

Crossroad Arts
Annual Report
2007



THE CROSSROAD ARTS TEAM



John Pickup
Board President



Tammie Muller
Associate Director
Treasurer



Steve Mayer-Miller
Artistic Director/CEO



Autumn Skuthorpe
Youth Co-ordinator



Donnielle Fatnowna
Board Member



Anke Willems
Secretary
Administrator

Artistic Director's Report:

Now in its eleventh year of operation Crossroad Arts has established itself as the leading professional touring theatre company in Central Queensland; an award-winning cultural development organisation creating multi art partnerships with communities throughout Queensland, the Asia Pacific region, and an award winning maker of documentaries. In 2007 the company has also continued its work in education and children's theatre in Mackay.

2007 began with *The Fishwife and the Changeling*, a children's puppet theatre production. Performed on an open stage, this exotic Northumbrian folktale is a fantastical and fabled adventure performed by young puppeteers using metre high puppets. It tells the magical story of a changeling, swapped at birth with a fishwife's child and raised in the real world. The project was created in collaboration with designer Dominic Hooper who made the puppets. During the first stage of creative development Dominic made several prototype practice puppets for the young people to train with. In the second stage we were joined by musicians Connie Groen and Bridgine Doherty, who developed a musical score for the play. Young puppeteers Autumn Skuthorpe, Reece Madam, Pippa Okle, Phoebe Clarke and Rachael Garnham then spent three months training, developing the script and rehearsing with the puppets under the direction of Steve Mayer-Miller. The result was a magical introduction to theatre for many of the very young audience that the production attracted, and was yet another example of the high quality creative experience Crossroad Arts offers young people.

In 2007 The Friends of the Mackay Entertainment Centre celebrated their 20th anniversary and engaged Crossroad Arts to work with a group of young filmmakers to create a documentary film on the volunteer organisation. Four young students were trained in the skills of camera and editing techniques as well as interviewing skills to produce a 15-minute film, which drew an audience of 300 people to the Entertainment Centre in September.

Animal Farm was Crossroad Arts' second touring production for the Theatre to the Edge initiative. With a creative development team Crossroad Arts devised their own adaptation of Orwell's classic political fable about a group of oppressed animals that take over a farm in order to establish a democracy, only to discover that the pigs want more power. Having such a dedicated and talented creative development team which included Anke Willems, Tammie Muller, Autumn Skuthorpe, Elfrieda Mayer, Nik Mayer-Miller and Boyd Quakawoot to work with for 6 weeks gave me a rare opportunity as a writer and director to test ideas before the cast arrived. One of the great thrills was to have John Pickup appear in a cameo film role as Old Major. Once the cast of Sue Hayes, Simon Hapea, Anthony Ring and Donnielle Fatnowna joined the team we were in a very strong position to begin rehearsals. The investment paid off. There is no substitute for good preparation. The critics were unanimous in their praise for the show.

One of the most important initiatives that we introduced in 2007 was the youth mentorship program. It was designed to create opportunities for young people to develop their skills in a range of artistic mediums and in particular to nurture leadership qualities that will lay the foundations for the company's future. Tammie Muller worked throughout the year on a series of projects including storytelling and dance. In September Tammie worked as assistant director on *Animal Farm* and was appointed the company's associate director. Her leadership, dedication and skills provided a strong model for other young people in the company. Autumn Skuthorpe and Reece Madam also undertook a mentorship with the company, which included a weeklong residency at Queensland Theatre Company's Youth Intensive Workshop program. Their involvement as mentorees and young emerging artists has injected new and wonderful energy into Crossroad Arts and will continue in 2008.

I would like to thank the support from all our partner organisations and in particular the dedicated efforts from our board members and those artists who worked with us throughout 2007. I would also like to personally thank Sue Mayer-Miller who played a vital and yet unseen role in assisting me in the administration of the company. Next year Crossroad Arts will employ its first full-time administrator.

Steve Mayer-Miller

Mission Statement

Crossroad Arts' mission is to actively engage the community in collaborative works of art that reflect the needs and values of a diversity of people, create deeper and more meaningful connections and lead towards the building of a healthier society. We will accomplish this by bringing together a diversity of people from Mackay, other regional centres and rural areas in Queensland in the exploration and presentation of multiple art forms in bold creative ways that will tour and promote social transformation and celebrate shared values, a sense of belonging and collective identity. Integral to this journey is the empowerment of children and young people in exploring, developing and presenting dynamic art forms including the support and nurturing of emerging artists and the raising of the profile and practice of art and community cultural development in the Mackay region and beyond.

Executive Summary

Crossroad Arts is a dynamic company of community artists in Mackay and a significant player in community cultural development practice, quality theatre works, quality multi art events and the professional development of young emerging artists throughout Queensland. The company's consistent ability to engage many diverse cultural target groups both in Queensland and overseas matched with outcomes of excellence has created for them a reputation as a leader in the arts community. There are 3 principle reasons for this achievement:

1. A firm unwavering belief and policy in the importance of art as a negotiated process, built on the sharing of values between a diversity of people.
2. That this process can lead towards great art and a healthy society.
3. A leadership that has the vision and drive to steer this mission and the collective support of a highly motivated and focused team of professional artists, volunteers and an active board who are prepared to support the leadership and the goals of the company.

Statistics from the company's 9 years of operation up to 2003 under one off project grants and self funding programs represented a significant output of quality work. With operational CIP funding in 2004 on a 3-year contract, the company has been able to increase its output and also consolidate the work with a particular emphasis on developing infrastructures programs with young people and developing partnerships both locally and throughout the state.

Programs such as the young film makers mentoring scheme, young playwrights program 'TRACKS' in partnership with Playlab and Queensland Theatre Company and the Young People's Theatre are good examples of how the company is laying down foundations for the sustainability of youth arts in the region. The partnership with The Australian South Sea Islander community has grown steadily over the past 2 years and resulted in an overseas tour of the play *Melec mo Hani* to Vanuatu and a major multi media project in partnership with Mackay Library, the State Library and MADASSIA on the history of the islanders. Partnerships with the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander communities has resulted in unique opportunities for these diverse groups to create meaningful cultural connections with each other in the context of performance and celebration through the *No 3 Stones* project.

