outstanding commitment to arts and disability since 2009 through her work with incite Arts and Acacia Hill School. Miriam has contributed to high quality productions including: 'Close to Me' (2011), 'Somebody Everybody' (2013), directed by Kat Worth, former director of Restless Dance Theatre, the inaugural work of the 'stArts with D' Performance Ensemble and UNBROKEN LAND (2016). Miriam is quoted as saying: "The highlight of the work is seeing how it brings out the best in each person. The role of a dance artist, in my mind, is to work with people, to question, play and ultimately draw out their strengths. I have seen parents and carers amazed and delighted at

performances, as are the performers themselves, at what is achieved onstage and celebrated! Their joy is always infectious!”

- Highly Recommended: Melissa Kerl. Melissa is commended for long service to Arts and Disability in Alice Springs and for the positive impact her work has had on the dancers and performers she has worked alongside over the years. Melissa is also congratulated on the broad community reach that her work has achieved. Melissa is commended for her works with Incite Arts, Arts and Disability programs since 2012.

In this time Melissa has undertaken professional development and training opportunities with guest and visiting artists specialising in inclusive dance and theatre practice. Melissa was involved with the inaugural work by the ‘stArts with D Performance Ensemble: ‘Somebody Everybody’. And most recently Melissa has worked in collaboration with the ‘stArts with D’ artists to devise work for Incite Art’s major production ‘Unbroken Land’ 2015&16.

- Highly Commended: Veronica Hagan. Veronica is commended for her work with Acacia Hill School leading the the ‘Carnival of Colour Exhibition’ – which was held at the National Pioneer Women’s Hall of Fame. Veronica led the project over a semester, delivering an arts program comprised of a diverse range of high quality craft and visual-arts activities including: candle making, paper making, card making, painting, drawing, collage and printmaking. Veronica also supported the students to participate as audiences by visiting local art galleries and viewing contemporary indigenous art.

- Local Community Groups and Organisations – recognising local community groups and organisations for their contributions to increasing accessibility in the arts.

- Winner: Acacia Hill School Acacia Hill School is being recognised for its focus on accessible and inclusive arts education for young people with disability, with a curriculum covering a wide range of artistic disciplines. Acacia Hill School is a specialised school for people with disability in Alice Springs; the students range in age from 3 to 20 years and come from a vast area reaching from the Barkly Region in the north to the Pitjantjatjara Homelands in the south.

The curriculum area most loved by all the students at Acacia Hill School is The Arts, in all its forms. Over the years the students have participated whole-heartedly in dramatic performance, dance and music performances in different venues. These have ranged from class performances at school assembly, to school presentation concerts, and then community performances such as ‘Close To Me’, the ‘Carnival of Colour’, ‘Alice Can



Dance'. The senior students' have been involved with Incite Arts 'stArts with D' productions. The students' visual artwork has also been displayed in a number of different contexts, from the school newsletter, school displays, special events at Alice Springs organisations expos and open days, and the Alice Springs Show, where they have won annual prizes.

### **3.4 'Unbroken Land'**

'Unbroken Land' is a trusted Incite community arts branded framework that celebrates our unique place in this ancient, unbroken land. Incite continues to build on the success of 'Unbroken Land' 2015 & 2016.

In 2017 Co-Artistic Directors Jenine Mackay and Virginia Heydon continued their ongoing commitment to 'Unbroken Land' with the implementation of an extensive community consultation and creative development process towards presentation outcomes in 2018. Jenine and Virginia met with over 40 local artists, arts organisations, community groups and potential collaborators as part of this process. The third iteration of 'Unbroken Land' in 2018 will incorporate live performance, projections, music, dance, recorded stories, video works and more.

'Unbroken Land' brings people together to experience diverse stories of belonging, celebration of culture and our place in the landscape.

Set in the unique Alice Springs environs, this shared community arts platform sweeps art into the heart of participants and audiences alike; breaking down barriers, building connections and giving expression to powerful and passionate feelings of home, place and belonging.

This staged process of creative development with artists, community groups and organisations takes the time needed to give due focus to cultural protocols and appropriate time lines, focusing on building quality relationships and content.

Sourcing water mythologies and dreamings from the diverse cultural communities that call this desert place home, 'Unbroken Land' will tell a story of how we inhabit this desert environment, 'a land of droughts and flooding plains' and our relationship with water.

Water is a primordial element underlays creation myths and stories world-wide. Water is intrinsically part of spiritual beliefs with some water sources identified as sacred and often perceived as dwelling places of supernatural beings.