While CCD work and Youth is at the very core of our operations, we will still continue to promote and extend our professional theatre program. Over the past 5 years the company has toured 5 plays to places such as Brisbane, Rockhampton, Moranbah and Ambae Island in Vanuatu. Our reputation of excellence has resulted in the company being invited to partner Tropic Sun, Darwin Theatre Company and Just Us Theatre Ensemble in a regional tour initiative as part of Arts Transit, Theatre to the Edge.

The values, principles and objectives of Arts Queensland's Cultural Infrastructure Program ties in well with Crossroad Arts Business Plan. The diversity of our multi art programming, combined with our ability to consistently work with priority target groups identified by AQ places our company in a strong strategic position. We have clearly established a reputation for excellence across CCD and Theatre works. Our collective drive to make this happen will ensure that this company will prove to be an excellent investment in the future of Arts in Queensland.

Situation

Description of Company

Crossroad Arts is a not-for-profit multi arts company founded in 1997 and based in Mackay Queensland. Crossroad Arts present a combination of high quality original theatre works, multi art productions and some classic theatre pieces. The company is directed by Steve Mayer-Miller who has a 20 year history of involvement in theatre and community cultural development work in association with local and intrastate and overseas artists and art-workers.

invited to become involved on a project-by-project basis. The projects often target members of the local community who may have had little or no involvement in the arts. These groups have included the Indigenous community, Australian South Sea islanders, People with disabilities, Young people and people who have English as a second language.

In 2002 Crossroad Arts leased an office and an eighty seat performance/ workshop space in Shakespeare Street Mackay as part of a building complex that includes, Mackay Women's Health Centre, a Child Care Centre, a Youth Support Worker and Pregnancy Help Office and an Endeavour School for people with disabilities. This base allowed Crossroad Arts to develop a number of collaborative partnerships with these organizations and to establish the theatre as a viable venue for theatre, visual art exhibitions and workshops, artist in residencies, the formation of a youth theatre and a tour venue for smaller companies.

2007 marks the last year that Crossroad Arts will reside at this venue. The company will relocate to the city centre in 2008. The new premises will bring further opportunities for partnerships and expansion of the company's profile in the community.

Funding

Crossroad Arts has to date been funded through the Cultural Infrastructure Program of Arts Queensland. In 2007 the company was funded by the Australia Council Regional Arts fund, Arts Queensland Regional Arts Development Fund, Mackay City Council and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

Community Relationships

Crossroad Arts' collaboration with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures has become a company hallmark. Over the years they have worked with communities, including: young people with mental health issues; Torres Strait Islanders; the Aboriginal community; the Australian South Sea Islander Community; the multicultural community. Strong relationships have also been established with local Pre-School, Primary and High Schools. Crossroad Arts has also established a number of partnerships with the disability community, including Pioneer Employment, The Endeavour Foundation and Mackay Life Enhancements. The company has also undertaken projects in more remote parts of the region including the Moranbah and Middlemount mining communities, Mackay City Council, Artspace Mackay, the Entertainment Centre, and in Vanuatu, where they have established partnerships with Won Sniol Bag Theatre and artists in Longana on Ambae Island.

Partnerships

A collaborative partnership with Queensland Theatre Company was established in 2002 as part of the regional partnership program. This has involved emerging and established QTC actors and writers working at Crossroad Arts and also touring with them on three productions. This relationship continued through 2005-6. In 2005 a partnership with Darwin Theatre Company, Just Us Theatre Ensemble in Cairns and Tropic Sun in Townsville was established to create an alternative regional theatre touring circuit as well as a sharing of professional expertise called Theatre to the Edge. In 2007 the Crossroad Arts production of *Animal Farm* toured to Cairns and Townsville as a part of this initiative.

Values

- Trust, Respect for difference, Support and Care for the participants we work with.
- Commitment to the quality of the work.
- Understanding that Art has the power to change and enrich a culture.

Goals

- i. To provide opportunities for a diverse range of people (marginalised by geography, culture, age or ability) to engage, participate and be empowered by the arts in a way that reflects the values and needs of their community.
- ii. To create bold, innovative and high quality programs, which entertain, shake up and open up a wider audience to our work.
- iii. To develop partnerships with key government, non-government, business and arts agencies that support policies of cultural development, creativity, inclusion, equity, difference and a belief in the common good.
- iv. To provide professional development opportunities and a nurturing / challenging peer environment for emerging artists working with Crossroad Arts.
- v. To support the growth of arts in our region by building a framework of cultural development which is able to articulate, negotiate and celebrate shared values in our community in the quest for a sense of belonging, sharing and collective identity.
- vi. To establish a well-organized, supportive and sustainable, administrative, financial base for Crossroad Arts on-going growth and development.

History

Crossroad Arts was established in Mackay, in 1997 by Steve Mayer-Miller after he returned from training overseas with Theatre Complicité on a professional development grant awarded by Arts Queensland. The company's first production, *'Crossings'*, was staged at Paxton's Warehouse on the Pioneer River. This original work was part of a multi cultural project, which featured professional and non-professional actors, musicians and dancers from over 8 different cultures speaking their own languages on stage. It included Brisbane indigenous actress Roxanne McDonald. The production firmly established what is still today our working style of inclusiveness, of creating original work that reflects the human and physical landscape of Queensland and in presenting it in a bold, uncompromising and energetic way.

Over the past 9 years the company have created over 14 original plays; 4 major visual art exhibitions 4 films and a series of original dance pieces. During this time the company have collaborated with many diverse cultural groups including Young People, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, South Sea Islander and multicultural communities. The company's close association with Pioneer Employment Service and Ideal Placements over the years has resulted in a consistent number of clients with disabilities joining our projects. The same can be said about our strong relationship with primary and high schools in the region resulting in a high proportion of young people joining our projects and the schools utilizing our resources for skill development workshops.

Our work has also taken us to outer regional areas such as Moranbah to set up community cultural development practices and to Middlemount where we went underground in the mines to complete a film project. In 9 years this company has steadily grown, building a solid reputation for cultural development practices that have gained it consistent project funding from the Australia Council. Critique of our work has been covered in major articles in magazines such as Hands On and Art Work. The artistic standard of our work, whether it be community cultural development or professional theatre, has been praised by our peers in letters and also the press in Brisbane, Mackay, Cairns or Townsville.

We are in the business of cultural development and building high quality theatre productions
Our uniqueness in this region is based on 6 strengths;

- 1) Our ability to combine art forms such as film, dance, music, visual arts and theatre and create environments where professional artists want to come together and experiment in creating original hybrid forms.
- 2) Our ability to create environments where professionals and non professionals can come together and have the generosity, belief and patience to work in a CCD framework alongside those who are less able, in the building of a healthy society.
- 3) Our passionate belief and the skills of a writer/director in linking our art with the local physical and human landscape and finding ways to tell our own stories.
- 4) The high artistic standard that we have been able to attain in both CCD and professional artwork.
- 5) The teaching component in our work, which has nurtured emerging artists to build futures for themselves and the Arts in Queensland.
- 6) The depth and extent of our partnerships with arts and non-arts organizations in Mackay and throughout Australia.
- 7) The leadership of Crossroad Arts offers a dynamic creative energy and unwavering strength and determination in driving towards the setting up of a model for creating, promoting and nurturing arts and artists in the region.

Our market is therefore diverse. Existing in Mackay we have had to broaden our horizons on a number of levels to cater for a market that can be quite volatile. We therefore have branched out from our original theatre base and have created greater diversity in the way we market our product. This diversity is based on:

- I) The mixture of art forms we choose to use.
- II) The spaces where we work
- III) The client groups we work with.
- IV) The subject matter we explore

The diversity of our style and participating groups essentially means that audiences know that they will get something different each time they participate or see a Crossroad Arts work. It is this quality that keeps our work fresh, innovative and challenging.

HISTORY OF PROJECTS

1997

- 1) 'Crossings' a CCD Theatre project in partnership with the Mackay Migrant Community.

1998-1999

- 1) 'Crossing Streets' - a 2-year Youth projects working with marginalized young people and their relationship to public spaces.
- 2) 'Cop'n the Head' a play with young people at risk

2000

- 1) 'Shades of White' A CCD project on the History of Debutante Balls in the Mackay region.

2001

- 1) 'Shades of White': The Film on the history of Debutante Balls chosen for screening in Korea as part of the Australia Council Community Cultural Development exhibition on new Australian works.
- 2) 'You come Fla La See' A 3 month Photographic and Film Project in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and CDEP. The project employed two indigenous art workers under CDEP and resulted in a film and photographic exhibition. (RADF)
- 3) *Letters from River Street*: A 6 month multi art project with the Disability community resulting in a 2 hr theatre production-employing 4 artists (Aust Council) "Last weekend I saw a piece of theatre that will stay with me for a long time, an expression of community enterprise and commitment ... This was community theatre at its best, using the musical, artistic and theatrical skills of local people, some with disabilities and some without, to create a work of immense power, using the resources of the community itself.. This was up there with the best" Courier Mail, Thursday Aug 2, 2001. Alison Coates.
- 4) *Walls I have known and 'Our Place'* A solo theatre performance to mark the opening of the Mackay Town Hall followed by a documentary film on the outside of the Town Hall - employing 5 artists. (Mackay City Council)

2002

- 1) *Body Image*: A 4-month film, photographic and instrument-making project in collaboration

with young people with mental health issues- employing 4 artists. (Aust Council)

- 2) *Stories from the Coalface*: A 6 month residency at the mining town of Moranbah culminating in musical instrument making, 2 films and the writing and performance of the play 'Out of the Blue' Employing 5 artists including Indigenous actor Roxanne McDonald from the Queensland Theatre Company.
- 3) *Hole in my Shoe*: a 3-month partnership with Opera North working with people in the community exploring the idea of collective memory. Employing 5 artists and culminating in the writing and performance of the play 'Hole in my Shoe' (Arts Qld)
- 4) *Orwell's Animal Farm*- An original adaptation of Orwell's classic for 1 actor and musician - opened at Mackay Entertainment Centre for 1 week season in August 2002, touring in 2003 and part of Mackay 2003 Festival and Queensland Bi-ennial; Employing 3 artists.
- 5) *Mango Dreaming*- a multi art presentation including 3D animation, live music and dance for the opening of the Mackay Art's Space, employing 9 local art workers (Mackay City Council)

2003

- 1) Women's Health & Information Centre Multi Art CCD Project resulting in the writing and performance of the play 'The Lives and Deaths of Evie Sharman' /
- 2) 2 week Season of 'Animal Farm' in Mackay for schools and mainstream community.
- 3) Tour of Animal Farm to Brisbane and Rockhampton.
- 4) Writing and Production of new work 'The Hollow' in partnership with QTC- Mackay
- 5) Entertainment Centre.
- 6) Arts in the Workplace- Partnership with Tri Q Services- Sculpture, music and Film
- 7) CCD Project.

2004

- 1) Making of the Film 'Out of the Wasteland'
- 2) Building of CD Rom for E' scapes project-
- 3) Theatre Workshop Classes 8 weeks
- 4) Musical Instrument Making Workshops
- 5) Belong Youth Theatre CCD Project -
- 6) Intensive Week Theatre Workshops for Young People
- 7) Emerging Artists Mentoring Program-
- 8) Clowning Workshops with Scott Witt- QTC
- 9) Writing and staging of new solo theatre work 'I knew Andy Warhol' for Artspace exhibition.
- 10) Sarina Theatre and Music Program:
- 11) Writing, Staging and Touring of new work 'Giant over the Mountain 12 weeks-
- 12) Dreamtime Gundoo's Indigenous Dance Group- 7 weeks
- 13) 'BEATS' arts based alternative behaviour program for young males
- 14) 'Seven Stories High' small schools tour 8weeks partnership QTC
- 15) Writing and Performance of new Youth play- 10 weeks.
- 16) 'Our Space' Youths at Risk Film Project - 10 weeks; Mackay Sarina Rockhampton

2005

- 1) *Melek mo Hani* - Research, Writing, and Public performances of a new play, March -Dec.- Mackay Arts Festival; Vanuatu Independence Celebrations; Pacifica Conference Brisbane. -
- 2) *Tracks*- Youth Playwriting Program in partnership with Queensland Theatre Company as part of the regional partnerships program. March - Dec- Public Performances at Crossroad Arts Theatre.
- 3) *Free Fall* - Youth Multi Art Performance Project in Dance, Film and Music in collaboration with Brisbane band Water Logic and Centre Stage Dance Company. Public performances and forums at Mackay Arts Festival. - May- July
- 4) *Stori blong u mi* - Oral History/Video Documentary on the history of recruitment/blackbirding and settlement of Australian South Sea Islanders in Mackay from 1875-2005.
- 5) *In the Rough* - A Youth Theatre Production based on the writings of 5 young playwrights in the Tracks program.