Water symbolism and uses are many and varied; its spiritual and healing properties are seen in rituals and ceremony, reflecting the vast array of peoples that have made water central to cultural practice.

Water in the stories of Australia's First Peoples underpins the traditional relations they have to land and communicates important cultural knowledge about the location and care of water, essential to our existence and future generations.

With artists and groups embracing the water theme from inception, Incite's Co-Artistic Directors are playing a vital role of framing the creative content to create an immersive narrative journey of discovery.

UL is fast becoming a key community arts event on the Alice Springs cultural calendar alongside other iconic events and festivals such as The Beanie Festival and The Desert Song Festival.

## **4. Partners, Collaborators and Sponsors**

### **4.1 Funding Partners**

- Australia Council for the Arts
- Northern Territory, Government, Department of Culture & Tourism, Arts NT
- Northern Territory Government, Office of the Chief Minister, Community Benefit Fund
- Australian Government, Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS)
- Peter Fanning Bequest

### **4.2 Community Partners & Collaborators**

- Acacia Hill School
- Casa Inc Central Australia
- Lifestyle Solutions
- Alice Springs Town Council
- Desert Song Festival
- Life Without Barriers
- NT Department of Health, Office of Public Guardian
- Sadadeen Primary School
- The Residency
- Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation

- Yuendumu Women's Centre
- Senior Warlpiri Women, Traditional Owners & Cultural Custodians
- Yuendumu Old People's Centre
- Arts Access Darwin
- Arts Access Australia & national Arts & Disability sector partners

### **4.3 Local Sponsors**

- TJ Signs
- Colemans
- Red Centre Office Technology
- Budget Car and Truck Rental

## **5. Board Members, Artists & Artsworkers**

### **5.1 Board Members**

#### Executive Committee

- Emma Ringer, Chairperson (Resigned 17.10.17)
- Andrea Taman, Deputy Chairperson
- Frank Richard Ashe, Treasurer
- Philomena Hali, Secretary

#### Board Members

- John Cooper
- Carol Muir
- Mary-Jane Warfield (Co-opted 26.10.17)

### **5.2 Artists & Artsworkers**

- Jenine Mackay, CEO & Co-Artistic Director
- Virginia Heydon, Manager CACD & Co-Artistic Director
- Annie Pfeiffer, Project Officer & Arts Facilitator
- Anneke Rose, Communications Manager
- Matt Woodham, Website Design and Construction
- Stephanie Harrison, Musician/Mentor
- Katie Leslie, Artist/Mentor & Arts Facilitator
- Tashka Urban, Artist/Mentor & Arts Facilitator and Program Manager
- Kate Larsen, Writer/Dramaturg

### Southern Ngalia Warlpiri Cultural Mentors

- Enid Gallagher
- Coral Gallagher
- Maisie Wayne
- Nellie Wayne
- Lorraine Granites
- Peggy Brown
- Lucky Langdon
- Ruth Oldfield Stewart
- Nancy Oldfield
- Ormay Gallagher
- Katrina Brown
- Julie Gordon
- Valerie Martin
- Ena Spencer
- Marlette Ross
- Maggie Williams
- Barbara Martin
- Julie Gordon
- Cecily Granites
- Vivienne Marshall

## **6. Financial Overview**

Incite's 2017 annual program funding came from Arts NT. Incite secured a number of project grants towards 2017 activities.

Incite managed the 2017 year in a modest and thrifty manner, resulting in the retained earnings of: \$6,802.18.

You can find more information in the Incite Arts Audited Financial Statements for 2017.

## **7. Thank you**

**Incite Arts, Central Australia's own community-led arts organisation, wishes sincere thanks to everyone for their support and contribution in 2017, including:**

- Lloyd Peacock
- Penny Drysdale and staff, Akeyulerre Inc
- Tara Leckey
- Sue O'Conner, Tangentyere Artists
- Jane Tonkin, Corrugated Iron Youth Arts
- Brendan Coleville, Acacia Hill School
- Greg McAdam
- Jody Holdback, Access2Arts
- Jeremy Bigg, Colemans Printing
- David Rawcliffe & Katie Miles, Budget Car & Truck Rental
- Jen Standish-White @'Lokathula'
- Adrian Scholtes
- Morris Stuart
- Poco Tutti Choir
- Sisters of Invention
- Robert Campbell, Lhere Artepe
- Araluen Arts Centre
- Alice on Todd
- CAAMA Radio
- Dwayne Schultz
- The Family of Peter Fanning