- 6) **Youth Mentorships:** 4 young people working in film, music, and writing projects throughout the year.
- 7) **Glow:** Puppetry Workshops and performances with people with disabilities in partnership with Mackay Life Enhancement – 5 weeks
- 8) **Strut:** Creation of moving sculpture with children and parents from the International Adoptive Families of Qld Mackay and region Support Group for the Mackay Arts Festival
- 9) The Development of Theatre to the Edge- Alternative Arts transit Touring Circuit
- 10) Creation of 8 min video promo

NEW WORKS: 6 new plays and 2 videos

TOURING: 10-day overseas tour of Vanuatu o Melek mo Hani and Theatre workshops with actors from Won Smol and Bag Theatre.

CONFERENCES: JUTE Playwright's Conference – September; NARPACA/ Arts Transit Conference- Ipswich- April; DARWIN: Theatre Across the Top meeting- Dec.

2006 Program

- 1) **'Stori blong yu mi'** – a digital film documentary telling the story of 3 Aust South Sea Islander families and their descendants who were blackbirded from Vanuatu and The Solomon Islands in the nineteenth century. A project in partnership with the Mackay and District Australian South Sea Islander Association.
- 2) **'Stories I'** - a youth theatre project adapting children's stories into theatre. Presented at Mackay City Library and the Civic Precinct for the Mackay 2006 Arts Festival.
- 3) **'Melek mo Hani'** a re-write and re-staging of the South Sea Islander play for an Arts Transit tour to Townsville, Innisfail, Cairns Darwin, Minyerri Aboriginal Community and Alice Springs.
- 4) **'Theatre to the Edge'** the making of a digital film about a new touring theatre circuit in Northern Australia with Just Us Theatre in Cairns, Tropic Sun Theatre in Townsville, Darwin Theatre Company, Extensions Youth Dance Co and Red Dust Theatre in Alice Springs. Commissioned by The Qld Arts Council
- 5) **'The God of Spicy Things'** Creative development workshops with artists from Just Us Theatre Ensemble and Crossroad Arts working for 4 days on Sue Hayes new play.
- 6) **'No 2 Stones'** a cross cultural partnership between Crossroad Arts and The Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander communities in Mackay for the Opening of the Regional Arts Australia Conference.
- 7) **'Midkeymae'** an eight week Film-in Education project with 25 year 6 students from St Anne's School in Sarina in the making of a film written by the class.
- 8) **'No 2 Stones'** the making of the digital film documentary of that project.

What our peers and critics said in 2001-2006

"Animal Farm has been toured here independently from Mackay by Crossroad Arts Theatre, and the all Mackay talent on show is deeply impressive... the effect is triumphant"

Ben Eltham *Courier Mail* Critical Review, July 24 2003,

"The eight weeks I had in Mackay proved to be a really challenging, exciting and positive experience. Crossroad Arts plays a significant role in the Mackay Arts community and it was fascinating to see how this company operates."

Laurel Collins *Queensland Theatre*, Ensemble Actor

"These 6 weeks have been incredible. The learning curve has been huge and the work challenging. "The Hollow" will be the foundation for future work. I look forward to many more projects with Crossroad."

Kellie Lazarus, *Queensland Theatre Company*, Ensemble Actor,

"The work of Crossroad Arts successfully crosses over boundaries between performing, visual, multi media and community arts practice in an innovative manner that few regional arts companies are capable of achieving ... events that are critically engaging, enjoyable and innovative sets new standards for the sector"

Robert Heather – *Director, Mackay Artspace*

"Last weekend I saw a piece of theatre that will stay with me for a long time, an expression of community enterprise and commitment... This was community theatre at its best, using the musical, artistic and theatrical skills of local people, some with disabilities and some without, to create a work of immense power, using the resources of the community itself This was up there with the best" **Alison Coates – *Courier Mail*, Thursday Aug 2, 2001.**

"The Company and Steve work in a community cultural development context and the outcomes of their process speaks directly to the community from which it comes. He draws together different groups and individuals and gives them a voice in the development of the work using their skills and interests to ensure empowerment and ownership. The result is work of great intensity and diversity of style"

Sue Hunt General Manager *Queensland Theatre Company* July 2003.

"*Stori blong yu mi* was extremely moving and evocative. This film should be seen on SBS." **Erica Nagle- Head of Community Relations *Mackay City Council*.**

"*Stories 1*" "I simply loved it. It made me laugh and cry." **Margaret**

"*Melek mo Hani*" "...rich, colourful storytelling, of a kind that makes you laugh, cry and marvel. It's warm, it's crazy." **John du Feu *Artistic Director Darwin Theatre Company***

"It was the best theatre I have seen in a long time"

Dr Ursula Dauth, *Artistic Development Officer Queensland Theatre Company*

This brilliant piece of storytelling richly deserves a return season... It should not be missed on any account. A work of national significance."

Glyn Davies *Critic Arts Nexus, Cairn*

No 2 Stones- Documentary film

"I sat in front of my little screen quite mesmerized...a superb piece of theatre and filming."

Jane Atkins, *Assoc Director – Queensland Arts Council*.

2007 PROGRAM

Project 1: A children's puppetry play *The Fishwife and the Changeling* was created and performed by a cast of young people to critical acclaim.

Project 2: The film of *No 2 Stones* was premiered at the Mackay Entertainment Centre. Copies of the DVD were produced and sent to all of the delegates attending the Regional Arts Australia conference

Project 3: Creative film development for *Wild Child Mango Chutney and Jam* (Later renamed *God of Spicy Things*) a new theatre work on India, by Cairns playwright Sue Hayes.

Project 4: Youth Mentorship – young emerging artists Autumn Skuthorpe and Reece Madam working in film and writing projects throughout the year.

Project 5: Crossroad Arts developed a storytelling program for children, engaging members of the Australian South Sea Islander community in stories told both in English and the indigenous language of Solomon Islanders

Project 6: Crossroad Arts was commissioned by Mackay City Council to mentor a group of high school students in the production a film on the history of the Mackay Friends of the Theatre.

Project 7: The creative development, rehearsal and premier of *Animal Farm*.

Project 8: *Animal Farm* toured from Mackay to Townsville and Cairns to critical acclaim

What our peers and critics said about us in 2007

No 2 Stones

"This project has changed the face of the relationships between these groups forever. They were like brothers on that Saturday. They respected and acknowledged each other as cultural leaders with no line in the sand"

"We have always used the arts to communicate, connect and celebrate but this spoke to performers in a deep way... cultural and personal connections to land and sea... Identified in a very personal way... Connection to land and history and culture"

"I felt privileged to have been involved"

Participants in the project

"No 2 Stones was a historic project which provided a performance that embodied synergy – achieving an effect of which each part is incapable alone. It was an artistically emotional performance of a very local nature, which connected people with place. It has had an outstanding and enduring positive impact on social and cultural relationships. It was a ground-breaking and powerful process and performance."

Janice Quadrion – No 2 Stones: Dancing up a Storm: an independent case study.

Fishwife and the Changeling

"What a fantastic experience, to work with ... some of the most talented young people you could ever meet."

Storytelling

"...the audience is able to enjoy something close to grassroots story-telling, an intimate space shared by the listener and the speaker."

Kirili Russel, *Daily Mercury*, 4 / 7 / 2007

Animal Farm in Mackay

"Simultaneously raw and exceptionally well polished, the production was remarkably and, at times, terrifyingly real... *Animal Farm* ... is a bold and brilliant production – Mackay is indeed lucky to have theatre this vibrant and powerful at its fingertips." **Caroline Graham, *The Daily Mercury*, 25 / 10 / 2007**

Animal Farm Tour:

"This *Animal Farm* is simply superb. There is just so much going on with such intensity that one visit to the theatre is hardly enough to take it all in ... As one speaker commented on opening night, this *Animal Farm* has 'more innovation than a five-year plan, more guts than an abattoir in full swing, and more power than a Chernobyl meltdown'. It deserves to be seen nation-wide."

Glyn Davies *Art Nexus* November 2007

"Crossroad Arts give a physical and emotive performance of the George Orwell classic *Animal Farm* at JUTE Theatre... This production is creative, intelligent and totally engrossing. And it got a standing ovation on opening night..."

Denise Carter, *Cairns Post*, 6/11/2007

"...the physical humour evident in the performance is wonderful to behold..." **Charmaine Vesperman, *Cairns Sun* 7 / 11 / 2008**

"Arts Queensland ... would be hard-pushed to find a better case for continuing to fund local theatre... a frenetic and powerful adaption a fresh, dynamic and compelling piece of theatre."

Gemma Berry, *Townsville Bulletin*, 23 / 11 / 2007

Film Premiere

No 2 Stones

Following the very successful No 2 Stones project Queensland Arts Council commissioned Crossroad Arts to make a film documentary of the yearlong process. In March the film premiered at the Mackay Entertainment Centre to over 300 people. The night was a wonderful celebration of how arts can be such a strong catalyst for galvanising cultures.



The Fishwife and the Changeling

In April, Crossroad Arts presented *The Fishwife and the Changeling*, a children's puppet theatre production. Five young people from Mackay were provided with the opportunity of being included in the production and helping to build it from the ground up. This process gave them skills in play building and empowered them with the tools to create their own works in the future. The performers involved included five puppeteers (Phoebe Carke, Rachael Garnham, Reece Madam, Pippa Okle and Autumn Skuthorpe) and live, original music by Bridgeon Doherty and Conny Croon.



Acclaimed designer Dominic Hooper, who returned later in the year to also design *Animal Farm*, created the nine puppets for the production.

520 people attended the production over a two-week season, averaging 43 attendances per performances, which is about all the theatre can accommodate. Judging from the audience reaction and the comments that appeared in our comment book, the play appealed as much to children as it did to adults. The ages ranged from 4 year olds to ninety year olds. While we suggested to the audience through our posters that the play was suitable for children over 8 years of age, people still brought younger ones who enjoyed it equally.

The cast were able to articulate their ideas and the process of creating the piece to the audience during several forums

that were conducted with the public after the show.

A further indicator of the benefits to the company of this performance is the continuing involvement of three of the young performers at Crossroad Arts, to who have benefitted from the Crossroad Arts mentorship program.



"Storytelling and puppets have always played a special part in our company's repertoire. Like the changeling, these outsiders have a powerful way of revealing a secret side to our imagination. When the young actors grasp the puppets, these creatures of fabric, glue and thread, take hold of the actors and in that dance, something quite magical and revealing takes place. It's theatre" Steve Mayer-Miller, program notes for *The Fishwife and the Changeling*





In June – July Crossroad Arts developed a storytelling program for children, engaging members of the Australian South Sea Islander community in stories told in two languages

The three storytellers were Tammie Muller, Donnielle Fatmowna and Andrew Satinje. The stories told included 'The Speckled Egg', 'The Turnip' and 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' which was told both in English and then in the indigenous language of the Solomon Islands.

The six performances averaged an audience of twenty and was praised by both those who attended and the media. Viewers expressed an interest, not only in further theatre for children and young people, but also workshop opportunities for youth at Crossroad Arts.



"...the audience is able to enjoy something close to grassroots story-telling, an intimate space shared by the listener and the speaker."

Kirili Russel, *Daily Mercury*, 4 / 7 / 2007



In October Crossroad Arts presented *Animal Farm*, adapted from the novella by George Orwell. This stylised theatrical production used music, multi-media and the raw physical power of four dynamic actors on a bare stage to portray a multitude of characters.

Written and directed by Steve Mayer-

Miller, the centrepiece of this political fable were the four actors who remained on stage throughout the entire show using their physical and vocal skills to move from farmers to pigs, horses to birds in this metaphor of a contemporary political world, where language can distort meaning and fear is harnessed by the rulers to maintain their positions of power.



The four actors were Donielle Fatnowna, Simon Hapea, Sue Hayes and Anthony Ring, with a cameo performance by our own president, John Pickup. The creative team also included Tammie Muller as Assistant Director and Dominic Hooper as design consultant.

"Simultaneously raw and exceptionally well polished, the production was remarkably and, at times, terrifyingly real... *Animal Farm* ... is a bold and brilliant production – Mackay is indeed lucky to have theatre this vibrant and powerful at its fingertips."

Caroline Graham, *The Daily Mercury*, 25 / 10 / 2007



Animal Farm on Tour

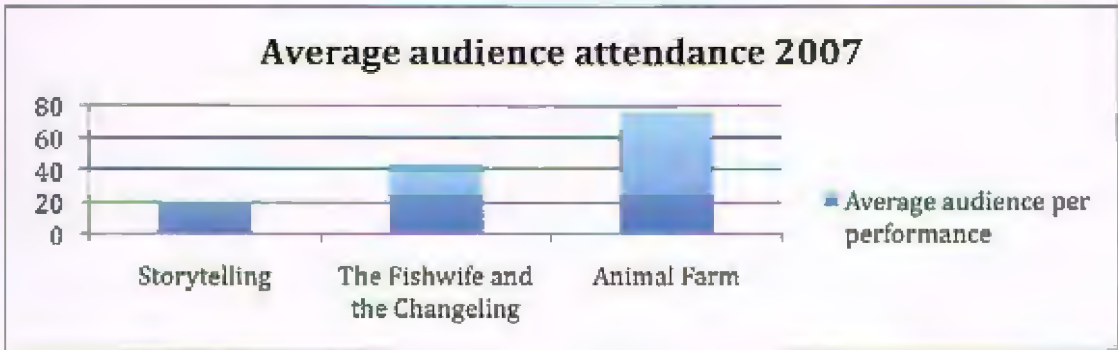
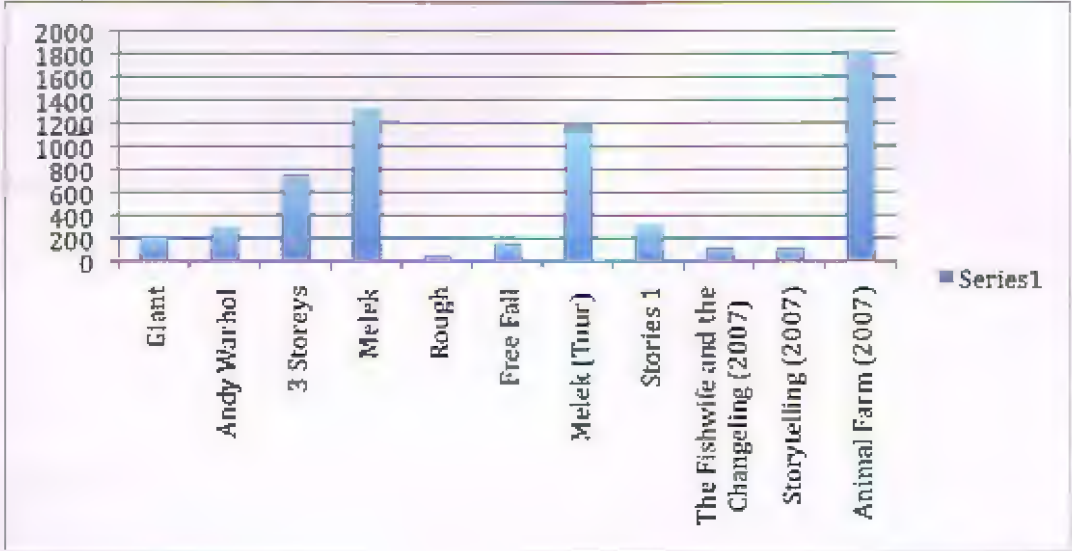


Animal Farm toured to Cairns and Townsville in November, where the production was met with significant critical acclaim as well as standing ovations and sold out performances.

The production was performed 24 times in total, averaging 75 audience members each time.

Statistics

Audiences, 2004 – 2007



This *Animal Farm* is simply superb. There is just so much going on with such intensity that one visit to the theatre is hardly enough to take it all in. This production reveals rather than tells - it shows just how brilliant Orwell's sixty-four year old fairy-tale really is by revealing how it resonates as if it had been written only yesterday. Moreover, to judge by audience reaction, it is as accessible to young people, who may not know the background to Orwell's tale, as it is to those more mature comrades among us who do. It can be experienced on various levels.

When Crossroad Arts visited Cairns last year to present the groundbreaking *Melek Mo Hani*, local audiences were given an all-too-brief taste of the inimitable style that Steve Mayer-Miller brings to the theatre. Its essence is a unique blend of imagination, projection, and movement. He encourages his actors to play directly to the audience to create what he calls "extraordinary moments of shared emotion and insight". Thus, in this production, the actors using little more than a few basic props and callipers, transform themselves into pigs, horses and birds, literally (and I do mean 'literally') at the drop of a hat as they play out the well-known story of heroic struggle and betrayal. The overall effect is to demonstrate with humour and pathos the Orwellian thesis that revolution simply results in one tyranny replacing another. The parallels with the Russian Revolution continue to resonate of course, but this production takes Orwell's themes right up to 2007 by using contemporary catch-phrases to show how language continues to this day to be used to deceive and manipulate. Was there ever a more Orwellian phrase, for instance, than "Work Choices"? And how prophetic it now seems that the new rulers of *Animal Farm* chose in the end to give it back its old name!

This play deserves to be seen nationwide.

Youth Leadership Program

2007 Mentorships

Continuing a well-established program of mentoring young people in the region to develop their work, Crossroad Arts offered bursaries to two of the performers from *The Fishwife and the Changeling*.



Reece Madam

Reece Madam and Autumn Skuthorpe were offered mentorships with Crossroad Arts in 2007. Both young artists undertook their own creative projects in film and were supported in these by the Artistic Director, Steve Mayer-Miller. They were given space at the company's premises, as well as access to theatrical and film equipment. As a part of the regional partnership agreement that Crossroad Arts has with Queensland Theatre Company, the mentorship included a week in Brisbane for the two young artists with the QTC Youth Theatre Intensive Workshops. Their fees were covered during this time. The mentorships are valued at \$2,000.



Autumn
Skuthorpe



Creative development of *Wild Child Mango Chutney and Jam*

Crossroad Arts was engaged by JUTE to create the multi-media background to the play *Wild Child Mango Chutney and Jam*, a play about India by performer and writer Sue Hayes.

Steve Mayer-Miller travelled to India to film sequences for the play and then to Cairns where he worked with the Sue Hayes, designer Dominie Hooper and director Suellen Maunder to integrate the film into the show.

The final product, now called *The Gods of Spicy Things*, will be seen in Mackay at the beginning of 2008, when it will tour as a part of the Theatre to the Edge initiative.

A film of the history of the Mackay Friends of the Theatre

The Friends of the Mackay Entertainment Centre celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2007. Crossroad Arts was engaged to work with a group of young filmmakers to create a documentary film on the volunteer organisation and young students were trained in the skills of camera and editing techniques as well as interviewing skills to produce a 15-minute film. The film screened to 300 people at the Entertainment Centre in September. This production is another excellent example of the Crossroad Arts' capacity to create opportunities for commissioned work from other organisations.

Treasurer's Report:

The following information is based on the official audit compiled by Flor Hanley and Associates for the 12-month period Jan 1 2007 to 31 December 2007.

Crossroad Arts had a total income for the year of \$188,456. Of that income \$154,476 came from government grants and \$33,980 came from other sources.

[The monetary value of volunteer services and non-cash sponsorship could be calculated at more than \$100,000 additional income as in previous years, has not been included in the total or in the graph below for the 2007 data, due to advice from Arts Queensland. It is therefore important not to generalise when comparing this year with previous years, without allowing for this adjustment].

Total Expenditure for the year amounted to \$183,014. That left an operating surplus of \$5,442

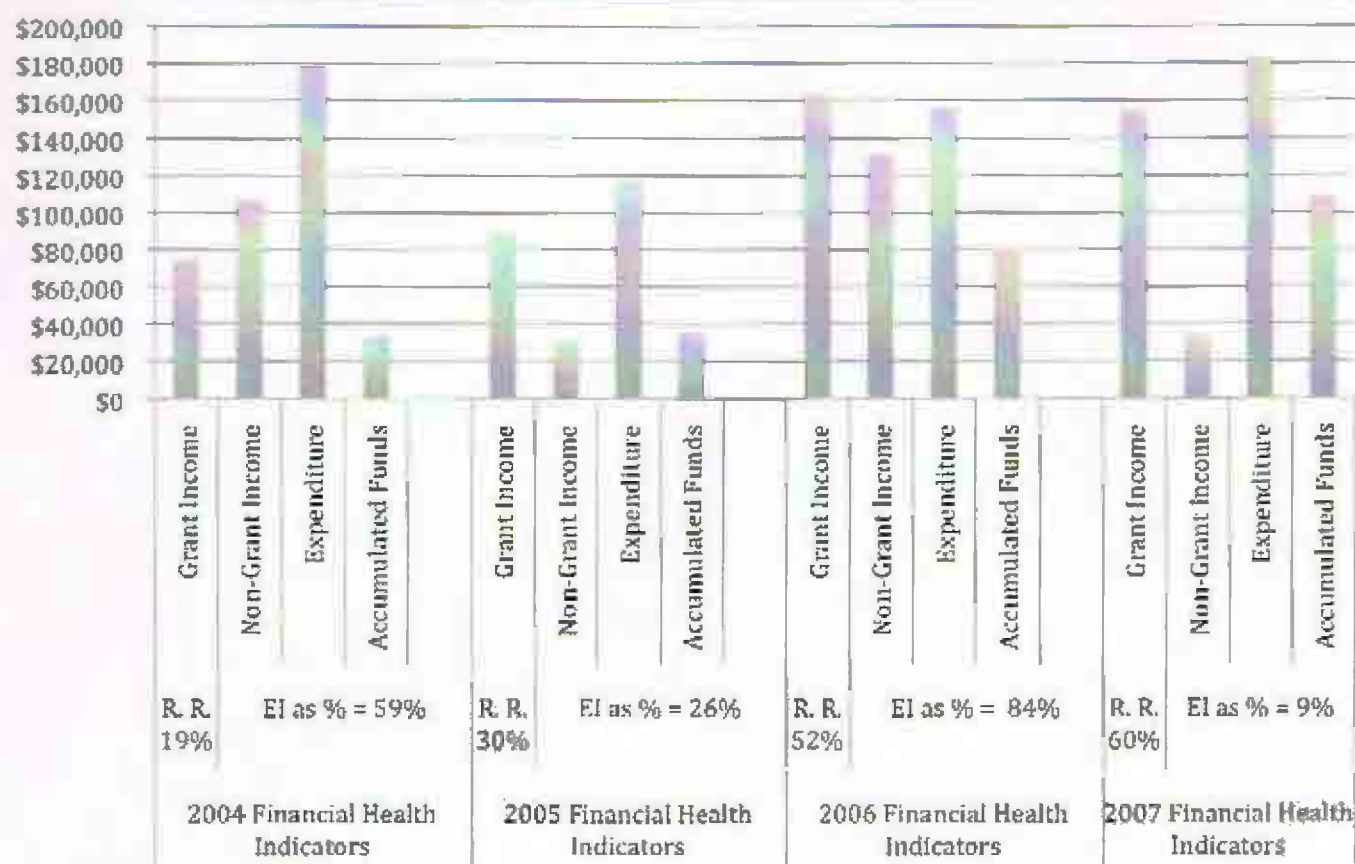
By the end of 2007 Crossroad Arts had a surplus of \$41,065 in their Mackay Permanent Building Society account.

The company's reserve ratio for 2007 was calculated at 60% (Accumulated funds of \$108,748 divided by the Total Expenditure \$183,014). This represents an 8% increase from the previous year. The benchmark as set by Arts Queensland for a financially healthy company is 30%

The earned income as a percentage of non-grant income over total expenditure was calculated at 9%. While this appears to represent a worrying 75% decrease from the 2006 figure, as noted above, this should not form a basis for comparison.

The financial state of the company as at December 2007 is in good shape.

Financial Health of Crossroad Arts over four years: 2004 – 2007



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
CROSSROAD ARTS INC.

SCOPE

We have audited the attached financial statement of the CROSSROAD ARTS INCORPORATION for the period 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2007. The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein and have determined that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to its members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the basis of accounting used is appropriate to the needs of the members.

The special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the Association for the purposes of fulfilling the Committee's accountability requirements. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates, to any person other than the members, or of any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included an examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly to represent the financial position of the Association.

The audit opinion in this report has been formed on the above basis.


QUALIFICATION

It is not practical to maintain an effective system of internal control over receipts from various sources until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit relating to these transactions was limited to the amounts recorded in the books of record.

QUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION

Subject to the above, in our opinion, the Financial Statement presents fairly the financial position of the CROSSROAD ARTS INCORPORATION for the period 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2007, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

FLOR HANLY & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS


John J. Hanly

CROSSROAD ARTS INC.

Statement of Income and Expenditure For Period 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2007

Opening Balance 01/01/07

- Mackay Permanent Building Society	35,623.13
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Add Income

Grants, Performance and Fees	170,958.10	
ATO - GST Payable	17,095.80	
Interest	<u>401.69</u>	<u>188,455.59</u>
		224,078.72

Less Expenses

Artists Fees	73,349.63	
Administration Fees	2,980.30	
Advertising and Marketing	674.94	
ATO - GST	12,700.68	
ATO - GST Payment	2,951.00	
Audit Fees	800.00	
Bank Charges	118.25	
Camera Payments	4,647.65	
Consumables	5,217.53	
Electricity	1,486.45	
General Expenses	604.00	
Insurance	379.39	
Motor Vehicle Expenses	233.55	
Postage, Printing & Stationery	2,482.46	
Program, Production and Touring	14,234.22	
Rent	9,360.00	
Repairs	462.67	
Subscriptions & Licenses	79.91	
Telephone	2,442.42	
Tools & Equipment	<u>47,808.93</u>	<u>183,013.98</u>

Closing Balance 31/12/06

\$41,064.74

Represented by -

- Mackay Permanent Building Society	<u>\$41,064.74</u>
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CROSSROADS ARTS INC.

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

As at 31 December 2007

Assets:

Plant & Equipment (at Cost)

Added During period:

- Guillotine	86.59
- Virtual Training (software)	144.95
- DVD's & Chord	49.96
- Software	40.86
- Bookstore Radio Serial	36.32
- Hard Drive	344.55
- Ink Stamp	46.33
- Borders	45.41
- Folio Books	37.73
- Video Pro (Sony Camera)	53,190.00
- Book Nook – Books	198.65
- Borders – DVD	23.36
- Book	14.09
- Hard Drives	307.27
- Crutches	161.09
- EHW Hard Drives	171.82
- Kennedys – Casters	145.45
- Kennedys – Dimmer Rack	657.27
- EHW RAM	1314.55
- DVD Player	234.55
- DVD Tutorials	117.66
- Book	40.49
- Tutorial DVD	137.96
- Amazon Books	31.77
- Colour Cards	131.20
- Software	939.39
- Books & Music	297.57
- Software	590.00
- Castor Lemcol. Pneum.	277.63
- Castor Lemcol. Pneum.	80.63
- T27 Bulls x2 & Pinspot Bulls x2	78.18
- Consumables	110.91
- Audio Recorder	2,745.46
- Sony Camera Pack	27.23
- Books (x2)	81.80
- Software	584.81
- Power Production Software (Story Board)	1,211.29
- Book	92.83
- Book	44.71
- Twin DVD Set	169.04
- Slating System/DVD	133.97
- Books & Music	10.82
- DVD, Deskmate DIY Kit, Music Supplies	1187.21
- Books & Music	43.55
- Book	108.55
- DRI*SWREG, Inc.	17.16
- Books & Music	51.64
- Consumables	99.09
- Books & Music	127.00
- JVC Mini DV Cassette – 5 pack & CD x5	27.23

- Books x2	188.05	
- Book	81.68	
- Arts Hub Australia	80.00	
- Ink Cartridge	139.75	
- EHW - 1GB DDR PC 133	135.00	
- Matilda Technology	379.95	
- Sea - gate HD	170.91	
- Two Speaker Cables & Hase GTR Lead	242.68	
- DVD Player	113.64	
- DV Estore, Inc.	105.53	
- Template	79.01	
- Synthetik software	510.33	
- Books x2	<u>98.50</u>	69,172.60

Existing:

- Portable Hard Drive	439.82
- Microphone	727.27
- Microphone Socket	80.91
- Camera	2,629.10
- Lighting Stands & Lights	1,630.91
- Harddrive	509.09
- CD Player	54.50
- CD Deck	199.09
- Microphone Cover	179.75
- Trestle Tables	130.55
- Printer	177.27
- Software	405.00
- Flashdrive	135.45
- Tripods & Firewire	172.73
- Voice Recorder	135.45
- 2 Way Radio	124.49
- Harddrive	390.91
- Folio Books	191.68
- Saris, Umbrellas	510.32
- DVD Tutorial	103.99
- Book Shelf	180.91
- Display Boards	10.87
- Software	180.91
- Rostras	1,545.00
- White Board	195.58
- Vacuum Cleaner	89.88
- Computer (2 nd Hand)	200.00
- Software	108.18
- Software	135.45
- Hard Drive	389.09
- Mike Stand	72.73
- Software - Garage Band	135.45
- Allan Music - Mixer	1,080.91
- Air conditioner	341.24
- Software (USA)	448.44
- DV Tapes	85.15
- Amplifier	113.64
- Extension Cord	53.50
- Kennedy's	45.45
- Lighting Copy	11.80
- Kennedy's	429.55
- Kennedy's	456.36
- Kennedy's	45.45
- Extension Cord	41.73
- Sound Meter	180.58

- Amplifier	2,000.00	
- Cameras	5,560.00	
- Laptop Computer	4,499.00	
- Lighting	1,686.00	
- Software	1,416.95	
- View sonic Monitor	799.95	
- Hard Drive	599.95	
- Xerox Copier	4,999.00	
- Fire Extinguisher	225.50	
- Tripod	141.00	
- Computers	5,853.00	
- Office Chair	269.95	
- Multi function Centre	699.00	
- Fax / Copier	<u>588.95</u>	44,886.38
Cash at Bank – Mackay Permanent Building Society		<u>41,064.74</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>		155,123.72
<u>Less Liabilities</u>		<u>16,625.55</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		<u>\$138,498.17</u>